

Meeting Minutes for April 16th, 2020 Transportation Technical Committee

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- Stephen Shanley, Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- Darin Alviano, Armstrong County Planning Commission
- Joe West, Beaver County Planning Commission
- Mark Gordon, Butler County Planning Commission
- Arthur Cappella, Fayette County Zoning, Planning and Community Development
- Jeremy L. Kelly, Greene County
- Josh Krug, Indiana County Office of Planning and Development
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence County Planning Commission
- Lisa Cessna, Washington County Planning Commission
- Daniel Carpenter, Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development
- Jeff Skalican, City of Pittsburgh
- Mavis Rainey, Oakland Transportation Management Association
- Tammy Frank, Beaver County Liquid Fuels
- Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office
- Harold Swan, PennDOT District 10-0
- John Quatman, PennDOT District 11-0
- Rob Miskanic, PennDOT District 11-0
- Stephanie Spang, PennDOT District 11-0
- Angela Saunders, PennDOT District 12-0
- Andy Waple, SPC Transportation Director
- Ryan Gordon, SPC Staff
- Tom Klevan, SPC Staff
- Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Lillian Gabreski, SPC Staff
- Greg Shermeto, SPC Staff

- Indicates TTC voting member

1. Call to Order

Andy Waple called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A roll call was conducted to confirm a quorum of voting members.

2. Action on the February 20th TTC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Amy McKinney and seconded by Arthur Cappella to accept February 20th TTC meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

3. Action on the March 19th TIP Modification Call Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Amy McKinney and seconded by Arthur Cappella to accept March 19th TIP Modification Call meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

4. PennDOT Central Office, Program Center Report from Kevin McCullough, PennDOT Central Office

Kevin McCullough answered several general questions about impacts to PennDOT during the COVID-19 pandemic. He mentioned that some offices have furloughs among the staff, with some offices up to 75 percent currently furloughed. Most PennDOT district offices are currently working from home. Some of our county planning offices have had large furloughs as well.

Kevin mentioned that multi-modal announcements are on hold until at least July 1st. Angela Saunders asked about losing any special programs due to the lack of current road traffic and trips. Kevin responded that revenue issues may happen, but we have to wait and see what happens in the next couple of months. There may be some legislation that could be passed that could help with these issues, and that there will probably be some deferrals and some changes to the future budget. Andy Waple mentioned that the budget could end up being two, six month, short term budgets, instead of the regular year-long budget.

Darin Alviano asked about projects that are currently not under contract, and could they potentially not happen now due to the current situation. Andy and Kevin said that it sounds probable that some projects may fall off due to the work stoppage; Kevin also mentioned that some projects are still going out for let, however they have been limited. Angela Saunders added that some projects are still proceeding into design phase as well.

Kevin McCullough mentioned that AASHTO has sent a letter for a potential federal funding legislation of approximately 50 billion dollars for infrastructure projects. PennDOT has had discussions with SPC staff for projects that could be submitted through this funding. However, it is in the very preliminary stages and is only in discussion as to what we could do if this funding would be passed.

5. Regional Approach to Potential Stimulus Funding

Andy Waple also spoke about the potential funding as well, and he is looking to put together a list of projects that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. He mentioned that Pennsylvania's share of the funding could be around 2 billion dollars. This funding would be spread between the fiscal years of 2020 and 2021. The intention would be to use a list of projects that have been discussed by the Executive Committee previously with the funding. All funds will have to be obligated by the end of fiscal year 2021, so some projects will have to be added or moved around on this list. For projects that cannot be fully obligated by 2021, certain projects may be phased, so that some phases can be obligated in the funding. Andy mentioned that they will discuss today with District 12-0, and will speak on a SPC regional standpoint for the list on Monday. The list of projects for funding is due to Central Office by Tuesday. Federal Funds for any projects selected will be 100%, and will not have to be matched.

Tom Klevan spoke on the transit side of the funding, which has seen 25 billion dollars designated for transit funding already. Tom mentioned that Port Authority has been able to designate the funds for transit to the other operators in the area. They have submitted their list to PennDOT and have allocated their funding through grants. This funding is also 100% no match funds, but must be spent as well by 2021. Cities over 200,000 people are also able to use this funding on operation budgets. Rural transit operators are in discussion with the larger transit operators to get whatever help they need in this time.

6. Action on Modifications to the 2019-2022 TIP

A. PennDOT District 10-0

Harold Swan went over the two administrative actions for District 10-0. The first administrative action was for South of Cooperstown Bridge #3, which was a bridge replacement project carrying PA 8 over the northern tributary of Glade Run in Middlesex Township, Butler County. The District requests to add the utility phase in FFY 2020 for \$37,100 (80% Federal and 20% State). The sources of the funds will come from surplus funds from PA 286 over a Tributary to Cush Creek: (\$29,680 Federal), and Upper Mateer Bridge #2: (\$7,148 State), as well as from the SPC District 10 Highway/Bridge Line Item (\$272 State).

The second administrative action was for SR 1036 Troy Hill Slide, which is a roadway slide repair along SR 1036 (Troy Hill Road) from 0.03 mile northeast of Township Road #506 (Upper Troy Hill Road) to 0.29 mile southwest of Township Road #507 (Gruskin Road) in Rayburn Township, Armstrong County. District 10-0 requests to add the right-of-way phase in FFY 2020 and program \$40,000 (100% State) into that phase. The source of the funds will be the SPC District 10 Highway/Bridge Line Item.

Mark Gordon made a motion to approve the modifications to the TIP, which was seconded by Arthur Cappella, and the TTC approved the modifications as requested by Harold Swan.

B. PennDOT District 11-0

Rob Miskanic went over the one amendment and seven administrative actions for District 11-0. The first amendment was a mill & overlay project for Greentree/Cochran Road, located on Cochran Road to Old Washington Pike in Scott Township, Allegheny County. District 11-0 requests to remove the project from the program. The project will be deferred due to funding constraints and be completed as part of a Maintenance GroupJob Paving Project.

The seven administrative action projects include a bridge preservation project on PA 837, Kennywood Park Bridge over abandoned Union Railroad yard in West Mifflin Borough and City of Duquesne, Allegheny County, a new pedestrian bridge located between Allegheny Ave and Reedsdale, in City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and a superstructure replacement which carries Campbells Run Road over Campbells Run and is located 0.7 miles west of the underpass to I-79 in Robinson Township, Allegheny County. The administrative action projects also include the removal of a decommissioned signal, intersection modification, upgrades to ADA curb ramps, and replace curb and sidewalks as needed at SR 4084 (Allegheny Circle which includes North Commons, West Commons, South Commons, and East Commons) in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, as well as a deck replacement project located on SR 910, Gibsonia Road over Deer Creek in West Deer Township. The last two administrative action projects are a bridge preservation project for six structures in Allegheny County (AB03 in Monroeville Boro, AB04 in Monroeville Boro, SQ01 in Ohara Twp., PU02 in Penn Hills, PA02 in Upper St. Clair Township and WB01 in Shaler Twp.), as well as a bridge replacement project located on Crawford Run Road (County Road) over Crawford Run in East Deer Township, Allegheny County.

Ann Ogoreuc made a motion to approve the modifications to the TIP, which was seconded by Amy McKinney, and the TTC approved the modifications as requested by Rob Miskanic.

C. PennDOT District 12-0

Angela Saunders went over the one amendment for District 12-0. This amendment was for improvements to the structure carrying SR 4041 (School Road) over Haymakers Run in Penn Township, Westmoreland County. This includes adding a phase to the TIP in FFY 2020, as the project is fully funded on the FFY 2021 Draft TIP. Federal BOF funds are being drawn from MPMS#76508- District 12 Highway/Bridge Line Item with a Toll Credit Match.

Daniel Carpenter made a motion to approve the modifications to the TIP, which was seconded by Arthur Cappella, and the TTC approved the modifications as requested by Angela Saunders

7. 2021 TIP and 2019 LRP Updates

A. Air Quality and Environmental Justice Analysis

Chuck Imbrogno spoke on air quality updates, mentioning that he sent the project lists for review last week. Chuck should have the reviewed list back next week. Edits to the air quality report are well underway. Lillian Gabreski spoke about the Environmental Justice analysis. Lillian is incorporating some analysis from PennDOT from over the past year, and the report is also moving along well.

B. Public Comment Period (tentatively May 11 - June 12)

Andy Waple spoke about the comment period for the draft TIP, which is tentatively May 11th to June 12th. Giving the current situation, face to face public meetings are impossible for public comments. SPC will approach the situation by having a narrated slideshow, speaking of investment and projects, posted to the website. Andy asks that the counties/cities look it over and promote it via social media or any other avenues. Also promoting the existing public comment forms that are already online would be helpful as a way of receiving feedback. SPC is also taking a look at a new public online platform to see if it works better for collecting public feedback. If it is favorable, we will expand to use this platform for future planning initiatives.

C. STIP MOU Development

Ryan Gordon spoke about the adjustments to the STIP MOU. Ryan went over the SPC MOU in a call last week in detail, in which some changes were made to the MOU. This was sent out in the packet for this call last week, and it highlights any notable changes to the MOU. Page 4 in the packet speaks about the 1 million threshold for phases for statewide managed programs, which is something to be aware of, as it will change how we process amendments. Ryan can provide a more in depth discussion of the MOU if anyone would like to talk it over. Kevin McCullough gave an update that FTA has reviewed the updated statewide MOU and responded with minimal comments. He mentioned that the statewide MOU shouldn't impact the SPC MOU at all. The statewide MOU will be sent out later this week.

8. SMART Program

A. Status Update – new deadline of 4/17

Ryan Gordon reminded everyone that the regular deadline for the SMART program was supposed to be last Friday. SPC has extended it to this Friday after discussions with program submitters. The application is to be submitted to Lillian Gabreski, and please let Lillian or Ryan know of any other complications before the Friday deadline. SPC will discuss the analysis and preliminary review of those projects during the next TTC meeting.

9. Other Discussion

Dom D'Andrea asked about reimbursement agreements being delayed due to COVID-19. Angela Saunders mentioned that they are probably not being honored at this time. Digital agreements can be routed, but paper agreements are having a much more difficult time getting through.

10. Adjourn

Andy Waple called for the adjournment of the meeting at 11:13 a.m.