

Meeting Minutes for May 14th, 2020 Transportation Technical Committee

Attendees:

- Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
- Anthony Schneider, 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
- Amy McKinney, Lawrence 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
- 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
- Domenic D'Andrea, SPC Staff
- Chuck Imbrogno, SPC Staff
- Lillian Gabreski, SPC Staff
- Greg Shermeto, SPC Staff
- Leann Chaney, 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 April 16th TTC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ann Ogoreuc and seconded by Mark Gordon to accept the April 16th TTC meeting minutes as presented. The TTC approved.

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

Kevin spoke first about the 50th Anniversary of the State Transportation Commission, which was the original commission which later became the modern PennDOT. The first agenda item is about a funding opportunity for PA WalkWorks. With some uncertainties in regards for future funding opportunities, the PA WalkWorks funding opportunity could be a good opportunity for some of the counties and regions to secure some additional funding. Mavis Rainey also spoke about PA Walkworks, mentioning how it provides funding for project assessments, education and outreach for regions.

Kevin then discussed the second item, which was a NASTO Stimulus proposal letter. This letter to the United States Congress is asking for 50 Billion dollars in federal help for projects across 11 states and the District of

Columbia. Kevin went on to discuss the third item, a stimulus proposal letter from AASHTO to the Pennsylvania Congress which also requests the same federal help, as well as providing flexibility with rest of the 2020 FAST Act funds. Andy Waple mentioned that requests for projects from the districts that could be advanced before the 2021 AASHTO deadline would be assessed.

Kevin went over the fourth item, which spoke about ARC Local Access Roads. There is currently one million dollars available for shovel ready LAR projects. PennDOT is looking for pre applications for projects to be turned in as soon as possible. Andy Waple mentioned that SPC has been speaking to municipalities regarding those projects, and that the focus of these projects is for economic development. Kevin discussed that these projects have to follow federal and state project development procedures, and they are not for new projects.

Kevin then spoke about the final item, which was about the upcoming ARLE Application Period. Typically, the application period has been open from June 1 to July 1. Kevin mentioned that he has not heard anything about this year's application period, but would expect an announcement sometime soon. Domenic D'Andrea made a note that the application period still seems to be on schedule as well.

4. Action on Modifications to the 2019-2022 TIP

A. PennDOT District 10-0

Harold Swan went over the two amendments and one administrative action for District 10-0. The first amendment was for a highway preservation project, located at Meridian Road Bridge Westbound, SR 3007 (South Bonniebrook Road) over Little Connoquenessing Creek in Butler Township, Butler County. District 10-0 requests to add construction phase for FY2020 and program \$243,633 to the phase. The funding will be split 80% Federal to 20% State, and will be sourced out of State Game Lands 95 Bridge Project and Armstrong County Department Force Bridge Maintenance funding sources.

The second amendment is for a bridge rehabilitation/replacement project, located at Rural Valley Bridge #4, SR 2001 (Water Street) over a tributary to Cowanshannock Creek in Rural Valley Township, Armstrong County. District 10-0 requests to advance the utility phase from FY 2021 to F2020 and will change the funding from 100% State Funding to 100% Federal Funding, for a total of \$72,000. This money will be sourced from utilizing toll credits, as well as surplus funds from Indiana Local Bridge Line #1. The one administrative action was for bridge replacements along three bridges on US 119. The project will be a bridge replacement with a four-lane, single-span composite steel plate Girder Bridge, located in Center Township and Homer City Borough, Indiana County. The District is requesting \$179,448 in Federal Funds to be added to the construction phase in FY 2020.

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 three administrative actions for District 11-0. The first amendment was for an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), located on I-79 from segment 1050 to segment 1100 in Plain Grove Township, Lawrence County. District 11-0 requests the addition of construction phase for the current TIP and program \$704,935 to the phase. The funding will be 100% Federal and will be sourced from de-obligated funds from 1001-A37, 288-L03, and 3048-A20, as well as utilizing toll credits.

The first administrative action is for a bridge restoration project on Beaver Dam Road in Little Beaver Township, Lawrence County. District 11-0 requests the addition of a final design phase and program \$201,000 to the phase. Funding will be sourced from excess PE funds from same project. The second administrative action is for a bridge preservation project on Tarentum Bridge Ramp "A" in Tarentum

Borough, Allegheny County. District 11-0 requests the addition of \$25,000 funding to PE phase and will be sourced from the Bridge Line Item. The third administrative action is for a Bridge Preservation project for Boulevard of the Allies Ramps over I-376 in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. District 11-0 requests the addition of a ROW phase to the current TIP and to program \$50,000 to the phase. Funding will be sourced from the Bridge Line Item.

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 two administrative actions for District 12-0. The first administrative action is for a highway reconstruction project for US 119 in Youngwood Borough, Westmoreland County. District 12-0 is requesting additional funding of \$3,050,665 for construction phase in FY2020 and FY2021 to cover low bid plus inspection costs. Funding will be sourced from D-12 Highway/Bridge Line Item and utilize toll credits. The second administrative action is for the replacement and upgrade of traffic signals for PA-18 in the City of Washington, Washington County. District 12-0 requests additional funding of \$1,934,516 for construction phase due to low bid plus inspection costs. Funding will be sourced from Federal STP and State A-581 funding stemming from the D-12 Highway/Bridge Line Item.

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

5. 2021 TIP and 2019 LRP Updates

Andy Waple gave a presentation and status update on the 2021 TIP, as well as updates associated with the 2019 LRP. SPC has completed the Air Quality and Environmental Justice Analyses and the draft 2021 TIP is complete on the SPC website for review. Currently, the TIP is in a 30 day public comment period. Normally, this would involve 10 public meetings, one in each of the SPC member counties, but due to COVID-19, this has now become 3 virtual meetings to solicit public input. Online mapping and geographically targeted social media advertisements will be sent out as part of the TIP public comment period. Andy then went over some of the new public input online tools that SPC is utilizing for public engagement. Darin Alviano asked if information regarding public comment has been passed to the public participation panels. Andy said he would check in with Jared Bedekovich about that and would respond to the group with an answer.

The TIP projects were screened beside each long range project in the long range plan update. Over 300 projects were screened initially, and 280 were moved into advanced screening. Over 80 projects were moved into the final phase of the TIP, but may change due to decrease in revenues due to COVID-19. Andy then went over the TIP funding investments, mentioning again that all of the finances could change with decreased revenues due to COVID-19. With the FAST act expiring at the end of FY2020, SPC is anticipating that no new transportation bill will be passed in the foreseeable future. This means that there will probably be a continuation of the same FAST act for another 1-4 years. Congress will need to find some funds to fill the gap that will be caused due to the lack of a substantial increase in transportation funding.

6. Long Range Plan Update

Ryan Gordon went over the reevaluation of the Long Range Plan that was required to in order to update the financial plan and fiscally constrained project list for consistency with the 2021 TIP Financial Guidance. He also mentioned that SPC is currently updating the interstate portion of the LRP to be consistent with the 2021 Interstate Maintenance TYP.

7. Smart Program

Lillian Gabreski went over each of the Smart Program candidate projects. The application period closed for SMART program projects on April 17th. Selected projects will be pre-approved for TIP programming in years 2021 and 2022.. Joe West asked about the reimbursement process for these projects. Lillian mentioned that they will be reimbursed by PennDOT.

Lillian then presented each of the 11 SMART programs and discussed each project in detail. This included the Freeport Borough Trail Hub Master Plan in Freeport Borough, Armstrong County; The Brodhead Road Feasibility Study in Beaver County; The SR3007/Frankfort Road-Allegheny Co. Line Rehabilitation Project in Aliquippa, Beaver County; The Butler Main Street Streetscape Final Phase in Butler, Butler County; SR 3021 (Franklin Road) Corridor Improvements in Cranberry, Butler County; The Indian Springs Road/Rustic Lodge Road Intersection Design in White Township, Indiana County; The Mellon Terrace Multimodal Facility in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County; The North Avenue Intersection and Streetscape Improvements in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County; The PA 88: Charleroi Betterment Project in Washington County; The LVTIP from PA 819 to Norvelt in Westmoreland County; And the SR 837-A43 Glenwood Bridge Interchange Pedestrian Structure in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County.

Andy Waple noted that members of the TTC will rank the projects based on deliverability. These scores will be combined with technical and ancillary scoring completed by staff.. Selected projects will be pre-approved for TA funds and eligible for programming on the 2021 TIP.

8. Other Discussion

Joe West asked about the potential of the Turnpike being taking over by PennDOT. Kevin mentioned that there is nothing formally happening on that front.

9. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Arthur Cappella and seconded by Joe West. The motion was passed unanimously and Andy Waple called for the adjournment of the meeting at 11:27 a.m.