

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

*Transportation Programming for the Counties of: Carbon ✧ Monroe ✧ Pike ✧ Schuylkill*

## October 20, 2020 Technical Planning Committee

### Meeting Summary and Minutes

9:30 a.m.

#### Meeting Location:

Microsoft Teams Videoconference

<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>
David Alas	PennDOT Central	Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning
Marie Bishop*	PennDOT District 4-0	Jim Mosca	PennDOT Central
Dave Bekisz*	STS	Kristin Mulkerin	PennDOT Central
David Bodnar*	Carbon Co. Planning	Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning
Matt Boyer	Commuter Services	Dean Roberts*	PennDOT Central
Brendan Cotter*	CCCT/LANTA	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
Kerry Cox	PennDOT District 5-0	Brian Snyder*	Pike Co. Planning
Steve Fisher	PennDOT District 4-0	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5-0
Micah Gursky	St. Luke's Hospital		
Doyle Heffley*	PA State Rep.	Alan Baranski	NEPA Alliance
Peggy Howarth*	MCTA	Jeff Box	NEPA Alliance
Vanessa Koenigkramer*	PennDOT District 5-0	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Chris Kufro	PennDOT District 5-0	Kate McMahan	NEPA Alliance
Amanda Leindecker	PennDOT District 5-0	Daniel Yelito	NEPA Alliance
Jamie Lemon	FHWA		

\*Technical Committee members who voted at this meeting

#### **Summary of Actions Taken by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee:**

During the course of this meeting the MPO Technical Committee voted on the following actions:

Action 1: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion to approve the amendment, contingent on PMC approval. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed unanimously.

**Mr. Bodnar called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.**

#### **1) Business Items**

##### a) Approval of minutes from the August 18, 2020 Joint Business Meeting

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

### a) District 4-0 and 5-0 2019-2022 TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

Information was included in the meeting packet which highlighted administrative actions on the 2019 TIP for District 5-0. Ms. Koenigkramer stated that the actions were to finish out the 2019 TIP and address changes in let dates, etc. Mr. Fisher stated that District 4-0 had a few actions to close out the 2019 TIP and they were for similar reasons.

Ms. Koenigkramer highlighted actions on the 2021 TIP for District 5-0.

Action 1- 447 over Goose Pond Road- reduce to revised estimate and advance for anticipated December let. The source is the construction phase of 715 over McMichaels Creek II which was aligned with anticipated need. Amendment 1- 209/115 Intersection Improvements- Phase 2- add construction phase to the 2021 TIP. The project was anticipated to be let on the 2019 TIP but was delayed by ROW issues and COVID restrictions. The sources are 443 Roadway Improvements, SR 715/611 Intersection, St. Clair to Frackville Recon., 309 Resurf. Lofty Hill to McAdoo and 924 over 4030, RR and Mahanoy Creek.

Ms. Koenigkramer stated that the amendment is scheduled to go before PMC for approval later this month. Ms. Smith asked about the funding from the SR 61- St. Clair to Frackville project and whether the shifts will affect the project. Ms. Koenigkramer stated that they were able to obligate funding for the project on the 2019 TIP because they received environmental clearance. They included funding on the 2021 TIP in case the project was delayed. The utility and construction phases of the project are funded on the 2021 TIP.

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion to approve the amendment, contingent on PMC approval. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, seconded by Mr. Cotter. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Baranski stated that the 2021 TIP went into effect on October 1. FHWA approved the 2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and provided an after action letter to PennDOT. FHWA did not have any corrective actions, only recommendations and commendations.

### b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions

None.

## 3) Transportation Planning & Programs

### a) Current Project Status

Ms. Bishop provided an update on Major/Interstate projects in District 4-0. Mr. Mrozinski raised concerns about the two bridges in Milford that are scheduled for construction in the same year and wanted to make sure that coordination occurs. He suggested that a PennDOT Connects meeting with the interested parties would be a good idea to hear concerns about the impacts of the projects.

Mr. Vottero provided an update on Major/Interstate projects in District 5-0.

### b) District 5-0 Personnel Changes

Mr. Kufro stated that there are some temporary staffing changes at the district. Ken McClain, the District Executive for District 6 has been temporarily assigned to Central Office to lead an alternative funding task force. Mike Rebert was asked to take over as acting DE for District 6 until June 2021. As a result,

Chris Kufro is acting DE in District 5. Scott Vottero has been assigned as acting ADE for Design for the next three months. Kerry Cox has been assigned to fill in for Mr. Vottero as portfolio manager.

c) CCCT Public Transit Agency Safety Plan

Mr. Cotter stated that all transit providers who receive 5307 and 5310 funds are required to have a safety plan. It was originally required by July but the deadline was extended until December due to COVID-19. For the next TIP and LRTP updates, the safety plan will factor into projects that are planned and programmed. The MPO is required to receive the plan. PennDOT Bureau of Public Transit also received a copy of the plan. The plan outlines procedures for monitoring accidents, fatalities and major issues. The transit agencies already monitor them but this formalizes the process. Ms. Howarth stated that MCTA also approved their safety plan in August and she will share it with everyone for the next meeting.

d) Functional Classification Review

Ms. McMahon stated that we are nearly finished with the functional classification review. We have completed the mapping of the changes in Schuylkill County. A meeting with District 5 to review the changes was held on August 25<sup>th</sup>. We also had a call with PennDOT Central Office on September 30<sup>th</sup> to review everything before we formally submit the changes. We are compiling into the necessary spreadsheets and mapping and will submit them to Central Office for review and then to FHWA.

e) LTAP Program Update

Mr. Baranski stated that LTAP classes are being held virtually due to meeting restrictions. They are also holding informal drop-in sessions on various topics. Attendance at the virtual sessions has been good. LTAP is also doing tech assists in-person if the group is small. Ms. McMahon stated we were able to hold 12 classes in-person last year before the meeting restrictions occurred in March and 166 people were trained. We will continue marketing the online classes to our municipalities until in-person classes can resume.

f) PennDOT Connects

Mr. Baranski stated that a few meetings have been held virtually recently. One was held on a bridge replacement project in Stroud Township, Monroe County. We have another one coming up on a Rt. 61 project. The virtual meetings seem to be working out well.

**4) Other Business**

Mr. Boyer from Commuter Services provided an update on the closeout of the program in the NEPA region. All Commuter Services operations ceased at the end of September. Commuter Services positions in the NEPA region were terminated. Notifications were sent out to all interested parties, employers and commuters. Commuters can continue to use the app to track trips and earn rewards but there will be no active outreach to employers. The SRTP Board authorized a survey to the 6 NEPA board members. Only two surveys have been received back so far.

Mr. Baranski stated that the FAST Act, the federal authorization bill, has been extended by one year and will now expire in 2021.

**5) Adjournment**

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.