

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

## August 18, 2020 Technical Planning Committee

### Meeting Summary and Minutes

9:30 a.m.

#### Meeting Location:

Microsoft Teams Videoconference

#### **Attendees:**

Marie Bishop\*  
Dave Bekisz\*  
David Bodnar\*  
Matt Boyer  
John Christy\*  
Steve Fisher  
Micah Gursky  
Doyle Heffley\*  
Kathy Henderson  
Peggy Howarth\*  
Vanessa Koenigkramer\*  
Amanda Leindecker  
Jamie Lemon

#### **Organization:**

PennDOT District 4-0  
STS  
Carbon Co. Planning  
Commuter Services  
Monroe Co. Comm.  
PennDOT District 4-0  
St. Luke's Hospital  
PA State Rep.  
Carbon Chamber  
MCTA  
PennDOT District 5-0  
PennDOT District 5-0  
FHWA

#### **Attendees:**

Christine Meinhart-Fritz\*  
Mike Mrozinski\*  
Emma Pugh  
Jeff Rai  
Mike Rebert  
Dean Roberts\*  
Susan Smith\*  
Scott Vottero  
  
Alan Baranski  
Nettie Ginocchetti  
Kate McMahan  
Daniel Yelito

#### **Organization:**

Monroe Co. Planning  
Pike Co. Planning  
PennDOT District 4-0  
PennDOT District 5-0  
PennDOT District 5-0  
PennDOT Central  
Schuylkill Co. Planning  
PennDOT District 5-0  
  
NEPA Alliance  
NEPA Alliance  
NEPA Alliance  
NEPA Alliance

\*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. Baranski requested a motion to appoint a chairperson for a two-year term ending on June 30, 2022. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz to appoint David Bodnar as chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. Mr. Christy made a motion to close the nominations. The motion to appoint Mr. Bodnar as chairperson passed unanimously.

Action 2: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion to appoint a vice-chairperson for a two-year term ending on June 30, 2022. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth to appoint Susan Smith as vice-chairperson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz. Mr. Christy made a motion to close the nominations. The motion to appoint Ms. Smith as vice-chairperson passed unanimously.

Action 3: Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

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

## 1) Business Items

### a) Nomination/Election of Technical Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Baranski stated that the committee needs to elect a new chairperson and vice-chairperson since the previous terms have expired. Mr. Baranski thanked Ms. Meinhart-Fritz for her service as chairperson for the past two years.

Mr. Baranski requested a motion to appoint a chairperson for a two-year term ending on June 30, 2022. A motion was made by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz to appoint David Bodnar as chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. Mr. Christy made a motion to close the nominations. The motion to appoint Mr. Bodnar as chairperson passed unanimously.

Mr. Bodnar began chairing the meeting.

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion to appoint a vice-chairperson for a two-year term ending on June 30, 2022. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth to appoint Susan Smith as vice-chairperson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz. Mr. Christy made a motion to close the nominations. The motion to appoint Ms. Smith as vice-chairperson passed unanimously.

### b) Approval of minutes from the June 16, 2020 Joint Business Meeting

Mr. Bodnar requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Howarth to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Mrozinski. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2) New Member Orientation Presentation

Mr. Baranski stated that as part of our MPO Strategic Plan that we adopted last year, a new member orientation was identified as an action item. Ms. McMahon provided the new member orientation presentation to the committee. A copy of the presentation is attached.

## 3) 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 and Mr. Fisher presented the actions.

Action 1- Lincoln Drive over C&S Railroad- reduce 185 down to actual expenditures to date. Subsequent phases carried on draft 2021 TIP. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Line Item. Interstate Informational Item 1- I-80 Rehabilitation- increase to cover upgrading guardrail to mash standards. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item. Action 2- SR 715/611 Intersection- increase to cover damage claim estimate. The source is the PA 248 Rehabilitation. Action 3- 209 Schafer School House- increase FD and ROW to match negotiated amount plus internal costs. The source is the SR 2012 Mt. Tom to Airport Rd project because it no longer qualifies for HSIP funds and is not carried on the draft 2021 TIP. Action 4- 443 Roadway Improvements- advance funding to obligate funding for advertisement. The sources are SR 2012 Mt. Tom Rd to Airport Rd, SR 33 Pavement Preservation, 309 Pavement Preservation, SR 33 Slope Failure and Gold Star Highway Resurface are the sources. Action 5- SR 6 over Wallenpaupack Creek- increase PE phase to process agreement. The sources are SR 590 Pipes, SR 739 Paving and the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item. Action 6- SR 2004 Slope Remediation- add study phase to TIP to determine options for SR 2004 remediation. The source is Delaware Ave Resurface. Action 7- PA 611 Retaining Wall- increase to cover additional survey work needed including generating quantities for different alternatives. The source is the Delaware Ave Resurface. Action 8- PA 325 July Floor Emergency Repairs- add federal relief funds and state match to cover ROW phase for emergency repairs. Action 9- St Clair to Frackville Reconstruction- advance

funding for designers estimated need to be encumbered off 2019 TIP. PA 115 Widening- increase to meet actual expenditures to date. The sources are the 443 Roadway Improvements, SR 739 Shoulder Widening and the NEPA Highway and Bridge Line Item.

- b) Transit Amendments and Administrative Actions  
None.

#### 4) **Transportation Planning & Programs**

- a) Current Project Status

Ms. Bishop provided an update on Major/Interstate projects in District 4-0.

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

- b) 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Mr. Baranski stated that following approval by the MPO committees in June, the 2021-2024 TIP was submitted to PennDOT Central Office. The TIP and related documents were digitally submitted on PennDOT's SharePoint site. Mr. Roberts stated that going forward TIP submissions will likely continue to be electronic. It worked out well this time. Mr. Baranski stated that the TIP adoption process was all virtual and we met all of the requirements. All of the TIP documents are posted on the NEPA website.

We received feedback that the TIP documents were well done and met all of the requirements. The NEPA MPO TIP was combined with the other TIPs from across the state and were presented to the State Transportation Commission (STC) as the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIC) and Twelve Year Program. The STC approved the STIC and TYP on August 13<sup>th</sup>. It will now go to the federal agencies including FHWA, FTA and EPA for review and approval. The 2021-2024 TIP will go into effect on October 1, 2020.

Mr. Baranski stated that we are waiting for action by Congress on federal transportation authorization legislation. The FAST Act expires at the end of September. We also hope that stimulus legislation will include transportation funding. We are anticipating an impact on the motor license fund due to COVID-19. The impacts on projects are still evolving.

- c) Functional Classification Review

Ms. McMahan 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 is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>. After that, the changes for the four counties will be compiled into the necessary spreadsheet and submitted to Central Office for review and then to FHWA.

- d) Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Annual Data Collection

Mr. Baranski stated that this is our second year of doing the HPMS data collection. We collect data from over 90 sites in the MPO region. Last year, we had in-person training from Central Office. This year, the HPMS workshop was conducted via webinar at the end of July. Mr. Yelito is conducting the field work for the HPMS data collection. Mr. Yelito has contacted the counties to let them know he will be in their county. He also is in contact with the municipalities when he is collecting data in their locales. The HPMS data collection should wrap up in the fall.

- e) Commuter Services

Mr. Boyer stated that they are continuing to do outreach virtually. Businesses are staying engaged. They are mainly focusing on telework. They had 77 new members in July. There were 240,000 miles not

driven in July which resulted in 10,000 gallons of gas saved. TDM efforts are more focused on telework than transit and carpooling. They anticipate having SRTP performance measuring by September or November. Mr. Boyer reminded the committee that Commuter Services activities in the NEPA region will cease at the end of September. There will be no direct support available, but commuters can still use their website and app. Mr. Baranski asked if other MPOs have eliminated services. Mr. Boyer stated that limits on CMAQ funding have made things challenging but other MPOs have opted to use STP funds instead.

#### **5) Other Business**

Mr. Baranski stated that we have received a draft of the Eastern PA Regional Operations Plan (ROP). It includes strategies for intelligent transportation systems (ITS) such as message boards, cameras, etc. Projects have been identified in the ROP. We anticipate that the MPO will take action on approving the ROP later this fall. We plan to have a presentation on the ROP as well.

Mr. Baranski also mentioned that there is a rock fall project on the New Jersey side of the Delaware Water Gap that is being planned by NJDOT. The project is \$50-60 million and will have impacts on congestion on the PA side of the river. A task group has been formed and a meeting was conducted virtually in July.

Ms. Meinhart-Fritz asked Mr. Baranski to discuss the Lehigh Valley truck parking event that was held last week. Mr. Baranski stated that the Lehigh Valley MPO held a truck parking event with FHWA. The development of warehousing and distribution centers has exploded in the Lehigh Valley, causing significant truck parking issues. The Lehigh Valley MPO held a two-day truck parking roundtable. We held a similar event last year in Hazleton to discuss truck parking along I-81. The result of the roundtable is a truck parking action plan. We have offered to coordinate activities addressing this issue with the LV MPO where we can. The development of a regional freight plan is in our UPWP. We are waiting for a regional freight plan guidance document from Central Office.

#### **6) Adjournment**

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.