

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

## January 16, 2020 Policy Board Meeting Summary and Minutes

2:00 p.m.

**Meeting Location:**  
NEPA Alliance Office  
1151 Oak St  
Pittston, PA 18640

<b><u>Attendees:</u></b>	<b><u>Organization:</u></b>	<b><u>NEPA Staff:</u></b>	
Matt Connell*	Northampton Community Coll.	Alan Baranski	NEPA Alliance
Micah Gursky*^	St. Luke's Hospital	Jeff Box	NEPA Alliance
Kathy Henderson*	CCEDC	Kate McMahan	NEPA Alliance
Jim Mosca*^	PennDOT Central		

\*Committee members who voted at this meeting.

^Participated by phone

### **Summary of Actions Taken by the NEPA MPO Policy Board Committee**

During the course of this meeting the NEPA MPO Policy Board Committee voted on the following actions:

Action 1: Dr. Connell requested a motion to approve the November 6, 2019 NEPA MPO Policy Board meeting minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Gursky and passed unanimously.

Action 2: Dr. Connell requested a motion to approve the NEPA MPO 2020-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and submit it to PennDOT. A motion was made by Ms. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Mosca and passed unanimously.

Dr. Connell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### **Meeting Minutes**

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

a) Approval of Minutes from the NEPA MPO Policy Board November 6, 2019 Meeting

Dr. Connell requested a motion to approve the November 6, 2019 NEPA MPO Policy Board meeting minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Gursky and passed unanimously.

#### **2) Transportation Planning and Programs**

a) 2020-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

Mr. Baranski stated that we have been in the process of developing our two-year work program which is effective on July 1st. We have worked with our UPWP Subcommittee to develop the plan with guidance from FHWA. A draft of the UPWP was shared with the Technical Committee at our November meeting. They approved our submission of the draft UPWP to FHWA for review and comment. We received comments back from FHWA and have incorporated the comments into the final draft, along with comments from Central Office. The final version of the UPWP has been endorsed by the Technical Committee by email ballot closed January 15<sup>th</sup> with their recommendation that the Policy Board approve the UPWP. The email ballot was approved by the Technical Committee with twelve yes votes and one no vote. Once the Policy Board approves the UPWP, we will submit it to Central Office and FHWA. Mr. Mosca stated that the MPOs and RPOs will submit their UPWP to PennDOT and they will be compiled and submitted to FHWA at once. FHWA will review the UPWPs and check them

against their comments to make sure previous comments have been addressed. Then FHWA will submit individual letters to each MPO and RPO with their approval of the UPWP. At that point, contracting with PennDOT will occur.

Dr. Connell requested a motion to approve the NEPA MPO 2020-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and submit it to PennDOT. A motion was made by Ms. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Mosca and passed unanimously.

b) 2021-2024 TIP Update

Mr. Baranski stated that the 2021-2024 TIP development is underway. At the last meeting, we discussed the funding constraints we are under with the development of this TIP update. There is a shift in funding from the regional TIPs to the Interstate TIP which has created a major challenge to keeping local network projects on schedule and moving ahead. It amounts to a 25-30 percent reduction in funding, but have been working with the PennDOT Districts to keep the current projects on a reasonable schedule. District 5 has done a great job at securing additional funding to advance projects on our current TIP which will allow projects on the 2021 TIP to keep moving. This week, we received a draft TIP document. It is a work in progress and we are still waiting for the Interstate TIP and Transit TIPs as well as air quality reports. We did receive Spike funding for the Rt 61 project in Schuylkill County at about \$8.5 million for the construction phase. That project still needs additional construction funding, but that project is not scheduled until 2024. Hopefully the situation with transportation funding will improve by then. We are on schedule to get the TIP out for public comment and approved by a July deadline, but we will likely approve it ahead of schedule.

c) NEPA MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Baranski stated that we are scheduled to adopt the LRTP at the March meeting. We have a draft document and we are reviewing the project list. We did a public outreach effort in the fall and we are reconciling projects from that effort with projects from our last LRTP. We have an LRTP Steering Committee meeting following the Technical Committee meeting next Tuesday. We anticipate approval of the LRTP on March 17<sup>th</sup>. We would like to have a joint meeting of the Policy Board and Technical Committee on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am so we can formally approve the LRTP at that meeting.

d) Functional Classification Review

Mr. Baranski stated that we are moving along with our functional classification review and are close to wrapping it up. We have completed our review in Pike, Monroe and Carbon counties. Our review is nearly complete in Schuylkill County. The changes are being mapped and we will meet with District 5 to review the proposed changes. Once that review is complete, we will submit the changes to PennDOT Central Office and then to FHWA.

e) Milford Borough Traffic Study

We have a kickoff meeting for the Milford Borough Traffic Study on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Michael Baker International is the consultant on the study. The steering committee for the project will attend the meeting. They include borough officials, police, businesses and PennDOT. We anticipate that the study will take about a year.

**3) Other Business**

Ms. Henderson stated that the Drivers License Center in Lehighton is being demolished and she asked if it is being moved or replaced. Mr. Mosca stated that he has heard that the center may be rebuilt on the same site at that location.

**4) Adjournment**

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Policy Board Committee meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.