



SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
MEETING MINUTES
Hybrid Meeting
Friday, April 5, 2024
SEDA-COG, Lewisburg, PA
9:30 A.M.

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg (via teleconference)
Steve Herman, SEDA-COG
Randy Karschner, SEDA-COG Board, At-large Member (via teleconference)
Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County (via teleconference)
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County
James Lettiere, Mifflin County
Shawn McLaughlin, Union County
Greg Molter, Montour County
Jonathan Ranck, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)
Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0
Eric Stahley, Columbia County (via teleconference)
Bob Stoudt, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-modal Interests
Nathan Walker, PennDOT Central Office

GUESTS

Justin Batiuk, PennDOT District 3-0
John Breneman, Office of State Senator Judy Ward (via teleconference)
Michelle Brummer, Gannett Fleming (via teleconference)
Christopher Chapman, DCED (via teleconference)
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker International (via teleconference)
Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)
Rachael Hobbs, DCED (via teleconference)
Jeff Iseman, PA SILC/PA Transportation Alliance (via teleconference)
Nicki Jacobs, Greenman-Peterman LLC (via teleconference)
Gini Feigles-Kaar, Dewberry Engineers (via teleconference)
Chris King, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)
Rob Manzella, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO (via teleconference)
Dan Merk, STEP (via teleconference)
Anne Messner, Centre County MPO (via teleconference)
Eric Murnyack, PennDOT District 2-0
Gene Porochniak, FHWA (via teleconference)
Beth Nidam, rabbittransit (via teleconference)
Vince Valovage, Erdman Anthony (via teleconference)
Robert Watts, McCormick Taylor (via teleconference)
Matt Wise, Office of State Senator Gene Yaw (via teleconference)

STAFF

Bryce Buck, Program Analyst
Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst
Kristin McLaughlin, Principal Program Analyst
Geralee Zeigler, Flood Resiliency (via teleconference)

Call to Order

After it was determined that a quorum was present, Mr. Herman called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Public Forum

Mr. Herman recognized Justin Batiuk as the SEDA-COG MPO's new PennDOT Program Center liaison. Virtual participants followed by introducing themselves.

Mr. Herman also acknowledged new SEDA-COG staff contributors for the MPO planning processes: Tina Heintzelman (Program Assistant), Geralee Zeigler (Flood Resiliency Program Manager), Frankie Hockenbrocht (Community Capacity Coordinator), and Nancy Osborn (Communications & Marketing Coordinator).

Mr. Iseman mentioned that Gov. Shapiro's proposed budget includes more than \$282 million for public transportation service and additional money for AMTRAK.

Approval of the January 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Molter made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2024, MPO meeting; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

Mr. Schultz summarized the TIP amendment for PennDOT District 2-0 for the safety projects on page 9 of the packet.

Mr. Kerstetter made a motion for the MPO to approve the amendment as presented for PennDOT District 2-0; Mr. Walker seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Schultz summarized the TIP amendment for PennDOT District 2-0 for the safety project on page 11 of the packet.

Mr. Lettiere made a motion for the MPO to approve the amendment as presented for PennDOT District 2-0; Mr. Kerstetter seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Schultz summarized the TIP administrative modifications for PennDOT District 2-0.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP administrative modifications as presented for PennDOT District 2-0; Mr. Stoudt seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. King summarized the TIP amendment for PennDOT District 3-0 for the streetscape project on page 19 of the packet.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP amendment as presented for PennDOT District 3-0; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. King summarized the TIP administrative modifications for PennDOT District 3-0.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP administrative modifications as presented for PennDOT District 3-0; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

CSVT Project and SR 54 Safety Project Status Reports

Mr. King provided status reports on the CSVT and SR 54 projects.

CSVT Southern Section

Earthwork Contract: The work is 70% complete overall. Excavation, hauling, and embankment construction are ongoing. The earthwork operations are anticipated to be completed this summer. Fisher Road is currently closed and being realigned to its new intersection with Park Road. The new Fisher Road is anticipated to be completed and open to traffic this spring. The two roundabouts at Mill, App and Airport roads are partially open to traffic. Construction of the connector between the roundabouts was delayed by unforeseen soil conditions under a nearby new stream culvert that affected earthmoving operations. The paving of the connector is now underway and anticipated to be completed and open to traffic in late April.

Structures Contract: Construction of the piers and abutments for the bridge carrying CSVT over Grangers Road is ongoing. Foundation construction is underway for the bridge carrying the Cortland Drive Connector over the Route 61 Connector and for the bridge carrying the Route 61 Connector over ramps connecting to Routes 11/15. Foundation construction is anticipated to begin this spring for the bridge carrying CSVT over 11th Avenue. Construction of the nine bridges and four noise walls included in this contract will be completed throughout 2024 and 2025.

Paving Contract: Final design and plans preparation are ongoing. The right-of-way acquisition plan is anticipated to be completed this spring for the interchange areas. Coordination is underway with local utility companies related to their facilities in the interchange areas. Initial preparation of permit applications is underway for the proposed work in the interchange areas. Construction bids for the contract are expected to be opened in late 2025 or early 2026. The mainline CSVT Southern Section is expected to be opened to traffic in 2027. The Route 61 Connector is anticipated to be fully completed and opened to traffic in 2028.

SR 54 Section 090 Intersection Realignment with SR 642 in Montour County

The NPDES permit was approved by PA DEP in March. The E&S plan was approved by Montour County Conservation District. Some modifications to the stormwater management design were needed which impacted the right-of-way plan. A meeting with the Community Advisory Committee, held Sept. 21, 2023, included an update on the progress of the final design and a review of the general construction sequence. It's expected that the construction contractor will schedule a future meeting of the Community Advisory Committee to review their planned construction sequence. The right-of-way process is ongoing with two farm properties that are in negotiations. If an amicable solution is not reached, then an ALCAB hearing will be held to obtain approval from the board for the condemnation of the required land for the project. The project is currently scheduled to be let in August 2024.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Mr. Herman highlighted items from the SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report – April 2024 provided in the meeting packet.

Other handouts provided in the meeting packet included:

- FY 2024-25 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Round – SEDA-COG MPO Region Application Comments
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Projects Status Update – 2018 Funding Round and 2021 Funding Round
- Recently Accessed Highway Occupancy Permit Applications
- Recently Accessed Traffic Impact Study Scoping Applications

Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. McLaughlin referred to the Draft 2025-2028 SEDA-COG MPO TIP Highway/Bridge Element Summary and At-a-Glance charts and the Draft TIP project listing handouts included in the meeting packet. The Draft 2025-2028 TIP comment period will run from April 19 to May 20. The public meeting is planned for 6 p.m. on May 6 as a hybrid meeting that will accommodate in-person and virtual participation. SEDA-COG staff will compile any public comments and appropriate responses to them. The Draft TIP will be considered for adoption at the June 14 SEDA-COG MPO meeting. The 2025 TIP will take effect on Oct. 1, 2024; the next comprehensive TIP update will occur in 2026.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion for the MPO to approve advertising of the Draft 2025 TIP for public comment; Mr. Lettiere seconded the motion; motion carried.

Draft SEDA-COG MPO Complete Streets Policy

Ms. Brummer provided an update on the draft MPO Complete Streets Policy and related complete streets planning items that Gannett Fleming is developing on behalf of the MPO and that were included in the packet. MPO members were asked to provide any comments about the policy ahead of the June 14 MPO meeting, during which the policy is planned for adoption. A model Complete Streets policy for municipalities is in development and will be further refined after the MPO policy is finalized.

SEDA-COG MPO Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Brummer mentioned that a full draft of the plan will be distributed in May for review and comment. The new Strategic Plan should be adopted at the June 14 MPO meeting.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Study Update

Mr. Kiel mentioned that the study should be finished by the end of June. The Feb. 22 EV event at Penn College was well attended and interactive. MPO staff and the consultant team are in the process of contacting people interested in locating new EV charging stations in their jurisdiction. Michael Baker is looking at service gaps. Site visits will take place in May and the next steering committee meeting is set for May 7. He noted that there were 45% more EVs registered in PA this year than last.

Brian Funkhouser said that Michael Baker consultants will be working with key area destinations on potential EV charging stations, with Geisinger, Evangelical Hospital, Bucknell University, the Town of Bloomsburg, and others on the current list. The siting evaluations will be done in relation to prioritization criteria and equity analysis.

Active Transportation Committee Update

Mr. Buck provided an update on the Active Transportation Committee. He mentioned that the bike/ped count program article and poster by Dr. Michelle Beiler of Bucknell University will be shared once available. He also invited members to notify him if there are any trails on which they would like counters placed. The Active Transportation Committee's ArcGIS Hub site will hopefully be completed by summer. The next Committee meeting will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on May 15.

Member Forum

Mr. Herman referred to the following handouts that were provided in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of April 2024
- Support letters for City of Lock Haven Active Transportation Plan and SR 45 West Market Street Improvement Project
- PennDOT Connects Municipal Resources Steering Committee Meeting Presentation from March 6, 2024

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Herman adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m. with a motion from Mr. Molter; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for June 14, 2024.