



SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING

Hybrid Meeting
Friday, April 8, 2022
SEDA-COG, Lewisburg, PA
9:30 A.M.

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Mark Colussy, Mifflin County
Katie de Silva, Clinton County
John DeVecchio, Union County
Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg (via teleconference)
Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County
Jack Kytte, Borough of Berwick (via teleconference)
Greg Molter, Montour County
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Steve Phillips, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-Modal Interests (via teleconference)
Jonathan Ranck, PennDOT District 3-0
Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)
Eric Stahley, Columbia County (via teleconference)

OTHER MPO MEMBERS

Dean Ball, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)
Gene Porochniak, FHWA (via teleconference)

GUESTS

Eric Adams, Gannett Fleming (via teleconference)
Michelle Brummer, Gannett Fleming (via teleconference)
Steven Beattie, Lewisburg Borough (via teleconference)
H. Virginia Feigles-Kaar, Dewberry (via teleconference)

STAFF PRESENT

Kay Aikey, Program Assistant
Steve Herman, Transportation Planner
Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst
Matt Semeraro, GIS Intern (via teleconference)
Jeff Stover, Transportation Program Chief
Katherine Wilde, Program Analyst, GIS

OTHER SEDA-COG STAFF

Rose Orner, Executive Assistant
Kim Wheeler, Executive Director

Call to Order

After it was determined that a quorum was present, Vice-Chair Carey Mullins called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Mr. Mullins stated that Mr. Jim Saylor recently left his position as Director of Transportation for SEDA-COG and vacated the Chair of the MPO. The by-laws of the MPO state that the Vice-Chair would take over for that position as it is vacant.

Ms. Kim Wheeler, Executive Director of SEDA-COG, stated that she was pleased to announce that Mr. Steve Herman has been promoted to Director of Transportation at SEDA-COG.

Public Forum

No comments were received from the general public.

Approval of the February 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Molter made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2022, MPO meeting; Mr. Kerstetter seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

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

Ms. de Silva made a motion for the MPO to approve the amendment for PennDOT District 2-0; Mr. Colussy seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Colussy made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP administrative actions as presented for PennDOT District 2-0; Ms. de Silva seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Ranck summarized the TIP amendments for PennDOT District 3-0.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to approve the amendments for PennDOT District 3-0; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

CSVT Project and SR 54 Safety Project Status Reports

Mr. Ranck provided the following update:

CSVT Southern Section - Bids were opened for the first construction contract. This is the first of three contracts for this section, which will ease congestion, improve safety and accommodate growth in the region. It is a major step toward completion of this project, which will have a significant impact in the area.

Bids were opened for the earthwork for the roughly 6 miles of new four-lane, limited access highway in Shamokin Dam Borough and Monroe Township, Snyder County. The Southern Section will

connect Routes 11/15 north of Selinsgrove to Route 15 (and the CSVT Northern Section) south of Winfield. It will include an interchange/connector to Routes 11/15 and Route 61 (Veterans Memorial Bridge) in Shamokin Dam.

The apparent low bid of \$115.2 million was submitted by Trumbull Corporation of Pittsburgh. The low bid was within 5% of the cost estimate.

PennDOT anticipates awarding a contract within a few weeks. Work is expected to begin in the summer with completion anticipated in 2025.

Bids for other new bridges that are part of the project are planned to be opened in 2024, and a paving contract is planned to follow in 2026. The Southern Section is anticipated to be opened in 2027.

CSVT Northern Section - Work is resuming for the season on the Northern Section, which will connect Route 15 south of Winfield in Union County to Route 147 south of Montandon in Northumberland County. Upcoming activities include paving the final wearing course on the mainline roadway and ramps that were previously constructed and installing highway lighting, signs, guide rail, and erosion and sediment control features throughout the project area.

The Northern Section is anticipated to be opened to traffic later this year. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be announced when plans are developed.

More information is available at <http://www.csvt.com/>

Mr. Ranck stated that the new District Executive for PennDOT District 3-0 is Eric High.

SR 54 Safety Project Status – The District expects final right-of-way approval soon. All permits should be submitted by the end of April. The target let date is scheduled for March 2023.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Mr. Herman highlighted items from the SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report – April 2022 provided in the meeting packet.

Other handouts provided in the meeting packet included:

- SEDA-COG MPO TIP Local Project Tracking
- SEDA-COG MPO TIP Project Updates
- Requests to Add Projects to the SEDA-COG MPO TIP

Mr. Herman reviewed the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Project Status Update - 2018 Funding Round handout provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Herman stated that all the projects from the last round are completed or actively in construction, except for the North Branch Canal Trail in Danville.

Mr. Herman provided an update on the 2021 Transportation Set-Aside Projects and stated that funding approval will be announced in the spring. There is \$18 million available statewide. Mr. Herman stated that because of the infrastructure bill that was passed by Congress, the funding level should rise substantially going forward with TA Set-Aside and possibly looking at \$45 million available for the next round.

Mr. Herman briefly reviewed the following handouts provided in the meeting packet:

- ARC Local Access Road Update for MPO
- Recently Accessed Highway Occupancy Permit Applications and Traffic Impact Study Scoping Applications

Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Herman reviewed the following handouts provided in the meeting packet:

- Draft 2023-2026 SEDA-COG MPO TIP Highway/Bridge Element Summary and At-a-Glance Charts
- 2023 TIP Submission Required Documentation Checklist

Mr. Herman stated that the draft 2023-2026 TIP contains 270 projects worth a total cost of \$473,699,760. In addition, the 2023-2026 SEDA-COG TIP includes:

- 94 new projects worth \$104.4 million
 - 42 new roadway projects worth \$29.5 million
 - 44 new bridge projects worth \$68.3 million
 - 8 new safety projects worth \$6.7 million
- 171 Carry-over projects worth \$341.0 million
 - 73 carry-over roadway projects worth \$231.3 million
 - 91 carry-over bridge projects worth \$90.3 million
 - 6 carry-over safety projects worth \$18.8 million
- 5 line item projects worth \$28.3 million
- \$150.0 million for continuing the Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation (CSV) project

Mr. Herman stated that the draft 2023 TIP comment period will run from April 22, 2022 to May 23, 2022. The public meeting is planned for May 9th, starting at 6:00 p.m., and will be conducted as a hybrid meeting that will accommodate in-person or virtual participation. This public meeting will be held at the Union County Government Center, 155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg.

MPO staff will compile any public comments and appropriate responses. The Draft TIP will be considered for adoption at the June 10th SEDA-COG MPO meeting. The 2023 TIP will take effect on October 1, 2022; the next comprehensive TIP update will occur in 2024.

Mr. Colussy made a motion to approve advertising the Draft TIP for public comment; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Draft Title VI Program

Mr. Herman reviewed the Title VI Program, Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan Updates handout provided in the meeting packet. The draft Title VI Program was published to SEDA-COG's website and shared electronically. The public comment period for the draft Title VI Program will run from April 22 to June 6, 2022. A hybrid public meeting is planned for May 9 as part of a combined meeting for comment on the draft 2023-2026 TIP.

Ms. de Silva inquired about special or successful outreach to Amish populations. Mr. Mullins mentioned that contact could be made with Lancaster County to learn about its experience with engaging Amish populations.

Mr. Colussy made a motion to approve advertising the Draft Title VI Program for public comment; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Draft MPO Bylaws Amendments

Mr. Herman reviewed the proposed amendments to the SEDA-COG MPO Bylaws. A marked-up copy of the Bylaws of the SEDA-COG Metropolitan Planning Organization was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Herman stated that the bylaws were revised to reflect virtual meeting technology, revised procedures for votes on TIP amendments or other formal business in between regularly scheduled MPO meetings, and some other minor adjustments. Members were encouraged to provide any comments prior to the June 10 MPO meeting, in which the amended bylaws are planned for approval. The MPO bylaws will also go to the SEDA-COG Board of Directors for its approval.

Mr. Mullins pointed out that a motion is needed that effective April 8, 2022, Mr. Steve Herman will officially be designated the Chairperson of the SEDA-COG MPO as he is going to be the one to sign documents. (Mr. Jim Saylor had been voted in as the Chairperson of the MPO for 2022 and is no longer at SEDA-COG.)

Mr. Molter made a motion that effective April 8, 2022, Mr. Steve Herman will now officially be the Chair of the MPO; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Active Transportation Committee Update

Ms. Wilde stated that the next meeting of this committee will be held on May 18 and will be held at SEDA-COG. This will be the first hybrid meeting as the meetings have been virtual throughout the pandemic. The subcommittees are moving along and are due to meet again soon. Sunbury is in the process of doing a bike/ped audit, and Milton is going to begin doing a bike/ped audit soon. Ms. Wilde stated that the Walk Works grant funding is open, and she asked members if they know of any communities that would like to do a bike/ped audit to please let her know. May is bike month so Ms. Wilde encouraged everyone to get out and use their bicycles.

Member Forum

The following item was included in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of April 2022.

Mr. Herman stated that as of March 21, 2022, the Stop Hopper (microtransit on-demand service model) is now serving the Danville/Bloomsburg area as well as the Lewisburg-Milton area. They have a nine-person accessible van, and it runs Monday - Friday from 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Requests can be made through an application or an 800 number.

Mr. Kaufman asked if the data is being tracked as to the location where they are picking up riders and if it will be shared. He stated he would be interested in seeing the data for the ridership in

Snyder County. Mr. Molter expressed interest in having Stop Hopper flyers available at the county's human services fairs and other venues.

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Mullins adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. with a motion from Mr. Kaufman and a second from Mr. Molter. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for June 10, 2022.