



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

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg (via teleconference)
Steve Herman, SEDA-COG
Chris King, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)
Jack Kytte, Borough of Berwick (via teleconference)
James Lettiere, Mifflin County
Shawn McLaughlin, Union County
Greg Molter, Montour County
Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)
Eric Stahley, Columbia County (via teleconference)
Bob Stoudt, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-modal Interests
Nathan Walker, PennDOT Central Office

GUESTS

Justin Batiuk, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)
John Breneman, Office of State Senator Judy Ward (via teleconference)
Gabrielle DaSilva, Michael Baker International (via teleconference)
Gini Feigles-Kaar, Dewberry Engineers (via teleconference)
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker International
Jeff Iseman, PA SILC/PA Transportation Alliance (via teleconference)
Rob Manzella, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO (via teleconference)
Will McLain, Luzerne County (via teleconference)
Dan Merk, STEP (via teleconference)
Gene Porochniak, FHWA (via teleconference)
Fred Savidge, PennDOT District 3-0
Peyton Trussell, Michael Baker International
Sal Vitko, WATS MPO (via teleconference)
Kenana Zejcirovic, FHWA (via teleconference)

STAFF

Bryce Buck, Program Analyst
Tina Heintzelman, Program Assistant
Frankie Hockenbrocht, Community Services
Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst (via teleconference)
Kristin McLaughlin, Principal Program Analyst

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 congratulated Mr. Porochniak on his promotion and welcomed Kenana Zejcirovic as the new Federal Highway Administration representative for the region.

Mr. Iseman said the governor signed the state budget on July 11 with \$80.5 million in transit funding. He said the e-scooter bills are still stalled in the House and Senate.

Approval of the June 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Molter made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2024, MPO meeting; Mr. Stoudt seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

Mr. Herman said that according to the MPO's Memorandum of Understanding on the procedures for TIP revisions there is no formal action needed on administrative modifications; therefore, those actions will just be discussion items that do not require approval from the Board. Amendments to the TIP will still require a vote from the Board at MPO meetings.

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

Mr. King summarized the TIP administrative modifications for PennDOT District 3-0. He also commended the MPO staff on its TIP modifications webmap prepared for each MPO meeting and cited this as a best practice.

CSV T Project and SR 54 Safety Project Status Reports

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

CSV T Southern Section

Paving Contract: Final design and plans preparation are ongoing. The right-of-way acquisition plan was completed in June for the interchange areas, particularly CSV T's southernmost interchange with existing US 11/15 and US 522. District right-of-way staff are starting to work with affected property owners through the appraisal and negotiation process. Coordination is ongoing with local utility companies related to their facilities in the interchange areas. Preparation of permit applications (for impacts to streams and wetlands and for erosion and stormwater controls) is ongoing for the proposed work in the interchange areas. The contract is expected to be let in late 2025 or early 2026. The mainline CSV T Southern Section is expected to be opened to traffic in 2027. Work impacting traffic on existing US 11/15 in Shamokin Dam Borough will be completed after the mainline has been opened (when the large volumes of trucks and through traffic will be able to use CSV T). Therefore, the PA 61 Connector is anticipated to be fully completed and opened to traffic in 2028.

Shamokin Dam Borough and Monroe Township were recently awarded Green Light-Go grants to upgrade four existing traffic signals on the US 11/15 corridor that are outside the limits of work for CSVT. The signals are located at US 11/15 and 8th Avenue in Shamokin Dam Borough (awarded \$332,944) and at US 11/15 and Lori Lane, US 11/15 and Park Road, US 15 and Sunbury Road and Victor Lane in Monroe Township (awarded total of \$1.02 million). The CSVT design team will work with the municipalities to coordinate these signal upgrades with the signal work to be completed along the US 11/15 corridor as part of CSVT.

Route 54 Safety Project

The let date is currently Oct. 10, 2024, but some updates to the final PS&E are still being made. The final PS&E is expected in the next couple of weeks. The current draft schedule shows completion of the construction in 2030, but refinements are being made. The right-of-way has been cleared and utility clearance is expected soon.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

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

Other handouts provided in the meeting packet included:

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Projects Status Update for 2018, 2021 and 2023 Funding Rounds
- Recently Accessed Highway Occupancy Permit Applications
- Recently Accessed Traffic Impact Study Scoping Applications

Mr. Kiel highlighted some of the LTAP activity. He said new classes are being scheduled for the fall. Staff have also been working on preparing interactive online maps and dashboards for LTAP training and technical assistance performance data for area municipalities.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Study Findings

Ms. DaSilva presented the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Study Findings, with a focus on the potential charging station sites evaluated in the study.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to accept the findings of the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Study and to include the recommendations in the MPO's planning and programming processes; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

US 15 Corridor Improvements Study Findings

Mr. Funkhouser provided a presentation on the US 15 Corridor Improvements Study Findings.

Mr. Lettiere made a motion for the MPO to accept the findings of the US 15 Corridor Improvements Study and to include the recommendations in the MPO's planning and programming processes; Mr. Molter seconded the motion; motion carried.

Draft 2024 SEDA-COG Coordinated Transit Plan Update

Ms. McLaughlin said staff have been working with Rockland Planning on an update to the Coordinated Transit Plan that is done jointly with the Williamsport MPO. Comments were provided to the consultant team in July and once they are finalized and integrated into the plan there will be a companion StoryMap created. If the finalized plan is received in time, it could be ready for adoption at the October MPO meeting.

SEDA-COG Long-Range Transportation Plan Update

Ms. McLaughlin said the first steering committee meeting for the LRTP on Aug. 5 went well. The interest groups engaged in the process were expanded to include economic development, active transportation, human services and transit agencies, among others. Mr. Funkhouser then gave a presentation on the planning process for the 2050 LRTP. Ms. McLaughlin asked members to help spread the word about the public survey, launching Aug. 27. She said projects will be solicited from counties to be included in the LRTP.

Priorities for FY 2025-27 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Herman provided an overview of the Draft FY 2025-2027 SEDA-COG Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and UPWP development guidance included in the meeting packet. The adoption deadline is January 31, 2025. The final version of the UPWP is anticipated to be ready for adoption at the November 2024 MPO meeting. The FY 25-27 UPWP will take effect on July 1, 2025. MPO members were asked to provide any comments and recommended tasks or studies for the Draft FY 25-27 UPWP by the end of August 2024.

Active Transportation Committee Update

Mr. Buck provided an update on the Active Transportation Committee. He said the 2023-24 Bicycle Pedestrian Counts Program cycle is coming to an end in about five weeks. The next cycle will include counters on the Berwick Test Track Trail and Columbia County's Bloomsburg Rail Trail, along with other trail locations still being finalized. He also mentioned that Dr. Michelle Beiler is seeking to publish a "Research Pays Off" article about SEDA-COG MPO's count program in a national monthly magazine. The next Committee meeting will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 21.

Member Forum

The following handout was provided in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of August 2024

Mr. Stoudt asked about recently revised ADA guidelines and the requirements for trails. Mr. Herman mentioned that a guest presentation about this subject could be arranged for a future MPO meeting and that Mr. Stoudt could perhaps submit an LTAP technical assistance request to learn more about the topic.

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Herman adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m. with a motion from Mr. McLaughlin; Mr. Molter seconded the motion; motion carried. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for Oct. 4, 2024.