



SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING

Hybrid Meeting

Union County Government Center, Lewisburg, PA

Friday, February 11, 2022

9:30 A.M.

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Mark Colussy, Mifflin County

Katie de Silva, Clinton County (via teleconference)

Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg (via teleconference)

Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)

Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County (via teleconference)

Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County (via teleconference)

Jack Kytte, Borough of Berwick (via teleconference)

David Juba, rabbittransit (via teleconference)

Shawn McLaughlin, Union County

Greg Molter, Montour County

Steve Phillips, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-Modal Interests (via teleconference)

Jonathan Ranck, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)

Richard Ridgway, Columbia County (via teleconference)

Jim Saylor, SEDA-COG

Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)

Justin Skavery, Northumberland County (via teleconference)

Eric Stahley, Columbia County (via teleconference)

OTHER MPO MEMBERS

Gene Porochniak, FHWA (via teleconference)

Lauren Russell, Union County

GUESTS

Kathleen Brady, Peters Consulting (via teleconference)

John Breneman, State Senator Corman's Office (via teleconference)

Michelle Brummer, Gannett Fleming (via teleconference)

Duane Gaugler, Larson Design (via teleconference)

Jeff Iseman, PA Statewide Independent Living Council (via teleconference)

Teena Kubasti, LIFE Geisinger (via teleconference)

Debbie Palmer, LIFE Geisinger (via teleconference)

Sal Vitko, WATS MPO (via teleconference)

Robert Watts, McCormick Taylor, Inc. (via teleconference)

Emily Wells, Peters Consulting (via teleconference)

STAFF PRESENT

Kay Aikey, Program Assistant
Steve Herman, Transportation Planner
Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst (via teleconference)
Kyle Postupack, JRA Property Manager
Jeff Stover, Transportation Program Chief (via teleconference)

OTHER SEDA-COG STAFF

Elaine Stauder, Communications Coordinator (via teleconference)

Call to Order

After it was determined that a quorum was present, Mr. Saylor called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Public Forum

No comments were received from the general public.

Approval of the November 19, 2021, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Molter made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2021, MPO meeting; Mr. Phillips seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

Mr. Saylor summarized the administrative actions for PennDOT District 2-0.

Mr. Kerstetter made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP administrative actions as presented for PennDOT District 2-0; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Saylor summarized the administrative actions for PennDOT District 3-0.

Mr. McLaughlin 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.

Mr. Saylor stated there are amendments to add projects in each District. Mr. Saylor stated that most of the TIP changes in the packet – the amendment from the eballot, some of the administrative action changes, and the new amendments to the TIP are driven by the funding included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed in November.

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

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

Mr. Ranck summarized the amendment for PennDOT District 3-0.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to adopt the amendment for District 3-0 as presented; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

The recap of the amendment that MPO members were asked to consider via eballot in January was included in the meeting packet, as well as the summary of the votes from MPO members. Mr. Saylor stated that 16 of the 17 MPO voting members voted, 15 voted in favor, so the motion measure passes pending confirmation at today's meeting.

Mr. Saylor stated that some issues were noted in the comments as the eballot process was completed:

- Reservations related to the PA Sunshine Act.
- The format did not provide an appropriate opportunity to consider other projects for which this funding might be utilized.

Mr. Saylor stated that MPO members are asked for a confirmation of the votes to reaffirm the eballot TIP amendment.

There were no nay votes registered during the meeting. The eballot motion was confirmed.

Mr. Saylor discussed the process of the evote. He stated that nearly two thirds of the voting members have been appointed since the last time an evote was conducted, so consensus on this issue has been lost since members have changed.

The following handout was provided in the meeting packet:

- Current Practice and Research into Electronic Ballots for TIP Amendments

Mr. Saylor stated that PennDOT has long held that eballots are not in violation of the Sunshine Law, and in 2013, it was confirmed with an external expert who had done work on the subject for CCAP. Mr. Herman reached out to 7 other MPOs to ask about their handling of eballots – 4 don't use them, 2 use them regularly, and one authorizes them but uses them only rarely. Two MPOs indicated that they are not directly subject to the requirements of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Saylor asked if any members wished to provide comments or to ask questions about the process.

Mr. Colussy asked what was considered a reasonable length of time to consider the measure? Mr. Herman responded that 7 business days were provided, but 5 business days is specified as the minimum in the bylaws. Mr. Colussy suggested that the MPO staff engage to follow-up in the future if there isn't 100% participation of the voting members to make sure all members are aware of the measure.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that Union County hasn't used this process for seven years. He stated he does have some reservations about the Sunshine Law. Non-profits are not subject to the Sunshine Law so their bylaws can say email votes. Union County's solicitor has held the position that county commissioners, planning commissions, and all of the authorities at the county are not allowed to do email votes of any kind as it violates the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Stahley stated he didn't have any problems with the projects; he is concerned that there isn't enough opportunity for public comment through eballots under the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Vitko stated that the WATS MPO makes use of eballots, and they have confirmed with their solicitor that the process is in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that the current eballot process does raise questions about what would happen in a case where the subsequent confirmation vote failed.

MPO members shared consensus that scheduling additional public meetings in a virtual format to address TIP amendments occurring between regular meetings would likely be found to be in compliance with the Sunshine Law. It was recommended that the amendment details considered at special meetings also be published on the SEDA-COG website.

MPO staff will work to document an acceptable efficient and open process as part of updating the MPO Bylaws and the MPO Public Participation Plan, and will share a draft at the April MPO meeting,

The following handout was provided in the meeting packet:

- Summary of Transportation Projects in the SEDA-COG Region Approved for TIP Addition Pending Available Funding/Actions by Other Parties – Mr. Saylor stated the only change was to the Industrial Park Road project in Snyder County. The cost estimate has increased. MPO staff attended a meeting with other SEDA-COG staff and the sponsor to discuss options for moving forward with this project.

CSVT Project and SR 54 Safety Project Status Reports

Mr. Ranck provided the following update:

CSVT Northern Section – It is expected that this section will open in late summer 2022.

State Route 147 from where State Route 405 ends in West Chillisquaque Township to State Route 61 in the City of Sunbury will become State Route 405.

Discussion on how to commemorate the opening are in very early stages at this point at District 3-0. Any planned activity/event will need to be approved by the new District Executive, as Sandra Tosca recently retired as District Executive of PennDOT District 3-0.

CSVT Southern Section – The first contract for earthwork has been advertised. PennDOT District 3-0 anticipates to let the project at the end of March. There is a possibility that the let date will need to be adjusted depending on the amount and types of questions that are received from the contractors.

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

SR 54 Safety Project Status – Still wrapping up the final right-of-way and should have it completed by the end of February. Final design can then move forward with the completed right-of-way. The project should be let in May 2023.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

The following handouts were provided in the meeting packet:

- SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report – February 2022
- 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 following handouts provided in the meeting packet:

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Projects Status Update – 2018 Funding Round

Mr. Herman stated that 96 applications were being considered statewide for the 2021 TA Set-Aside round. The statewide committee has been meeting and is close to finalizing their recommendations. It's expected that funding approval will be announced in spring 2022. There is \$18 million available, with potentially more depending on final guidance to be issued by FHWA.

- FY 2022-23 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Round – SEDA-COG MPO Region Application Comments
- Potential FY 2022-24 Supplemental Planning Studies
- Recently Accessed Highway Occupancy Permit Applications and Traffic Impact Study Scoping Applications

Mr. Colussy shared an update on the Mifflin County Active Transportation Plan:

- A workshop was held to let people know about the plan.
- Working towards a first steering committee meeting on February 22, 2022.
- Hoping to have a draft plan by September.
- The team includes Gannett Fleming consultants, and they are hoping to mirror the format and process from the Middle Susquehanna Active Transportation Plan to make merging the output of the plans as easy as possible.

Mr. Saylor reviewed the following handout provided in the meeting packet:

- Fact Sheet: 25 Competitive Infrastructure Funding Opportunities for Local Governments

These funding opportunities are listed under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) programs.

Mr. Colussy stated that Centre County MPO has been keeping him informed with the innovative way to look at environmental clearances for the SR 322 project (State College Area Connector). He inquired if there are ways for the SEDA-COG MPO to coordinate with the Centre County MPO on this project and support pursuit of additional funding for it. Mr. Schultz will forward that input to the project team.

Mr. McLaughlin suggested that a reasonable role for the MPO might be considering projects in the Long Range Transportation Plan against the competitive funding opportunities and notifying stakeholders as grant openings occur.

Mr. Iseman asked that the MPO consider opportunities for personal mobility, improving transit service, walkability, and the Amtrak station in Lewistown.

2023 Twelve Year Program Update

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.

The draft 2023-2026 SEDA-COG TIP contains 265 projects worth a total cost of \$474,418,733. In addition, the TIP includes:

- 92 new projects worth \$101.9 million
 - o 42 new roadway projects worth \$26.4 million
 - o 46 new bridge projects worth \$72.7 million
 - o 4 new safety projects worth \$2.8 million
- 169 carry-over projects worth \$345.6 million
 - o 72 carry-over roadway projects worth \$233.4 million
 - o 91 carry-over bridge projects worth \$93.1 million
 - o 5 carry-over safety projects worth \$18.4 million
- 4 line item projects worth \$26.9 million
- \$153.4 million for continuing the Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation (CSVT) project.

Mr. Herman stated that the draft 2023 TIP comment period is planned to run from April 22, 2022, to May 21, 2022. The public meeting is planned to occur on May 9th, starting at 6:00 p.m. and is planned to be conducted as a hybrid meeting that will accommodate in-person or virtual participation.

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

- New Projects on Draft 2023 SEDA-COG TIP.
- TIP Project Listing by county.
- Bridge Formula Investment Program.
- Bridge Formula Program Implementation Guidance from Federal Highway Administration.
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Summary from PennDOT.
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Active Transportation Committee Update

Mr. Herman stated that the Committee's Community Engagement and Outreach Workgroup held a meeting on February 3rd and discussed some of the outreach activities underway. The Committee is working on a new logo and a branding guide. The full Active Transportation Committee will meet on February 16th. An attorney from Philadelphia will be a guest speaker and will discuss issues related to bicycle crashes.

Member Forum

The following items were included in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of February 2022.
- Stop Hopper (microtransit) flyer – a service recently initiated in Snyder & Northumberland counties by rabbittransit.
- PennDOT Press Release on New 511PA Features.

Mr. Juba, planning manager at rabbittransit, presented the following update on the Stop Hopper service:

- The service was launched in the SEDA-COG region on December 13, 2021, and is available Monday – Friday from 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- It is a microtransit on-demand service model.
- The Selinsgrove-Sunbury area is the first of three potential service zones in the region. Since launching the Selinsgrove-Sunbury zone on December 13, rabbittransit has serviced 650 total riders – approximately 21 riders per day.
- The other 2 zones that are being considered: Lewisburg-Milton and Danville-Bloomsburg. These might be launched in the next few months, depending on driver hirings and training.

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Saylor adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for April 8, 2022.