



SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING

Friday, February 14, 2020

SEDA-COG

Lewisburg, PA

9:30 A.M.

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Mark Colussy, Mifflin County
Katie de Silva, Clinton County
Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg
Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County
Jack Kytte, Borough of Berwick
Shawn McLaughlin, Union County
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Steve Phillips, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-Modal Interests
Jonathan Ranck, PennDOT District 3-0
Richard Ridgway, SEDA-COG Board At-Large Member
Vickie Rusnak, PennDOT District 2-0
Jim Saylor, SEDA-COG
Justin Skavery, Northumberland County
Eric Stahley, Columbia County

OTHER MPO MEMBERS

Jamie Lemon, Federal Highway Administration
Anne Messner, Centre County MPO
Scott Williams, Lycoming County Planning

GUESTS

Chuck Beck, Milton Borough
John Krajcovic, PennDOT District 2-0
Cara Lane, Gannett Fleming
Bill Lowthert, Lewisburg Borough
Jess Novinger, Milton Borough
Catherin Reuther, Peters Consultants
Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0
Robert Watts, McCormick Taylor
Steve Wilver, Larson Design Group

STAFF PRESENT

Kay Aikey, Program Assistant
Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst
Steve Herman, Transportation Planner
Katherine Lewis, GIS
Jeff Stover, Transportation Program Chief

OTHER SEDA-COG STAFF

Betsy Lockwood, Economic Development

Call to Order

Mr. Saylor called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. Introduction of MPO members, guests and staff present.

Public Forum

No comments were received from the general public.

Approval of the November 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2019, MPO meeting; Mr. Kyttle seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

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

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

Marsh Road Construction Project

Ms. Lockwood stated that the ARC Local Access Road Program Project for Marsh Road in Milton Borough, Northumberland County, was SEDA-COG's number one ranked ARC access road project in the region. An application for \$697,659 was submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission. Ms. Lockwood stated that she recently received word that the project received funding. Staff is requesting that this Marsh Road Access Road project be added to the TIP.

Ms. Lockwood stated this is a really good economic development project. Patton Warehousing is planning to build an \$8 million distribution center and another \$7 million build to suit building. They are estimating at least 60 permanent, full-time, non-construction jobs to be created and will retain 600 jobs. This project was approved for funding about 20 years ago, but there was a spadefoot toad issue; however, the spadefoot toad is now considered less endangered than it was years ago. There is no evidence of spadefoot toad habitat. This project has been designed to mitigate the spadefoot toad issue, if necessary.

Mr. Beck stated that the borough owns the 33-foot easement and is proposing a 5 ½ foot extension on both sides of the easement if need be due to the toad issue and this could shrink the footprint of this project. The project as proposed does contain toad mitigation tunnels so the toads can cross under the road.

Ms. Lockwood stated that this project has recently been awarded two \$1 million multimodal grants from the Commonwealth Financing Agency (CFA) and the access road funding represents about 28% of the overall total project cost. This is the last piece of this project to get the project funded.

Mr. Beck stated that the borough will contribute \$32,000 for this project.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion for the MPO to add this project to the SEDA-COG TIP; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Saylor reviewed the following handouts 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.
- SEDA-COG MPO TIP Local Project Tracking.
- SEDA-COG MPO TIP Project Updates.
- Requests to Add Projects to the SEDA-COG MPO TIP.
- Simplified Project Summary by County from the 2019-2022 TIP.

Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation Project Status

Mr. Ranck provided the following update:

Northern Section: There is random activity at the bridge. Still on track for this section to be open in 2022.

Southern Section: Working towards the first letting in 2021 timeframe.

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

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Mr. Saylor provided an update on the activities since the November MPO meeting.

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

- SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report for February 2020.
- PennDOT Announcement regarding appointment of Tom Zurat to the position of District Executive for District 2-0.
- PennDOT flyer on Lowest Life Cycle Cost (LLCC).
- FY 2020-21 PennDOT Multimodal Fund Projects Application Review Comments.
- Updated tracker from the MPO Strategic Plan.

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

- SEDA-COG Wraps up Successful Year for Local Technical Assistance Program – Spring Classes Scheduled.
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Projects Status Update 2016 Funding Round and 2018 Funding Round.

SEDA-COG Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Kiel provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Long Range Transportation Plan 2021 Update Introduction.

Topics included in the PowerPoint:

- LRTP Purpose
- History of LRTP at SEDA-COG
- Developments Since Last Update
- Trends and Issues/Changes in Emphasis
- Areas of Emphasis from the MPO 2019-2023 Strategic Plan
- Scope/Outcomes
- Project Steps and Projected Schedule
- Your Role as MPO Board Members

Annual List of Obligated Projects

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

- SEDA-COG Metropolitan Planning Organization Annual Listing of Obligated Projects
Federal Fiscal Year 2019

Mr. Herman stated that the annual list of obligated projects report is a requirement of current federal transportation law, known as the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), which requires MPOs to publish an annual report on the projects for which federal funding has been obligated during the federal fiscal year from October 1 to September 30.

During FFY 2019, the SEDA-COG MPO saw a total of \$38,071,208 obligated for 55 projects. The highest was Surface Transportation Program: \$14,675,882 (38.5% of total) and the next highest was National Highway Performance Program: \$7,516,697 (19.7% of total).

PennDOT serves as the project sponsor responsible for carrying out the project or phase for all the listed projects, except for MPMS 7498: T-309 over Penns Creek, which is administered by Union County and Hartley Township.

2021 Twelve Year Program Update

Mr. Herman provided an update on the 2021 Twelve Year Program development process and reviewed the following handouts provided in the meeting packet:

- 2021-2024 SEDA-COG MPO TIP Highway/Bridge Element Funding at a Glance
- Listing of New Projects on Draft 2021 SEDA-COG TIP
- FFY 2021 SEDA-COG TIP (listed by county)
- Simplified Project Summary by County from the 2021-2024 Draft TIP
- 2021 TIP Update Timeline

Mr. Herman stated that the next MPO meeting is April 17 and members will be asked to approve advertising the draft TIP for public comment. The current plan is to run the comment period from April 24 to May 24. The public meeting will be held on May 13 at the Union County Government Center. At the June 19 MPO meeting, members will be asked to adopt the draft TIP.

Ms. Lewis stated that there are two separate handouts for the local bridge prioritization – Revised Prioritized Local Bridge Candidates for the SEDA-COG 2021-2024 TIP Update and Revised Prioritized Local Bridge Candidates for the SEDA-COG 2021-2024 Update – BOF Funds. Ms.

Lewis stated that members met with various people to go over the local bridge prioritization. Surveys were sent out in the fall asking for feedback on some of the bridges that members had designated. That information was brought to the November 2019 MPO meeting where it was decided to push it out to a later date as some counties did not respond. The packet of rankings was submitted to PennDOT in December. Five bridges did make it onto the 2021 TIP that were involved in this process and three additional bridges that were not involved in the process. Three of them were on the BOF funding sheet and two were retroactive reimbursements all in PennDOT District 3-0.

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

- Pennsylvania's 2021 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance

Active Transportation Committee Update

Ms. Lewis provided an update on the activities of the newly formed Active Transportation Committee. She stated that the committee met on January 27. The committee voted on adopting the policies and procedures and voted to approve the terms of reference for two of the Committee's work groups.

A copy of the Middle Susquehanna Active Transportation Committee Organizational Policies and Procedures was included in the meeting packet as well as a copy of the Middle Susquehanna Active Transportation Committee Connections Work Group Terms of Reference. These documents outline the goals of the committee and what the committee is going to do.

The next meeting of this committee will be held March 30 at 2 p.m. at SEDA-COG. Roy Gothie, PennDOT's statewide bicycle and pedestrian coordinator will discuss the statewide active transportation plan which is currently being finalized. All three work groups are scheduled to meet in the next few weeks.

Census Participant Statistical Areas Program

Ms. Lewis summarized the PSAP boundary review process. She stated that the 90-day verification phase began January 15. Seven of the SEDA-COG counties completed their verification; we're still waiting to hear from four of the other counties. Clinton County and Centre County both submitted some designated places to be added and the Census Bureau accepted almost all of them.

Member Forum

The following handouts were provided in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of February 2020.
- PennDOT Connects by the Numbers.
- Meeting calendars for February, March and April.

Mr. McLaughlin inquired as to why the Green Light-Go Program statewide funding has been reduced to \$10 million for the FY 20-21 application round. Mr. Mullins stated that he will check into this.

Adjournment

Mr. Saylor adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for April 17, 2020.