



**SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Hybrid Meeting**  
**Friday, January 26, 2024**  
**SEDA-COG, Lewisburg, PA**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**MPO VOTING MEMBERS**

Stephen Gibson, Clinton County  
Steve Herman, SEDA-COG  
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County  
Michele Ocker-Holman, SEDA-COG Board, Transit Interests (via teleconference)  
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 (via teleconference)  
Justin Skavery, Northumberland County (via teleconference)  
Eric Stahley, Columbia County (via teleconference)  
Bob Stoudt, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-modal Interests  
Nathan Walker, PennDOT Central Office

**GUESTS**

Michelle Brummer, Gannett Fleming (via teleconference)  
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker International (via teleconference)  
Duane Gaugler, Larson Design Group (via teleconference)  
Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)  
Jeff Iseman, PA SILC/PA Transportation Alliance (via teleconference)  
Gini Feigles-Kaar, Dewberry Engineers (via teleconference)  
Chris King, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)  
Eric Murnyack, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)  
Gene Porochniak, FHWA (via teleconference)  
Thomas Prestash, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)  
Craig Sattesahn, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)  
Jonathan Shaw, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO (via teleconference)  
Matt Wise, Office of State Senator Gene Yaw (via teleconference)

**STAFF**

Michelle Ballou, Program Assistant  
Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst  
Kristin McLaughlin, Principal Program Analyst

**OTHER SEDA-COG STAFF**

Betsy Lockwood, Director of Project Development/Grants  
Kim Wheeler, Executive Director

## **Call to Order**

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

## **Public Forum**

Mr. Herman acknowledged the appointments of several new MPO voting members.

Mr. Nathan Walker will be replacing Mr. Frank Hampton as the PennDOT Central Office voting member and has agreed to take on Mr. Hampton's role as MPO Vice-Chair. Mr. Hampton will continue to participate in the MPO meetings and serve as the technical liaison for the MPO.

Mr. Bob Stoudt, Director of the Montour Recreation Commission, was appointed by the SEDA-COG Board of Directors as the Multi-modal Interests voting member on the MPO.

Mr. Randy Karschner, Columbia County Commissioner, was appointed by the SEDA-COG Board of Directors as the SEDA-COG Board Member at Large.

In addition, Ms. Michele Ocker-Holman, Site Manager for rabbittransit, was retained as the Transit Interests voting member by the SEDA-COG Board of Directors.

***Mr. Molter made a motion to approve Mr. Nathan Walker as Vice-Chair of the MPO; Mr. Kerstetter seconded the motion; motion carried.***

## **Approval of the November 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO**

***Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2023, MPO meeting; Mr. Lettiere seconded the motion; motion carried with Mr. Stoudt abstaining.***

## **TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments**

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

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

Mr. Herman summarized the TIP administrative modifications for PennDOT District 3-0 and demonstrated the TIP adjustments webmap for the MPO meeting.

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

## **CSV T Project and SR 54 Safety Project Status Reports**

### **CSV T Southern Section**

Earthwork Contract: Excavation, hauling, and embankment construction are ongoing throughout the project using heavy earthmoving equipment. The earthwork operations are anticipated to continue for the next several months.

Structures Contract: Construction of the nine bridges and four noise walls included in this contract will be completed throughout 2024 and 2025.

Paving Contract: The contract is anticipated to be let in late 2025 or early 2026, and the Southern Section is anticipated to be opened to traffic in 2027.

### CSVT Northern Section

PennDOT issued updated traffic counts taken in the Northern Section of the Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation (CSVT) Project that indicate that the project has had a substantial impact on traffic patterns in the region. Updated counts on other area highways appear to confirm that CSVT has removed substantial volumes of north-south through traffic from both Route 15 in Lewisburg and Route 405 in Northumberland when compared to counts taken before CSVT was constructed. More information is available at <http://www.csvt.com/>

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

Mr. Ranck mentioned that PennDOT is still in the process of acquiring needed right-of-way for this project. The summer 2024 let date might be delayed till fall 2024, pending final resolution of the right-of-way acquisition.

### **ARC Local Access Road Program Funding**

Ms. Betsy Lockwood provided an overview of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Local Access Road Program (LAR) process and guidelines, which were included as handouts in the meeting packet. The LAR Program funds access roads that serve businesses. ARC can fund projects up to 100% of the project costs; however, projects with local match and significant economic impacts are the most competitive. There is usually about \$5 million of LAR funding available annually in Pennsylvania. SEDA-COG has been successful in getting 1 to 2 projects approved per year, but new projects are always being explored and considered. MPOs need to agree to add selected LAR projects to the regional TIP; for the SEDA-COG MPO, the project sponsors must complete the checklist included in the meeting packet before a project can be considered by the MPO. Ms. Lockwood recommended that MPO members reach out to her about candidate LAR projects they'd like to pursue.

### **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update**

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

Other handouts provided in the meeting packet included:

- 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
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Eligibility Examples

### **Annual Update of Safety Performance Measure Targets**

Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the Annual Update of Safety Performance Measures Targets handout included in the meeting packet.

*Mr. Lettiere made a motion for the MPO to approve the state Safety Performance Measures Targets for 2024 and to plan and program projects so that they contribute toward the accomplishment of the established PennDOT targets; Mr. Molter 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 activities that Gannett Fleming is pursuing on behalf of the MPO. A second draft of the policy will be provided for MPO staff review soon, and ample time will be allowed for the MPO members to review it ahead of the April 5 MPO meeting. A model Complete Streets policy for municipalities is in development and will be further refined after the MPO policy is finalized. Technical assistance has been provided to the Town of Bloomsburg for a local pedalcycle ordinance. Outreach to MPO counties will occur in the near future to compile a prioritization list of complete streets projects.

### **SEDA-COG MPO Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Kiel gave an overview of the process to update the MPO Strategic Plan. Ms. Brummer summarized the Strategic Plan's Draft Core Elements that was included as a handout in the meeting packet. Ms. Brummer requested that MPO members review the draft elements, identify if they notice any red flags, and share if they have any other ideas for recommended initiatives to include. The new Strategic Plan should be completed by mid-2024.

### **2025 Transportation Improvement Program Update**

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 TIP comment period will run from April 19, 2024 to May 20, 2024. The public meeting is planned for May 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 p.m., and will be conducted as a hybrid meeting that will accommodate in-person or 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<sup>th</sup> SEDA-COG MPO meeting. The 2025 TIP will take effect on October 1, 2024; the next comprehensive TIP update will occur in 2026.

### **Active Transportation Committee Update**

Mr. Herman provided an update on the Active Transportation Committee. He mentioned that the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership has hired Leslie Warriner as its Executive Director. The six trail counters that were recently installed on Clinton County area trails include four counters on the Bald Eagle Valley Trail and two counters on the Lock Haven River Walk; Bryce Buck is checking on the counters periodically and has shared preliminary data with Clinton County for grant applications. The next Active Transportation Committee meeting will be held on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **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 January 2024
- Support Letter for rabbitcares Application to the 1994 Charles B. Degenstein Foundation
- Charge@Work Program Flyer

Mr. Iseman provided several updates on state/federal budget topics. He also mentioned that PA SILC is preparing a state plan for independent living.

Mr. Porochniak stated that the Federal Highway Administration recently released the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. This is the standard guidance for traffic control devices that are used on all public roads. In addition, USDOT has recently released a benefit cost analysis for discretionary grant programs as well as a spreadsheet template.

## **Adjournment**

With there being no further comments, Mr. Herman adjourned the meeting at 11:34 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 April 5, 2024.