

SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting Friday, July 18, 2025 SEDA-COG, Lewisburg, PA 9:30 a.m.

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg (via teleconference)

Stephen Gibson, Clinton County (via teleconference)

Steve Herman, SEDA-COG

Randy Karschner, SEDA-COG Board (via teleconference)

Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County

Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County

Chris King, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)

James Lettiere, Mifflin County

Shawn McLaughlin, Union County

Greg Molter, Montour County

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

Bob Stoudt, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-modal Interests (via teleconference)

Nathan Walker, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)

GUESTS

Justin Batiuk, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)

Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker International

Shawn Hurst, Larson Design Group (via teleconference)

Jeff Iseman, PA SILC/PA Transportation Alliance (via teleconference)

Gini Feigles-Kaar, Dewberry Engineers (via teleconference)

Preston Mausteller, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)

Rob Manzella, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO (via teleconference)

Dan Merk, STEP (via teleconference)

Emily Mrochko, WATS MPO (via teleconference)

Beth Nidam, rabbittransit (via teleconference)

Cindy Sunderland, Call A Ride Service Inc. (via teleconference)

Marvin Ta, Pennoni (via teleconference)

STAFF

Tina Heintzelman, Program Assistant Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst Kristin McLaughlin, Principal Program Analyst Sam Saxe, Program Analyst

Call to Order

After it was determined a quorum was present, Mr. Herman called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Public Forum

Mr. Herman introduced the new SEDA-COG GIS analyst, Sam Saxe, who gave some background information about himself.

Mr. Iseman said the state budget has not been passed and that funding for public transportation is one of the hold-ups, but negotiations are ongoing. He also said there will be a disability pride event on July 26 at the Center for Independent Living in Williamsport.

Approval of the May 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2025, MPO meeting; Mr. Lettiere seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

Mr. Schultz summarized the TIP amendment for PennDOT District 2-0 for the Route 220 Bridge Epoxy Project in Clinton County included on page 9 of the packet.

Mr. Lettiere made a motion to approve the TIP amendment as presented by District 2-0; Mr. Kerstetter seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Schultz summarized the TIP amendment for PennDOT District 2-0 for the High Friction Surface Treatment projects in Clinton, Mifflin and Juniata counties included on page 10 of the packet.

Mr. Kerstetter made a motion to approve the TIP amendment as presented by District 2-0; Mr. Molter seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Schultz summarized the TIP administrative modifications for PennDOT District 2-0 as information-only items that do not require MPO approval.

Mr. King summarized the TIP amendment for PennDOT District 3-0 for the microsurfacing project on Route 15 in Snyder County included on page 18 of the packet.

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to approve the TIP amendment as presented by District 3-0; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. King summarized the TIP administrative modifications for PennDOT District 3-0 as information-only items that do not require MPO approval.

CSVT Project Status Report

Mr. King provided a status report on the CSVT project.

CSVT Southern Section

Structures Contract: The project is roughly 75% complete overall. Work is nearly complete on the bridge carrying CSVT over Grangers Road, the bridge carrying Cortland Drive over the Route 61 Connector and the Route 61 Connector over the ramps to Routes 11/15. The deck has been placed on the bridge over 11th Avenue, barriers are almost complete, and posts are being placed for noise wall. Steel beams on the bridge over Stetler Avenue have been placed and the contractor is prepping for placement of the concrete deck. The northbound deck over the 61 Connector has been placed and the southbound deck is scheduled to be placed later this month. Steel beams have been placed on the bridge over Park Road, and the contractor is prepping for deck placement. Work on the MSE walls for the bridge over Attig Road is almost complete and beams are scheduled to be placed at the end of July. The contractor is working on MSE walls at Mill Road. Noise walls north of Grangers Road are complete. The contractor is continuing to work on setting posts and panels on both sides of noise walls along the 61 Connector. Foundations for noise wall along CSVT northbound are complete. Overall, construction of the 9 bridges and 4 noise walls included in this contract is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

Paving Contract: For the proposed work in the interchange areas, the environmental agencies have issued the required permits, and the project team is finalizing the required right-of-way acquisitions and utility relocation arrangements. The project team is finalizing bidding documents, which are anticipated to be advertised in late July. The contract is anticipated to be let in fall 2025. The mainline CSVT Southern Section highway is anticipated to be opened to traffic in fall 2027. Work impacting traffic on existing US 11/15 in Shamokin Dam will be completed after the mainline has opened. Therefore, the PA 61 Connector is anticipated to be fully completed and opened to traffic in fall 2028.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Staff Activity Report

Mr. Herman highlighted items from the SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report – July 2025 provided in the meeting packet.

Ms. McLaughlin said the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside program funding round is now open. A required draft application is due Sept. 5. The final application is due Oct. 31. A coordination meeting with PennDOT district representatives, a member of the MPO and the applicant will be scheduled before the deadline.

Mr. Kiel gave an update on the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) activities. He said a Pavement Roadway Management class is being developed and two new classes available are Asphalt Roads Common Maintenance Problems and Drainage, Pipe and Culvert Replacement and Installation. There should be six or seven classes offered locally this fall, including Winter Maintenance and Asphalt Road Maintenance events that are already scheduled.

Other handouts provided in the meeting packet included:

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

Mr. Molter said the Danville Borough North Branch Canal Trail project has been on the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside list since 2018 and asked how long a project should be carried

with no progress. Mr. King said that the project dealt with some funding, staffing, and design delays but is now moving, and construction should begin in 2026.

Central Region Regional Operations Plan Approval

Ms. McLaughlin gave an overview of the 2025 Central Region Regional Operations Plan (ROP) that was presented to the MPO in draft format by PennDOT at the January 2025 MPO meeting. The ROP was subsequently finalized in May 2025. The update to the ROP includes 13 new projects since the 2021 version.

Mr. Lettiere made a motion to approve the Central Region Regional Operations Plan; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Presentation on PennDOT Design Manual and Publication Updates

Marvin Ta, staff engineer at Pennoni, gave a presentation on updates to PennDOT's design manual and other publications.

He said the Traffic Calming Handbook has been eliminated and is now included in PennDOT's Design Manual Part 2 – Contextual Roadway Design, which covers all aspects of roadway design. Chapter 18 showcases the traffic calming devices that are approved for usage on state and local roadways in Pennsylvania. He said this update, along with all other PennDOT updates, is available on PennDOT's Traffic Signal Portal. He also mentioned PennDOT has released a new Traffic Calming Countermeasure Engineering and Traffic Study form to guide municipalities in deciding on what traffic calming devices to use. An updated LTAP class on Traffic Calming is in development.

The AASHTO Bike Guide has also been updated, replacing the 2012 version. An LTAP drop-in session on this topic was held on March 6, 2024, and can be found on the LTAP website. An update to Chapter 14 (Bicycle Facilities) of PennDOT's Contextual Design Manual is in progress.

An update to Chapter 13 (Pedestrian Facilities) will be published soon that will incorporate the 2023 PROWAG update for ADA requirements.

The Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices underwent an update. In 2023, a new publication was released, replacing the 2009 edition. Each state's Department of Transportation has two years to formally adopt this manual. PennDOT is currently working on updating its publications, regulations and other documents to reflect the changes in preparation for adoption.

Mr. Ta said there is new guidance on evaluating crosswalks, specifically related to mid-block and trail crossings. There are two new tables on the traffic engineering study form for mid-block crosswalks to help with crosswalk assessment. The first table is an evaluation matrix for candidate mid-block crosswalks or trail crossing locations; the second is a countermeasure selection matrix.

He said there is an update to the PennDOT ATV policy, which allows ATVs to use more local and state roads, and that PennDOT is working on new techniques to reduce the number of bridge strikes and a policy covering street-eateries.

Mr. Ta said new LTAP classes will be coming soon that incorporate the above PennDOT updates.

Mr. Herman asked if there is anything in the MUTCD updates that addresses concerns about the reliance on the 85th percentile speed. Mr. Ta said the update recommends a more contextual approach to setting speed limits.

SEDA-COG Long-Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Funkhouser delivered a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted activities related to developing the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He said feedback from the STC Survey was collected and summarized. He said there was an increase in people saying maintenance should be one of the priorities. Meetings are being held with county planning directors regarding the functional classification recommendations. Webmaps are being created from technical analysis data. The next steps include finalizing the background profiles, reviewing functional classification recommendations, revenue forecast, and a steering committee meeting on Oct. 8.

NEVI Community Charging Program and EV Charging Stations Update

Mr. Kiel said as part of the community charging program, PennDOT is requesting MPOs provide a list of recommended EV charging station locations and use cases by the end of July. A draft list of 12 use cases, with a priority scale attached, and a draft list of 19 specific locations were included in the packet and will be submitted to PennDOT before July 31.

Local Bridge Prioritization Process for 2027 TIP Update

Mr. Herman discussed the proposed local bridge prioritization criteria for the 2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. McLaughlin said that he thought county priority should not be given the same number of points as bridge condition. Mr. Kaufman agreed and said he thought lowering the county priority points and increasing the bridge condition points would be a good idea. Mr. Molter questioned whether county priority should even be considered. Mr. Herman said staff will evaluate changes to the criteria/weighting and provide edits back to the MPO members for input.

Other handouts provided in the meeting packet included:

- State Transportation Commission's Regional Transportation Survey Summary
- 2027 Financial Guidance Key Highlights
- 2027 General and Procedural Guidance Key Highlights
- 2027 TIP Update Timeline

Active Transportation Committee Update

Mr. Herman discussed the ongoing activities of the Middle Susquehanna Active Transportation Committee. He said the bicycle crash cards and stickers were ordered, and the sidewalk inventory has been completed except for three gaps in Northumberland County. He said the next full Committee meeting will be on August 13.

Member Forum

The following handouts were provided in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of July 2025
- Local Road AADT Counts PowerPoint presentation

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Mr. Iseman asked if there are any updates on the Lewistown Amtrak station. Mr. Lettiere said construction of the deck expansion and ADA improvements are underway and Granville Township is applying for DCED Multimodal funds for enhancements to Helen Street, which leads into the train station.

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Herman adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m. with a motion from Mr. McLaughlin; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for September 19, 2025.