



SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING

Virtual Meeting
Friday, June 19, 2020
9:30 A.M.

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Mark Colussy, Mifflin County
Katie de Silva, Clinton County
Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg
Michele Holman, rabbittransit
Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County
Shawn McLaughlin, Union County
Greg Molter, Montour County
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Steve Phillips, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-Modal Interests
Chris King, 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, FHWA
Scott Williams, Lycoming County Planning/WATS MPO

GUESTS

Emily Aloiz, Erie MPO
Chris Chapman, Luzerne County Planning
Beth Nidam, rabbittransit
Patrick McTish, Michael Baker
Tim Smith, Gannett Fleming
Todd Trautz, Michael Baker
Robert Watts, McCormick Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

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

Call to Order

Mr. Saylor called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. Roll call was taken of MPO voting members, other MPO members, guests, and staff.

Public Forum

No comments were received from the general public.

Approval of the April 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Molter made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2020, MPO meeting; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

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

- There was a little more funding from the statewide railroad crossing funds to add to the work of the JVRR crossing on SR 3006 in downtown Lewistown.
- Some construction funding is being taken from the bridge over Doyle Run in Juniata County and using it to start a design and right-of-way phase for the SR 103 slide project in Mifflin County.
- Pulling funds out of the bridge preservation project that covers about six bridges across the three counties in District 2-0 and pushing it out to a line item.
- Putting additional funds on the Main Street bridge construction phase in downtown Lewistown. Changing the funding type for the resurfacing project on Business 3002 on 4th Street in Lewistown.
- Adding funding to the downtown signals project in Lock Haven to cover some right-of-way costs.

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

Mr. Saylor summarized the amendment to the current TIP for PennDOT District 3-0 and referred to the discussion held at the April 17th MPO meeting on the local bridges included on the draft TIP. Specifically, Mr. McLaughlin noted a scoring error in the prioritization process and asked for changes to the bridges included as local projects on the TIP. Since the April 17th MPO meeting, Union County submitted comments on the TIP; staff responded to the comments, and a meeting was held with the Union County representative and the county commissioners to discuss a proposed solution. A copy of the letter from the Union County Commissioners and a response letter from SEDA-COG MPO staff to the commissioners was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Saylor stated that he concurs with Mr. McLaughlin's assessment of the scoring error and SEDA-COG MPO staff commits to improving that process in the next round. Along with the scoring error, there was a scheduling issue and staff was unable to complete the prioritization process in time for PennDOT District 3-0 to draw on that and program all the bridge projects in this draft TIP update. This meant that the District used the prioritization process from the last round and used some of the information that had been discussed at the prioritization meetings held for this TIP update over last spring and summer.

Overall, SEDA-COG MPO staff feels that the process is still working. The amendment for District 3-0 is for cost savings on two other Union County local bridge projects to fund the study phase for the T-319 over Penns Creek covered bridge project that was originally programmed on the draft TIP. This money and amendment will be used to put the study phase on the current TIP. Once the draft TIP that MPO members are being asked to adopt is fully approved and changes can be made to it in October, staff will look to move the funds that were going to be used for the covered bridge project a couple years back to run a similar study phase for the T-421 over White Deer Hole Creek truss bridge that Union County requested be included in the new TIP.

PennDOT District 3-0 has cautioned MPO staff that they expect to see limitations on the funding available due to the revenue losses this spring resulting from COVID-19 impacts.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP amendment for PennDOT District 3-0; Mr. Phillips seconded the motion.

Ms. de Silva asked how big the shortfall is from the COVID and what are the projections for next year. Mr. Saylor replied that he doesn't have a funding number and referred to Item K in the packet and stated that there is a letter from PennDOT sent to the PA Congressional delegation about projected impacts. There is approximately \$1 billion of funds at risk but it doesn't come out and say that this is exactly the number.

The other item included in Item K is the Street Light Data, a company who uses cell phone data to aggregate traffic volume information. They have been posting a website that shows at a county level what the traffic volume for a particular date is compared to the average for all of January. MPO staff pulled the averages for the eight SEDA-COG MPO counties on every Wednesday since the first week of March through the last week of May. From most of that period, it is down about 40-50% and impacting fuel tax revenue. (The graphic is included in Item K of the supplemental packet.)

Mr. McLaughlin expressed his thanks to MPO staff and PennDOT District staff for their efforts to come to a resolution for Union County.

Motion carried.

Mr. Saylor provided a brief summary of the TP administrative actions for PennDOT District 3-0:

- There are a few items where there is an influx of funds from de-obligation. This means that a project was finished without using all of the funds that were budgeted for it and this is just returning that unspent money to the line items for the District.
- There was a move to add funds to the study phase for a Route 61 resurfacing project in Kulpmont.
- There were a couple Interstate projects where funding is being moved out of the final design phase and placed into a line item.
- Moving some TIP funding into projects in Columbia County where the funds were going to be used for maintenance but didn't have the maintenance funding for it.
- Moving funding out of three projects where it wasn't needed for the utility.
- There is a project for a bridge in Snyder County on SR 3012 where more utility funding is needed for water and sewer relocations.
- Adding funds for PE phase on the SR 522 bridge over Beaver Creek in Snyder County.

- Adding funds to a project on SR 304 in Union County to address a drainage issue that came up during the Connects process.

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

Mr. Saylor stated that no ARC Local Access Road projects have been brought forward for this region. Ms. Lockwood is still hoping one will emerge. Any members working with a development project that would support two or more employers, should notify Ms. Lockwood.

SEDA-COG MPO Self-Certification Resolution

Mr. Herman reviewed the MPO Self-Certification Resolution included in the meeting packet. This is done in connection with the TIP update. This resolution certifies that the MPO process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable federal requirements and that the local process to enhance the participation of the general public, including the transportation disadvantaged, has been followed in developing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to adopt the SEDA-COG MPO Self-Certification Resolution; Mr. Skavery seconded the motion; motion carried.

2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adoption

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

- SEDA-COG MPO Public Involvement Activities and Milestones Draft 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Public Comment Period Summary.
- Draft 2021 TIP Public Comment Period: May 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020.
- 2021 TIP Submission Required Documentation.
- 2021-2024 Transportation Program Submission Checklist.

Mr. Stahley made a motion for the MPO to adopt the 2021-2024 SEDA-COG TIP and approve submission of TIP documents to PennDOT; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP documents are available at: <http://www.seda-cog.org/transportation/Pages/Transportation%20Improvement%20Program.aspx>

Danville Area Transportation Study

Messrs. Todd Tautz and Patrick McTish from Michael Baker International presented the Danville Area Transportation Study. A copy of the presentation was provided in the meeting packet.

The study management committee proposed seven Street Network Connectivity Recommendations, three Multimodal Transportation Recommendations, six Land Use & Development Recommendations, and sixteen Traffic Operations Recommendations.

Mr. Saylor stated that the study has been completed on time, on budget, and it has produced the desired results. Staff recommends that the MPO acts to accept the final findings of the study.

Mr. Molter made a motion to accept the findings of the Danville Area Transportation Study; Mr. Colussy seconded the motion.

Mr. Molter commented on behalf of Montour County that this study has been an eye-opening experience for those who took part in the study and especially for the municipalities. This has been a great assessment for Montour County.

Motion carried.

Supplemental meeting packet items for consideration by MPO members are posted on the SEDA-COG MPO website:
<https://seda-cog.org/departments/transportation/seda-cog-metropolitan-planning-organization>

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Saylor adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for August 21, 2020.