



SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING

Virtual Meeting
Friday, June 25, 2021
9:30 A.M.

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Mark Colussy, Mifflin County
John DelVecchio, Union County
Katie de Silva, Clinton County
Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg
Michele Holman, rabbittransit
Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County
Chris King, PennDOT District 3-0
Jack Kytte, Borough of Berwick
Greg Molter, Montour County
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Steve Phillips, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-Modal Interests
Jim Saylor, SEDA-COG
Justin Skavery, Northumberland County
Eric Stahley, Columbia County

OTHER MPO MEMBERS

Dean Ball, PennDOT District 2-0
Sal Vitko, Lycoming County Planning/Williamsport MPO

GUESTS

Chris Chapman, Luzerne County Planning Department
Gini Feigles-Kaar, Dewberry
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker International, Inc.
Duane Gaugler, Larson Design Group
Anne Messner, Centre County MPO
Morgan Ruziecki, Michael Baker International, Inc.
Jay Schectman, Luzerne County Planning Department

STAFF PRESENT

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

Call to Order

After it was determined that a quorum was present, Mr. Saylor called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Public Forum

No comments were received from the general public.

Approval of the May 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2021, MPO meeting; Mr. Skavery seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

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

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

Mr. Saylor summarized the amendment proposed to the TIP for District 3-0. This amendment is for a bridge preservation project which adds \$225,000 in federal funds to apply Epoxy treatments to eight state bridges in Snyder and Union Counties.

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

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

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

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Mr. Saylor highlighted several items listed on the Staff Activity Report for June 2021.

- Working through the approval process with PennDOT for the budget change for the UPWP and working on the Notice to Proceed before the start of the fiscal year.
- Held coordination meeting with PennDOT/FHWA staff on 5/27/21 for developing the FY 22-24 UPWP. A copy of the draft UPWP for fiscal years 2022-2024 was provided in the meeting packet.
- Staff is working with PennDOT to update the Regional Operations Plan. A summary of the plan will be brought to the September MPO meeting for adoption.
- Staff has begun updating the MPO member orientation materials. The MPO has three new members since the last member orientation session. Staff will work to schedule another orientation for these members. This will be open to all MPO members as well.
- Staff is continuing to work on the CSVT special impacts study with the WATS MPO. A steering committee meeting will be held in mid-July. There will be an open house and public

officials briefing in mid-September. It will then be presented to the MPO members for approval at the September or November MPO meeting.

- Working on a follow-up meeting about implementing the Danville transportation study which is scheduled for July 15.
- Attended a meeting with Kelly Township regarding their safety and signal project.
- The SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative is in the final approval stages for a project to supply liquified natural gas to an indoor agriculture operation in Perry County.

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

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

Mr. Herman stated that the next round of the Transportation Alternatives Set Aide Projects Program will officially open on June 28th. A pre-application needs to be submitted by August 16th which is something new for the 2021 program. PennDOT District staff will review the applications and get with staff at the MPO level, and a meeting will be scheduled with the sponsors. The full application deadline is October 15th.

PennDOT is projecting at least \$18 million to be available state-wide with a possibility of an additional \$18 million contingent on Congress acting on a new federal transportation bill.

Mr. Herman stated that MPO staff is anticipating November 16 to hold a meeting of the review committee, with November 18 as a second meeting date, if necessary. Any MPO member who is interested in serving on the review committee should let Mr. Herman know. Recommendations will be then made to the full MPO at the November 19 MPO meeting for approval.

Mr. Herman provided an overview of the Draft FY 2022-2024 UPWP included in the packet and requested that MPO members offer input on priority UPWP tasks, partner studies/activities, and any candidate supplemental special studies. An updated version of the Draft UPWP, with budget figures, will be presented at the September MPO meeting. Final adoption is planned for the November MPO meeting.

Adoption of 2021 SEDA-COG Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Kiel provided a PowerPoint update on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2021-2045 Draft Plan Revisions/Resolution of Comments.

The presentation included:

- Project Steps and Schedule.
- LRTP Report Development which included the first draft, second and public draft, 30-day public comment period and preliminary final.
- Changes in LRTP Since First Draft (November 2020).
- Public Outreach and Comments Resolution.
- SEDA-COG Draft 2021-2045 LRTP Update Comment Log.
- Approval Steps.

Mr. Stahley made a motion for the MPO to adopt the final 2021 LRTP; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Return to In-Person/Hybrid MPO Meetings

Mr. Saylor stated the state restrictions on holding public meetings have been lifted as it is anticipated that the mask mandate will be lifted within a week. SEDA-COG staff are currently working on a hybrid schedule, at least through September 1. PennDOT expects to return to the office late summer. Mr. Saylor asked MPO members for their input as to how comfortable they feel returning to the SEDA-COG office for MPO meetings or to continue in a hybrid format or virtual online.

A copy of a survey for MPO members to fill out regarding in person/hybrid meetings was included in the meeting packet. This survey will be emailed to MPO members. The results will be shared closer to the September MPO meeting.

2023 Twelve Year Program Public Participation

Mr. Herman discussed the public participation results related to the 2023 Twelve Year Program update. Statewide, survey participants mapped about 2,500 transportation concerns, 109 of these are located within the SEDA-COG MPO region.

Number of issues identified from the SEDA-COG region were as follows:

- Roadway – 25
- Bridge – 7
- Biking/Walking – 68
- Transit – 7
- Freight – 1
- Concerns already addressed - 1

Local Bridge Prioritization Process for 2023 TIP

Ms. Wilde stated that all of the county prioritization meetings have been held. A package of the survey materials to evaluate each of the bridges that were chosen to be part of the prioritization process will be sent out to MPO members shortly.

Active Transportation Committee Update

Ms. Wilde stated that the next meeting of the Active Transportation Committee will be held on August 18 and it will still be a virtual meeting. The committee will discuss working towards hybrid or in-person meetings.

Ms. de Silva stated that Gabe Caprio, the Clinton County representative on the Active Transportation Committee, has recently taken a job with the City of Allentown. The County will have to choose another representative to serve on the committee.

Member Forum

The following items were included in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of June 2021.

- Press release from the National Association of Development Organizations regarding the bipartisan bill to prevent increasing the population threshold of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) from 50,000 people to 100,000 people.

Mr. Saylor provided an update on projects for the Section 5310 Program for enhanced mobility of seniors & individuals with disabilities. This program is open to state and local government authorities, transportation service providers, and private/non-profit organizations.

Adjournment

Mr. Kaufman made a motion to adjourn the MPO meeting; Mr. Stahley seconded the motion.

With there being no further comments, Mr. Saylor adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for September 17, 2021.