



SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING

Virtual Meeting
Friday, March 19, 2021
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
Jack Kytte, Borough of Berwick
Shawn McLaughlin, Union County
Greg Molter, Montour County
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Steve Phillips, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-Modal Interests
Jonathan Ranck, PennDOT District 3-0
Jim Saylor, SEDA-COG
Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0
Eric Stahley, Columbia County

OTHER MPO MEMBERS

Chris King, PennDOT District 3-0
Matt Smoker, FHWA-PA Division

GUESTS

Gini Feigles-Kaar, Dewberry
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker International, Inc.
Rob Jaconski, PennDOT District 2-0
Anne Messner, Centre County MPO
Kristin Mulkerin, PennDOT Program Center
Jim Ritzman, Pennoni
Larry Shifflet, PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Planning
Tim Smith, Gannett Fleming
Sal Vitko, Lycoming County Planning/Williamsport MPO
Robert Watts, McCormick Taylor
Stevan Wilver, Larson Design Group

STAFF PRESENT

Kay Aikey, Program Assistant
Steve Herman, Transportation Planner
Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst
Kim Wheeler, Executive Director, SEDA-COG
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.

PennDOT Pathways Initiative Presentation

Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Planning, provided a PennDOT Pathways Initiative presentation

PennDOT Pathways is a program to help find a path to secure reliable future-focused funding solutions for the transportation system. PennDOT Pathways will allow PennDOT to re-imagine what transportation funding looks like in Pennsylvania to meet the growing needs and serve communities. An alternative funding Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study was launched in November 2020 and is underway to identify near-and long-term funding options and establish a methodology for their evaluation. Viable solutions will be launched as PennDOT Pathways Initiatives over the coming years.

PennDOT's largest source of revenue – 74 percent – comes from state and federal gas taxes. PennDOT is dependent on gas taxes to fund the transportation program. These funds are generated every time a driver in Pennsylvania refills their car's gas tank.

The Major Bridge P3 Initiative will further explore the feasibility of bridge tolling in parallel with the PEL. The Major Bridge P3 Initiative is designed to raise revenue through tolling to address the state's growing backlog of replacement and rehabilitation needs for major bridges that are approaching the end of their useful lives.

Input has been sought from the public on the alternative funding options being evaluated for the PEL study. Approximately 6,000 people attended the online engagement opportunity and approximately 375 comments were received. The result of this outreach and the completed analysis of the potential alternative funding options will be documented within the PEL document, and the PEL study will be made available for public comment in the spring of 2021.

Approval of the January 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Molter made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2021, MPO meeting; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

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

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

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

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

The following handout was included in the meeting packet:

- Summary of Transportation Projects in the SEDA-COG Region Approved for TIP Addition Pending Available Funding/Actions by Other Parties. Mr. Saylor stated there have been no changes since the January 2021 MPO meeting.

Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation (CSVT) Project Status

Mr. Ranck provided the following update:

CSVT Northern Section

- Nothing further to update from last meeting except that paving operations will be recommencing in the next few weeks. Still on track to open the Northern Section in 2022.

CSVT Southern Section

- Final Design – Draft construction plan set is under review.
- Right-of-Way – Plan has been finalized, coordination continuing. There are 75 right-of-way parcels that need acquired.
- Utility coordination continuing.
- Waterway and wetland permits are to be submitted to environmental agencies by the end of March.
- NPDES is to be submitted to DEP and Snyder County Conservation District by the end of April.
- Earthwork contract (first of three planned contracts) anticipated to be let in fall/winter of 2021.
- On track to start construction in 2022.
- Completion anticipated in 2027.

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

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

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

- SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report – March 2021
- SEDA-COG MPO TIP Local Project Tracking
- SEDA-COG MPO TIP Project Updates
- Requests to Add Projects to the SEDA-COG MPO TIP
- Draft comments from the SEDA-COG MPO on Recommendations from the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee to the Office of Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

Ms. de Silva made a motion for the MPO members to approve submitting comments on the proposed changes to the 2010 Standards for delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan

Statistical Areas and for staff to develop appropriate comments on the proposal; Mr. Kytte seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

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

Ms. de Silva stated that the Bald Eagle Valley Trail river crossing project is under construction.

Mr. Ranck provided an update on the Bull Run Greenway Phase 1 project in Lewisburg Borough and stated that funds were obligated on March 12th, and the project was advertised on March 18th.

Mr. Schultz provided an update on the Brown Township Streetscape project in Mifflin County and stated that the contract was awarded, and that a notice to proceed is coming soon.

Mr. Herman stated that PennDOT is anticipating opening a new round of candidate projects for the TA Set Aside statewide solicitation in late June 2021. PennDOT is expecting \$18 million to be available statewide. Mr. Herman also summarized the following handouts in the packet.

- MPO Strategic Plan Annual Implementation Progress Tracker – for reporting on staff activities related to the 2019 MPO Strategic Plan action items.
- SEDA-COG MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Regional Performance Measures Annual Report – March 2021

SEDA-COG Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Kiel provided an update to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2021-2045 Project Overview and Status via PowerPoint.

The presentation included:

- Project Steps and Schedule
- Public Outreach Input
- “GIS Hub” Web Site – Public Outreach Survey Results
- Survey Overview
- COVID Impacts
- Modes of Travel
- Corridors of Opportunity
- Project Impact Rating Factor
- Funding
- Safety Improvements
- ACM Meeting – Agency Input Needed
- Twelve-Year Plan Projects in SEDA-COG MPO Region
- Summary of Project Impact Screening Analysis
- Analysis and Opportunities for Programmatic Mitigation
- Unique Opportunities and Issues
- Next Steps/Milestones
 - Release Final Draft Plan – May 21
 - Public Comment Period – May 23 – June 22
 - Virtual Public Meeting – June 3
 - Final Plan Adoption – June 25

Mr. Kiel also provided the LRTP Summary Approach – Story Map via PowerPoint

Mr. Smoker complimented SEDA-COG, staff and those individuals on the committees for the hard work done in putting together the LRTP. He stated it was comprehensive, and a lot of data was included.

2023 Twelve Year Program Public Participation

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

- PennDOT press release – “PennDOT Invites Public Review/Comment on 2021 Transportation Performance Report”
- 2023 12-Year Program Public Comment Period Factsheet

Mr. Herman stated that a public survey is open until April 14 and there is a March 23 online public forum related to the 2023 Twelve Year Program Update.

Local Bridge Prioritization Process for 2023 TIP

Ms. Wilde stated that all of the MPO counties have meetings scheduled over the next few weeks to discuss their bridge priorities. Staff will soon be starting the GIS analysis. As the next step, a survey will be sent in May or June for the 2023 TIP.

Active Transportation Committee Update

Ms. Wilde stated that a funding workshop was held on February 24 which went well. There was good representation from PennDOT and DCED, as well as Mr. Herman discussing grant programs and LTAP information. A representative from Traffic Planning and Design consultant firm also shared his input. The Committee finalized some adjustments on its policies and procedures document. The next meeting will be held on May 19th. The transportation department has an intern, Olivia Zavrel from Bucknell University, who is working on adding to the sidewalk inventory for the MPO region.

Member Forum

The following handouts were provided in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of March 2021
- Wolf Administration Announces Liquid Fuels Distribution to Municipalities for Local Roads and Bridges

Mr. Saylor stated that it appears that Congress is opening the door to go back to an earmark system for the pending highway reauthorization bill. There are limits and conditions on this. It is limited to 1% of the discretionary funding and limited to 10 submissions per congressperson and requires a letter from a local sponsor.

Mr. Smoker commented that there is a lot of discussions in Washington at the present time on this. There is talk of an infrastructure bill, reauthorization proposals which could be separate from an infrastructure bill as well as a lot of guidance on policies coming from the new administration regarding some of their new priorities which include climate change, resiliency, equity, and

transportation. As information becomes available through the Federal Highway Administration, he will pass that along to PennDOT and the MPO's across the state.

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Saylor adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for May 21, 2021.