



**SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
MEETING MINUTES
Hybrid Meeting
Friday, November 17, 2023
SEDA-COG, Lewisburg, PA
9:30 A.M.**

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg (via teleconference)
Stephen Gibson, Clinton County
Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)
Steve Herman, SEDA-COG
Michele Ocker-Holman, SEDA-COG Board, Transit Interests (via teleconference)
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County
James Lettiere, Mifflin County (via teleconference)
Shawn McLaughlin, Union County
Greg Molter, Montour County
Steve Phillips, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-modal Interests (via teleconference)
Jonathan Ranck, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)
Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)
Eric Stahley, Columbia County (via teleconference)

GUESTS

John Breneman, Office of State Senator Judy Ward (via teleconference)
Jeff Iseman, PA SILC/PA Transportation Alliance (via teleconference)
Gene Porochniak, FHWA (via teleconference)
Matt Wise, Office of State Senator Gene Yaw (via teleconference)
Unidentified caller from (212) 228-1596

STAFF

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

Call to Order

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

Public Forum

Mr. Herman acknowledged Mr. Steven Phillips for his time on the MPO Board, as his term expires at the end of 2023. Mr. Bob Stoudt, Director of Montour Area Recreation Commission, will be his replacement.

Mr. Iseman from PA SILC provided several updates. HR 174 is a resolution introduced in the state legislature to conduct a study and issue a report on the current status, management and implementation of mass or public transit in Pennsylvania's rural communities. This resolution passed out of the state house transportation committee unanimously in October 2023. PA SILC is taking public comments for its next State Plan for Independent Living through the end of December. A new PennDOT Human Services Transportation Study is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023 or early 2024.

Approval of the September 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Molter made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2023, MPO meeting; Mr. Kerstetter seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

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

Mr. Kerstetter made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP amendment as presented for PennDOT District 2-0 for the SEDA-COG Concrete Preservation Project; Mr. Lettiere seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP amendment as presented for PennDOT District 2-0 for the SR 220 over Lower Creek Road Project, Mr. Molter seconded the motion; motion carried.

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. Lettiere seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Ranck summarized the TIP amendments for PennDOT District 3-0.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP amendment as presented for PennDOT District 3-0 for the Snyder County RRX Improvements; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Stahley made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP amendment as presented for PennDOT District 3-0 for the SEDA-COG Bridge Lighting Project; Mr. Molter seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP amendment as presented for PennDOT District 3-0 for the SR 3008 to Roadside Rest Resurfacing Project; Mr. Gibson seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to approve the TIP amendment as presented for PennDOT District 3-0 for the State Route 54 Corridor Safety Improvements Project, Mr. Hampton seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Ranck summarized the TIP administrative modifications for PennDOT District 3-0.

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

CSVT Project and SR 54 Safety Project Status Reports

CSVT Southern Section

Earthwork Contract: Mr. Ranck stated that as of November 2023, this contract is approximately 50% complete. 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. The bridge carrying Sunbury Road over CSVT (i.e., the one bridge included in this contract) was completed and Sunbury Road was re-opened in early November 2023. The realignments of Park Road and Colonial Drive were completed in October 2023. Following the completion of some necessary utility work, Fisher Road is anticipated to be closed in late November or early December, so that it can be realigned to its new intersection with Park Road. The two roundabouts at Mill Road, App Road, and Airport Road are nearing completion. Those roads are anticipated to remain closed until early 2024 to accommodate earthmoving in that area and construction of the connector between the roundabouts.

Structures Contract: The contract was awarded to Walsh Construction Company in October 2023 for \$106.4 million. Notice to proceed was issued on 10/30/23. Some minor tree clearing will be performed in late November or December of this year. Construction of the nine bridges and four noise walls included in this contract will be completed throughout 2024 and 2025.

Paving Contract: Final design and plans preparation are ongoing. A right-of-way acquisition plan is anticipated to be completed by mid-2024 for the interchange areas, particularly CSVT's southernmost interchange with existing Routes 11/15 and 522. (The required right-of-way will involve minor strips and other relatively small areas needed to accommodate slight shifts or widening of existing roadways or to accommodate adjustments in access to the properties adjacent to the interchange). Initial coordination is underway with environmental agencies to confirm permitting requirements for the interchange areas (such as for impacts to streams, wetlands, and/or floodplains and for erosion control and stormwater management features). 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

Additional traffic counts were performed in October 2023 to further assess the effects of the Northern Section's opening. The data is currently being processed and is anticipated to be available to share with the public in January 2024.

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

FY 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program Approval/Resolution

Mr. Herman stated that the FY 2024-25 UPWP lays out the planned activities for the MPO from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. This document was reviewed with MPO members at the September MPO meeting, but some minor changes were made to the UPWP since that meeting to address some comments/guidance received from PennDOT, FHWA, and transit operators.

Mr. Herman summarized the major activities in the UPWP that will be worked on over the next fiscal year. A resolution for approving the 2024-2025 UPWP was included in the meeting packet.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion for the MPO to adopt the FY 2024-25 UPWP for submission to PennDOT as well as the Resolution 2023-1 as presented; Mr. Gibson seconded the motion; motion carried.

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Project Recommendations

Ms. McLaughlin summarized the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside application review process and presented the recommendations from the TA Set-Aside Project Review Committee. On October 27, 2023, the TA Set-Aside Project Review Committee meeting was held at the Union County Government Center. All MPO voting members were invited to participate and nine voting members did. There were seven applications received from throughout the region. Each applicant provided an in-person presentation on their project. The MPO members discussed the projects and came to a consensus which was outlined in the meeting packet. PennDOT requires a star rating and the MPO also provides comments on the applications. The star ratings were:

- Multimodal Safety Enhancements on Market Street – Lewisburg Borough: 5 stars
- Bloomsburg Pedestrian and Bicycle Routes – Town of Bloomsburg: 4 stars
- Front Street Pedestrian Walkway – City of Sunbury: 4 stars
- SR 150 Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Improvements – Clinton County: 3 stars
- Facilitating Access to Central Columbia School Districts Educational Trails – Central Columbia School District: 2 stars
- Marsh Road Wildlife Mitigation – Milton Borough: 2 stars
- RiverWalk and Bike Trail – Asbury Foundation RiverWoods: 1 star

Mr. Lettiere made a motion for the MPO to approve the ratings as presented and submit them to PennDOT; Mr. Molter seconded the motion; motion carried.

SEDA-COG MPO 2024 Meeting Dates

A listing of the 2024 SEDA-COG MPO meeting dates was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Herman stated that the initially designed meeting for February 2024 needed to be rescheduled for January 26 due to scheduling conflicts.

Mr. Kerstetter made a motion for the MPO to approve the SEDA-COG MPO 2024 meeting dates; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.

Election of MPO Officers and Member Re-Appointments

Mr. Herman stated that there are two officers for the SEDA-COG MPO – a Chair, currently filled by the SEDA-COG transportation planning director (Steve Herman) and Vice-Chair, currently filled by the PennDOT Program Center liaison (Frank Hampton). The MPO Bylaws are written to entertain elections at the last MPO meeting of each calendar year.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion for the MPO to retain the existing officers; Mr. Molter seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Herman also stated that the three MPO voting member seats appointed by the SEDA-COG Board of Directors expire on 12/31/23. Mr. Steve Phillips will be replaced as the multi-modal interests voting member by Mr. Bob Stoudt. Ms. Michele Holman will remain the transit interests voting member. The SEDA-COG Board Member at Large is yet to be determined.

SEDA-COG MPO ADA Coordinator Designation

Ms. McLaughlin referenced a letter from PennDOT that states the MPO is required to designate a responsible employee to coordinate efforts and compliance in addressing accessibility matters, including ADA accommodation requests and complaints.

Mr. Molter made a motion for the MPO to designate Ms. McLaughlin as the MPO ADA Coordinator; Mr. Kerstetter seconded the motion; motion carried.

2025 Twelve Year Program Update

Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the updated 2025 TIP timeline. The timeline indicates the MPO is more than 50% complete with the process. The next coordination meeting will be held on December 8, 2023. The April 5, 2024, meeting is when the MPO would approve advertising the draft TIP for public comments, which would begin on April 19th and run through May 20th. The public meeting is planned for May 6th. Draft TIP projects by District were included in the meeting packet. There will be a refined Draft TIP for review and comment at the January 26, 2024, MPO meeting.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Mr. Kiel and Mr. Herman highlighted items from the SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report – November 2023 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
- Agenda from the 2023 PennDOT Planning Partners Meeting
- Consistency Letter Regarding a Dunnstable Township Multimodal Grant Application

Active Transportation Committee Update

Mr. Buck provided an update on the Active Transportation Committee. The 2022-2023 SEDA-COG MPO trail demand report has been published. This is a companion piece to the MPO bicycle

and pedestrian counts program. It also ties directly into Action Eighteen of the Middle Susquehanna Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that calls for estimation of walking activity in the region.
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/31db28f3c22842b8a5343302572bcbc5>.

The six trail counters were recently installed on Clinton County area trails. The data will be collected next Summer and used to create a similar report.

Mr. Buck has been actively working on the ESRI Hub site for the Active Transportation Committee. It will be like the existing MPO performance measures dashboard. The next Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 21st.

Mr. Buck is working with the SEDA-COG GIS intern, Mr. Matt McMullen, to create a new web map detailing all the trails in the region. It's anticipated the map will be available in early 2024.

Member Forum

Mr. Herman referred to the following handout that was provided in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of November 2023

Mr. Herman noted that the 2024 Safety Performance Target Setting letter was just received from PennDOT before the meeting and the MPO has until February 27th to adopt the targets.

Mr. Iseman mentioned that the State Department of Aging is creating a Master Plan for Older Adults. They've completed the internal comments with stakeholders. The Governor is scheduled to receive the master plan December 1st and it is supposed to be released in February 2024.

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Herman adjourned the meeting at 11:19 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 January 26, 2024.