



SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
MEETING MINUTES
Hybrid Meeting
Friday, October 4, 2024
SEDA-COG, Lewisburg, PA
9:30 A.M.

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Stephen Gibson, Clinton County
Steve Herman, SEDA-COG
Randy Karschner, SEDA-COG Board, At-large Member
Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County
Chris King, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)
James Lettiere, Mifflin County (via teleconference)
Shawn McLaughlin, Union County
Greg Molter, Montour County (via teleconference)
Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)
Bob Stoudt, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-modal Interests
Nathan Walker, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)
David Witchey, Columbia County

GUESTS

Justin Batiuk, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)
Kelly Boyer, Snyder County
Rich Farr, rabbittransit (via teleconference)
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker International
Jeff Iseman, PA SILC/PA Transportation Alliance (via teleconference)
Nicki Jacobs, Greenman-Peterman LLC (via teleconference)
J. T. Kennedy (via teleconference)
Rob Manzella, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO (via teleconference)
Dan Merk, STEP (via teleconference)
Eric Murnyack, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)
Beth Nidam, rabbittransit (via teleconference)
Debra Sulai, Lewisburg Neighborhoods (via teleconference)
Kenana Zejcirovic, FHWA (via teleconference)

STAFF

Bryce Buck, Program Analyst
Tina Heintzelman, Program Assistant
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 9:35 a.m.

Mr. Herman welcomed David Witchey as the new SEDA-COG MPO voting member for Columbia County, replacing Eric Stahley.

Lincoln Kaufman introduced Kelly Boyer, the new administrative assistant for the Snyder County Planning Commission.

Public Forum

Mr. Iseman gave an update on the Pennsylvania Legislative Transportation Committee hearings. He said the House concluded its hearings on Sept. 18; SILC and rabbittransit testified at the Aug. 29 hearing. The Senate had two hearings; PA Transportation Alliance and a rabbittransit program user testified at the Oct. 1 hearing. The governor and the legislature agreed to an \$80.5 million increase in public transportation funding in July and the push is now to get the additional \$202 million that wasn't included in the budget. He said there is also a push to get a more sustainable funding mechanism.

Approval of the August 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2024, MPO meeting; Mr. Kerstetter seconded the motion; motion carried with Mr. Witchey abstaining.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

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

Mr. Kerstetter thanked PennDOT for the work done at the southern end of Port Royal to repair flood damage. He said the flooding occurred two days before the Juniata County Fair was to open and the road was repaved and reopened the night before the fair opening.

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

Mr. Herman discussed the request included in the meeting packet from the Logan Twp. Supervisors to amend the current TIP to include a project to replace the Summer Mountain Road Bridge in the township. He said the expectation is to have this as an amendment for approval at the November 22 MPO meeting.

Mr. Gibson thanked Mr. Herman and Mr. Schultz for meeting with the township supervisors and helping them map out a plan to get funding for the repairs. He said that the project vicinity is largely agricultural with a heavy Amish population and three bridges that cross Fishing Creek. He said one bridge closed and Summer Mountain Road Bridge has a posted weight limit, leaving only one bridge to adequately access 20-30 farms.

CSV T Project and SR 54 Safety Project Status Reports

Mr. King provided status reports on the CSV T and SR 54 projects.

CSVT Southern Section

Earthwork Contract: Work is roughly 90% complete overall. Excavation, hauling and embankment construction are complete. The realignments of Park Road and Colonial Drive were completed last fall. Fisher Road has been opened to the new alignment with Park Road. The two roundabouts at Mill Road, App Road and Airport Road are fully open to traffic. The remaining work involves final grading, installing drainage and paving of side roads where truck crossings were located.

Structures Contract: The project is roughly 25% complete. Beams have been set and the contractor is working on forming and placing steel reinforcement for the bridge deck over Grangers Road and over the Route 61 Connector. Beams have been set and the contractor is working on the bridge deck on the Route 61 Connector over ramps connecting to Routes 11/15. Piers and abutments are complete, and beam setting is planned in October/November 2024 for the bridge over 11th Avenue. Stetler Avenue bridge began with Pier No. 1 and will be followed by Pier No. 2. Work at this location will continue throughout the winter, weather permitting. Noise barrier construction began with the drilling of foundations north of Grangers Road, but posts and panels are not scheduled to be installed yet. Overall, construction of the 9 bridges and 4 noise walls included in this contract will be completed throughout 2024 and 2025. Work is scheduled to begin this fall for the bridge over Park Road and the bridge that will carry CSVT over the 61 connector.

Paving Contract: Final design and plans preparation are ongoing. Right-of-way acquisition is ongoing for the interchange areas, particularly CSVT's southernmost interchange with existing US 11/15 and US 522. Coordination is ongoing with local utility companies related to their facilities in the interchange areas. Preparation of permit applications is ongoing for the proposed work in the interchange areas. The contract is anticipated to be let in late 2025 or early 2026. The mainline CSVT Southern Section highway is anticipated to be opened to traffic in 2027. Work impacting traffic on existing US 11/15 in Shamokin Dam will be completed after the mainline opens. The PA 61 Connector is anticipated to be fully completed and opened to traffic in 2028.

Route 54 Safety Project

The right-of-way and utilities are cleared. The Plans, Specifications & Estimates Package is under final review with advertisement for construction bids anticipated by October 17, 2024. The bid opening date is December 12, 2024. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2029.

Mr. Molter asked if the cost increases seen over the past few months will continue. Mr. King said there shouldn't be any more increases, depending on the bid results.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Mr. Herman highlighted items from the SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report – October 2024 provided in the meeting packet.

Other handouts provided in the meeting packet included:

- SEDA-COG MPO Strategic Plan Progress Tracker
- SEDA-COG MPO Electric Vehicle Charging Station Projects and Prospects Tracker
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Projects Status Update for 2018, 2021 and 2023 Funding Rounds
- Recently Accessed Highway Occupancy Permit Applications
- Recently Accessed Traffic Impact Study Scoping Applications

Mr. Kiel highlighted some of the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) activity. He discussed the new PennDOT Local Bridge Inventory Tool, featured during the statewide LTAP Advisory Committee fall meeting. Mr. Buck presented the new LTAP Activity GIS Dashboard, which highlights where classes were held, how many people attended, how many tech assist requests were completed, among other things. He said the plan is to update the dashboard twice a year, in January and July. Mr. Kiel asked MPO members for help in promoting the LTAP offerings in their municipalities.

Mr. Kiel gave an update on the potential EV charging station sites from the MPO's recently approved EV Charging Stations Plan and the NEVI Round 1, 1A and 1B Active EV Charging Station Projects. MPO staff will be coordinating with PennDOT and local property owners to discuss using regional Carbon Reduction Program funds and NEVI Community Charging Program funds for EV charging station project priorities. These federal funds are generally eligible for charging stations and require 20% local match.

Draft FY 2025-27 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Herman gave an update on the Draft FY 2025-27 UPWP that was included in the meeting packet. He said the main change to the draft since August was to add the budget numbers. He said the UPWP will be sent to PennDOT, FHWA and FTA for formal review directly following today's meeting and that the final draft will be presented for adoption at the November 22 MPO Board meeting.

Draft 2024 SEDA-COG Coordinated Transit Plan Update

Ms. McLaughlin said she anticipates having the final draft of the 2024 Coordinated Transit Plan in the next few weeks. A public comment period will begin no later than Oct. 16, and a Public Participation Panel meeting will be scheduled during the comment period. She said interviews with actual riders took place and provided some interesting insights into why people use transit and how they benefited from transit. Another significant improvement for this plan update was to develop an interactive StoryMap companion resource. The plan is expected to be presented for adoption at the November 22 MPO Board meeting.

SEDA-COG Long-Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Funkhouser delivered a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted the preliminary LRTP public survey results, the planned stakeholder interviews, and the listening sessions scheduled for October/November.

He said about 350 surveys were completed by the public with safety being the number one concern. He said interviews will be held with county planning directors, neighboring MPOs and other representatives. He said listening sessions are planned for 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 29 at the Clinton County Commissioners room in Lock Haven, Oct. 31 at the CareerLink office in Lewistown, Nov. 4 at the Ralpho Twp. building in Elysburg and Nov. 8 at the East Buffalo Twp. building in Lewisburg.

Annual PennDOT Planning Partners Meeting Recap

Ms. McLaughlin reported on the fall PennDOT Planning Partners Meeting, held September 24-26 in State College. She said the SEDA-COG MPO staff was part of the planning team for this year's

meeting. She said PowerPoint presentations are available for the sessions in case any members would like to receive them.

Active Transportation Committee Update

Mr. Buck provided an update on the Active Transportation Committee. He said the 2023-24 Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts Program cycle in Clinton County has ended. Five of the counters provided a full year's worth of data; one counter malfunctioned and data from May to September was lost. He said a StoryMap will be created for presenting the data. He said the next cycle will include counters on trails in Columbia and Montour counties. The next Committee meeting will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 20.

Proposed 2025 SEDA-COG MPO Meeting Dates

Mr. Herman presented the proposed meeting dates for 2025 and said the only date that could be changed is the May date, due to a possible conflict with the County Planning Directors Association of Pennsylvania meeting. He asked MPO members to let him know of any other conflicts. He said the dates would be approved at the November meeting.

Member Forum

The following handout was provided in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of October 2024

Mr. Herman said the Stop Hopper microtransit service will soon be expanding into Berwick. He also suggested some possible guest presentation topics for 2025 MPO meetings.

Mr. Kaufman thanked the MPO and PennDOT for meeting with him at the intersection of Route 522 and University Avenue to discuss the possibility of a roundabout at the intersection.

Mr. Karschner thanked PennDOT for its efforts in helping with the Bloomsburg Fair. He said PennDOT orchestrated its construction projects around fair traffic and shut down projects during fair week.

Mr. Iseman said the PA House Transportation Committee is holding a meeting on Oct. 7 and highlighted two bills of interest: House Bill 1043 imposes a penalty to anyone blocking charging stations and House Bill 2218 is aimed at restarting the e-scooter program.

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Herman adjourned the meeting at 11:35 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 November 22, 2024.