



**SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Hybrid Meeting**  
**Friday, Sept. 19, 2025**  
**SEDA-COG, Lewisburg, PA**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**MPO VOTING MEMBERS**

Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg (via teleconference)  
Stephen Gibson, Clinton County (via teleconference)  
Steve Herman, SEDA-COG  
Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County  
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County  
Chris King, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)  
Jack Kytte, Borough of Berwick (via teleconference)  
James Lettiere, Mifflin County  
Shawn McLaughlin, Union County  
Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)  
Nathan Walker, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)

**GUESTS**

Justin Batiuk, PennDOT Central Office  
Michael Benson, PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)  
John Breneman, Sen. Judy Ward's Office (via teleconference)  
Eric Burger, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)  
Shawn Hurst, Larson Design Group (via teleconference)  
Jeff Iseman, PA SILC/PA Transportation Alliance (via teleconference)  
Rob Manzella, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO (via teleconference)  
Dan Merk, STEP (via teleconference)  
Emily Mrochko, WATS MPO (via teleconference)  
Richa Rimal, Centre County (via teleconference)  
Cindy Sunderland, Call A Ride Service Inc. (via teleconference)  
Kim Wheeler, SEDA-COG

**STAFF**

Tina Heintzelman, Program Assistant  
Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst  
Kristin McLaughlin, Principal Program Analyst  
Sam Saxe, Program Analyst

### **Call to Order**

After it was determined a quorum was present, Mr. Herman called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

### **Public Forum**

No comments were received from the public.

### **Approval of the July 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO**

*Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2025, MPO meeting; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried.*

### **TIP Administrative Modifications**

Mr. Schultz summarized the TIP administrative modifications for PennDOT District 2-0 as information-only items that do not require MPO approval.

Mr. King summarized the TIP administrative modifications for PennDOT District 3-0 as information-only items that do not require MPO approval.

### **CSV T Project Status Report**

Mr. King provided a status report on the CSV T project.

#### **CSV T Southern Section**

**Structures Contract:** The project is roughly 85% complete overall. Work is nearly complete on the bridge carrying CSV T over Grangers Road, the bridge carrying Cortland Drive over the Route 61 Connector and the Route 61 Connector over the ramps to Routes 11/15. Work is nearly complete on the bridge over 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with noise wall panels being placed. The deck has been placed on the bridge over 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, barriers are almost complete, and posts are being placed for noise wall. Steel beams on the bridges over Stetler Avenue, Park Road, Attig Road and Mill Road have been set, and the contractor is preparing for deck placement. Noise wall north of Grangers Road is complete. The contractor is continuing to work on setting posts and panels on both sides of noise walls along the 61 Connector. Foundations for noise wall along CSV T northbound are complete. Overall, construction of the 9 bridges and 4 noise walls included in this contract is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

**Paving Contract:** Construction bidding documents were advertised in late July. A pre-bid meeting was held in late August. The contract is anticipated to be let in fall 2025 and the contract is anticipated to be awarded in November. The mainline CSV T Southern Section highway is anticipated to be opened to traffic in fall 2027. Work impacting traffic on existing US Routes 11/15 in Shamokin Dam will be completed after the mainline has opened. Therefore, the PA Route 61 Connector is anticipated to be fully completed and opened to traffic in fall 2028.

### **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Staff Activity Report**

Mr. Herman highlighted items from the SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report – September 2025 provided in the meeting packet.

Mr. Kiel gave an update on the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) activities. He said there are six on-site classes scheduled for October. There are still some openings for the Introduction to Traffic Studies class on Oct. 16 in Point Twp., Northumberland County. He said he will attend the county conventions of township officials in Montour and Juniata counties in the coming months. He said if anyone is interested in having a speaker as a Tech Assist at one of the meetings, let him know and he can help get that set up. He also said requests for new classes are now being accepted. He said LTAP will start offering organizational-related classes, with one being called Leadership Development for Public Works Employees.

Ms. McLaughlin said the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside program funding round is now open. Draft applications were due Sept. 5. There were eight applications for projects in the region – three in District 2-0 and five in District 3-0 – from Bloomsburg, Shamokin, Kulpmont, Lock Haven, the Union County Trail Authority, East Buffalo Township, and Mifflin and Clinton counties. Final applications are due Oct. 31. A coordination meeting with PennDOT district representatives, a member of the MPO staff and the applicant are currently being scheduled. An MPO review committee meeting will be held on Nov. 18 to finalize scoring being submitted to PennDOT, which will then be voted on at the regular Nov. 21 MPO meeting.

Other handouts provided in the meeting packet included:

- Proposed 2026 MPO Meeting Dates
- Recently Accessed Highway Occupancy Permit Applications
- Recently Accessed Traffic Impact Study Scoping Applications
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Projects Status Update for 2018, 2021 and 2023 Funding Rounds

### **Presentation on PennDOT ePermitting System**

Eric Burger, engineer with PennDOT Central Office's Highway Occupancy Permits Section, gave a presentation on how to access and use the ePermitting System (EPS). He said when a highway occupancy or scoping meeting application is submitted, the county or municipality with jurisdiction receives an email with a link to that application, where they can see everything associated with the application, including location, contact information, attachments, etc.

To get access to the portal, he said people must first register for a business partner account in the Engineering & Construction Management System (ECMS) by signing an agreement and emailing it to PennDOT. Once approved, the security administrator can set up user accounts in EPS to access the Local Government Partner (LGP) portal. He said there is a 10-page document and video tutorials on the EPS website that can walk people through the process.

Mr. Burger said once the account is set up, it can be customized to include when notifications are received and who receives the notifications for different types of applications.

He also showed the advance search options within EPS to narrow down search results to find a specific application.

Ms. Dooley asked if studies done in the past would be available in EPS. Mr. Burger said any permits issued since 2011 would be available in EPS with all the information, but older permits may only have limited information online.

## **2027 Twelve Year Program Update**

Mr. Herman reviewed the timeline for the 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update.

## **Local Bridge Prioritization Projects for 2027 TIP**

Mr. Herman reviewed the local bridge scoring process and prioritization results for the 2027 TIP. He highlighted a table in the meeting packet with the 54 bridges scored for the TIP update and how each was rated based on the approved criteria. The table was filtered to show the High/Medium/Low priority designations. There were 16 High priority bridges, with each MPO county having at least one bridge in the High priority category. He said there was a late submission in Columbia County that would bring the total to 55 local bridges, but this bridge scored in the medium priority tier.

Mr. Herman also demonstrated the local bridge prioritization webmap companion for the table.

Mr. Schultz said it is very helpful to receive these prioritized local bridge lists, which are not done by all planning areas. Mr. Batiuk echoed Mr. Schultz's comments about the MPO's process and thanked SEDA-COG for doing it.

Mr. McLaughlin mentioned that it would be interesting to see the total cost of all the local bridge projects taken through the prioritization process. The total cost will be shared with the ticker for the MPO meeting.

***Mr. Lettiere made a motion to approve the presented local bridge project list and endorse its submission to PennDOT for building the 2027 TIP; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried.***

## **SEDA-COG Long-Range Transportation Plan Update**

Ms. McLaughlin delivered a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted activities related to developing the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She gave an overview of the planning status, the sample maps being created and the Freight Analysis Framework. She said the next steps include finalizing the background profiles, working on the project prioritization, submitting proposed functional classification changes to PennDOT, a revenue forecast and a steering committee meeting on Oct. 8.

## **NEVI Community Charging Program and EV Charging Stations Update**

Mr. Kiel said there is about \$2 million anticipated to be available for the SEDA-COG region through the Community Charging Program. He said there have been several court challenges regarding paused funding for the NEVI program. A federal judge ruled on June 24 that USDOT can't withhold previously committed funds. He said that it is a positive development for EV charging programs.

## **Active Transportation Committee Update**

Mr. Herman discussed the ongoing activities of the Middle Susquehanna Active Transportation Committee. He said the bicycle crash cards and stickers the committee created have arrived and

were available at the meeting, but if anyone needs more to let him know. The next committee meeting will be held on Nov. 12. Betsy Kramer will give a presentation on Shamokin's Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

### **Member Forum**

The following handouts were provided in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of September 2025

Mr. Derk said STEP is operating designated stops in Clinton County and the Renovo to Lock Haven route is now running five days a week out to Walmart in Mill Hall. Stops on the Lock Haven to Williamsport route have been adjusted to include a stop at First Quality in McElhattan for Clinton County residents.

Mr. Iseman said Gov. Shapiro and PennDOT permitted SEPTA and Pittsburgh Regional Transit to use their capital funds for transit operating expenses during the budget impasse as a short-term fix. He said many human service providers are starting to feel the impact of the impasse.

### **Adjournment**

With there being no further comments, Mr. Herman adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. with a motion from Mr. Kaufman; Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; motion carried. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for Nov. 21, 2025.