



SEDA-COG METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) MEETING

Hybrid Meeting

Union County Government Center, Lewisburg, PA

Friday, September 17, 2021

9:30 A.M.

MPO VOTING MEMBERS

Mark Colussy, Mifflin County

Lisa Dooley, Town of Bloomsburg (via teleconference)

Lincoln Kaufman, Snyder County (via teleconference)

Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County (via teleconference)

Jack Kytte, Borough of Berwick (via teleconference)

Shawn McLaughlin, Union County

Steve Phillips, SEDA-COG Board, Multi-Modal Interests (via teleconference)

Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)

Jim Saylor, SEDA-COG

Mark Schultz, PennDOT District 2-0 (via teleconference)

Eric Stahley, Columbia County (via teleconference)

OTHER MPO MEMBERS

Justin Batiuk PennDOT District 3-0 (via teleconference)

Kristin Mulkerin, PennDOT Central Office (via teleconference)

Gene Porochniak, FHWA (via teleconference)

Lauren Russell, Union County

GUESTS

Steve Beattie, Borough of Lewisburg

STAFF PRESENT

Kay Aikey, Program Assistant

Steve Herman, Transportation Planner

Don Kiel, Senior Principal Program Analyst

Kyle Postupack, JRA Property Manager

Jeff Stover, Transportation Program Chief (via teleconference)

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 9:47 a.m.

Public Forum

No comments were received from the general public.

Approval of the June 25, 2021, Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG MPO

Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2021, MPO meeting; Mr. Stahley seconded the motion; motion carried.

TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments

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

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

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

Mr. McLaughlin 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.

Mr. Saylor stated that the MPO was asked to adopt an amendment to the TIP at the June meeting. After the meeting there was a small technical correction to the funding type for part of the total funding. This does not have to be voted on again by the MPO; this is being presented as an informational item to make sure it is clear about how the money is broken out and added to the TIP. The updated chart for this amendment was provided in the meeting packet.

The following handouts were also provided 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 June 2021.
- Simplified listing of county TIP sheets.

Mr. Saylor stated that the Commerce Drive project in Mifflin County that previously went through the process has had a cost overrun, and as a result, the county is going to reapply for Local Access Road Program funds from ARC in the round that will accept full applications this December. This was to go to the SEDA-COG Board in August but didn't get there so it is expected to come up at the September 22nd board meeting. This is an informational item and doesn't require any changes.

CSV T Project and SR 54 Safety Project Status Reports

Mr. Batiuk provided the following update:

Northern Section – The contractor recently began asphalt paving. This will continue until October. The wearing course will be placed in 2022. Completion is expected in late 2022.

Southern Section – PennDOT is waiting on right-of-way clearance which is expected in a few days. PennDOT hopes to be able to advertise the first contract soon.

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

An update on the SR 54 Safety Project will be provided at the November meeting.

Adoption of 2021 Regional Operations Plan

A copy of the 2021 Regional Operations Plan was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Saylor stated that the full update to the Regional Operations Plan was done in 2018. PennDOT has moved from having a Regional Operations Plan for each district to having four plans across the state. PennDOT Districts 2-0, 3-0 and 9-0 are in the same plan and held a series of stakeholder meetings through the summer and fall of 2018. The plan was adopted in December 2018 and over the last couple of months PennDOT has been working on a minor interim update. The MPO was brought in as stakeholders and were given the chance to identify additional projects. The plan identifies needs related to intelligent transportation systems such as things like cameras, weather stations, variable message signs, signal improvements and similar projects. Staff participated in stakeholder calls and in proposing additional projects drawn from the Danville Area Traffic Study, the Long Range Transportation Plan Update and some of the PennDOT Connects sessions that were held in the region. Since the last plan was completed, staff was able to update and expand one project from the old plan and have four new projects added. A brief summary is provided in the meeting packet. The full addendum of the plan which is packaged as an appendix to the original plan was included in the email sent by Mr. Herman. If the MPO adopts the Regional Operations Plan the significance is that it will nominate these four or five projects listed for the region as the MPO's top priorities for traffic systems management and operations funding moving forward.

Mr. Colussy raised a question regarding the CSVT Signal Improvements project on Table 2: Interim Update for Regional Operations Plan Project Additions and asked if that project brings the opportunity for a new funding package to offset some funding for the roadway improvements. Mr. Saylor replied that it would not bring any new funding to the table. It is looking at the signals on the Routes 11 and 15 strip. There is funding for about four of those signals plugged into the CSVT where they have direct impacts. The idea of carrying this forward is as it gets closer to opening of the Southern Section, a study would be done and would apply for something like Green Light-Go or the MPO would try to find other TIP funding so that the whole coordinated system of 20 signals still works the way it should.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion for the MPO to adopt the 2021 Regional Operations Plan update as presented; Mr. Colussy seconded the motion; motion carried.

2023 Twelve Year Program Update

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

- 2023 General and Procedural Guidance Changes Talking Points
- Comparison of Funding Levels for Draft 2023-2026 and 2021-2024 SEDA-COG MPO Transportation Improvement Programs
- 2023 TIP Update Timeline
- Table of the Top 3 Priority Projects for Additional Transportation Infrastructure Funding

Mr. Colussy stated that a sub-group not spelled out in the seven sub-groups of "subject matter experts" in the talking points is Active Transportation and wanted to make sure those efforts are not going unnoticed.

Mr. Saylor stated that when talking about the shift in funds between PennDOT District 2-0 and District 3-0, the funding comes into the MPO as a planning area and there is some discretion on how it is split between the districts. The MPO staff level recommendation is that the way the funds

are broken out between the districts within the MPO should follow the same formulas used to allocate it between the various MPOs.

Local Bridge Prioritization Projects for 2023 TIP

Ms. Wilde reviewed the 2023 TIP Bridge Prioritization Process included in the meeting packet. She stated that a more in-depth ranking of the projects was included in an email that Mr. Herman had sent out. Ms. Wilde stated she will be sending out information in 2022 for those members who need a refresher on the prioritization process.

Mr. Colussy commented that he appreciated the efforts of Ms. Wilde working through the process with Mifflin County. Mr. Schultz thanked Ms. Wilde for her efforts working with the counties and municipalities.

Mr. Colussy made a motion for the MPO to accept the local bridge prioritization projects for the 2023 TIP as presented; Mr. Kaufman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Update

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

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Projects Status Update – 2018 Funding Round
- List of 2021 TA Set-Aside Round Pre-applications

Mr. Herman stated that full applications are due October 15th. The MPO review committee will meet November 16 at the Union County Government Center to hear the applicant's presentations. Project recommendations will be presented to the full MPO at its meeting scheduled for November 19th. Currently there are 140 pre-applications submitted on the statewide level; five are from the SEDA-COG region. 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.

Proposed SEDA-COG MPO 2022 Meeting Dates

A copy of the proposed 2022 MPO meeting dates was provided in the meeting packet. Committee members were asked to review the dates and see if there are any conflicts. These dates will be finalized at the November MPO meeting.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Mr. Saylor reviewed the SEDA-COG MPO Staff Activity Report – September 2021 provided in the meeting packet.

Mr. Saylor stated that at the last MPO meeting he discussed submitting two projects to PennDOT for funding through the PennDOT Connects Program and those have both been approved. The UPWP has been updated to include those projects which are the Hogan Blvd. Study in Clinton County looking at bicycle and pedestrian concerns and the 522-Corridor Study in Snyder County. A preliminary meeting has been held for each of those projects and staff is working with the consultant team on the scope and draft work orders. The funding for these projects expires June 30, 2022, and

because of where the Master Agreement is for the UPWP, there is no possibility to extend that funding period or carry it over.

Since the last MPO meeting, staff has been working on the draft UPWP for FY 2022-2024. The budgets have been added and the split between projects is lining up with how staff thinks they will be spending their time. The UPWP guidance indicates that there is a small amount of SPR funding available for Year One and that is competitive on a statewide basis and can be used for various planning studies. It is 80% federal funding, and 20% local match needs to be brought to the table. As done in previous years, staff wants to make sure that MPO members are aware of this opportunity. Staff has included brief scopes for three projects that could be considered. None of these are a definite at this point and are all labeled S3. The idea is that staff would narrow this down in the final UPWP that the MPO will be asked to adopt at the November meeting. Mr. Saylor asked MPO members to let staff know by October 20 if they have planning studies that should be considered. Depending on what comes in, staff will work on the prioritization to figure out what can be submitted. Based on what has been seen for previous years, the way this selection is made is by looking at what has committed local match.

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

- Table of Recently Accessed Highway Occupancy Permit Applications
- SEDA-COG MPO Limited English Proficiency Plan

Mr. Colussy stated that one of the concentrated areas of folks that do not speak English very well is in Mifflin County, West Germanic known as Pennsylvania Dutch. Mifflin County deals a lot with Amish people. Mr. Colussy stated the plan identifies providing feedback to the Amish and they do not have phones or internet. Mr. Colussy offered using the Mifflin County office as a satellite office for one-on-one outreach to the Amish.

Additional handouts provided in the meeting packet:

- SEDA-COG MPO TIP Local Project Tracking
- SEDA-COG MPO TIP Project Updates
- Requests to Add Projects to the SEDA-COG MPO TIP

Active Transportation Committee Update

Ms. Wilde stated that the next meeting of the Active Transportation Committee is scheduled for November 10. The following 2022 meetings were approved: February 16 and May 18. Ms. Wilde and Ms. Ellison were approved for a second term as Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee. Work will begin on creating branding for the committee. Members interested in this are asked to let Ms. Wilde know, and a link will be sent for the next Community Engagement and Outreach Work Group Meeting.

Member Forum

The following items were included in the meeting packet:

- Items of Potential Interest to MPO Members as of September 2021.
- Flyer on the PennDOT Virtual Innovation Days in November.

- Summary of the Pennsylvania Transportation Revenue Options Commission Final Report and Strategic Funding Proposal.

Mr. Saylor stated that the draft of the Statewide Long Range Transportation and Freight Plans will be available for comment later this month. The link for those will be shared with MPO members as they are available.

Members were asked for feedback as to whether to continue with virtual/hybrid meetings and if the meetings should be held at SEDACOG or the Union County Government Center.

Adjournment

With there being no further comments, Mr. Saylor adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m. The next regular meeting of the MPO is scheduled for November 19, 2021.