

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 12, 2008 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices
Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Daniel Gracenin
Joseph Fragle
Jeremy Coxe
Pete Longiotti
Ryan T. Eggleston
Jeff Dunlap
Stephen Theiss
Diane Helbig
Vance Oakes
Andrea Folkertsma
Dave Beatty
Chuck Gilliland
David G. George
Erin Wiley
Mariah Hanson
Don Hall
Mike Wilson
Dick Brandes
Brenda Tomko
Gary Hittle
Mark Miller
Frank Gargiulo
Tom Tulip
Ken Seamans
Phil & Mary Yasnowsky
Matt Stewart
Brian Beader
John Lechner

REPRESENTING

MCRPC
Sharon City
Hermitage City
Greenville Borough
Greenville Borough
PennDOT
Mercer County Trails Association, Inc.
Rep. Michele Brooks
Grove City Borough
Grove City Borough
Liberty Township
Shenango Township
West Middlesex Borough
PennDOT
PennDOT
PennDOT
Sharpsville Borough
Jefferson Township
Rep. Mark Longietti
Hempfield Township
Mercer County
Farrell City
Mercer County Regional COG
Wilmington Township
Interested Citizens
MCRPC
Mercer County Commissioner
Mercer County Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Mr. Gracenin asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting. There being none, Mr. Gracenin asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Brandes so moved, Mr. Seamans seconded. The motion passed.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Gracenin opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Gracenin stated that the current officers for the MPO are Marcia Hirschmann as Chair and Tom Tulip as Vice-Chair. Mr. Gilliland made a motion to retain Marcia Hirschmann as Chair and to retain Tom Tulip as Vice-Chair. Mr. Hittle seconded. The motion passed.

2007 TIP MODIFICATIONS/ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Ms. Mariah Hanson from PaDOT explained the Kelly Road/Mill Road amendment. She stated that more money was needed for the Mill Road Bridge Project to cover the PE phase, which is also a new phase on the TIP. Ms. Hanson stated that money was moved from the Kelly Road Bridge project to the Mill Road Bridge project. There being no questions, a motion was made by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mr. Longiotti to approve the amendment. The motion passed.

Ms. Hanson explained that PaDOT was allotted \$4 Million Sixty-eight Thousand in Act 44 money. PaDOT is organizing the engineering phase for three bridges, construction on four bridges, and the last three bridges are for resurfacing. She noted that these are 100% State funds.

Ms. Hanson and Mr. Hall from PaDOT reviewed the 2007 TIP modifications, which is for informational purposes.

APPROVAL OF 2008-09 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Mr. Gracenin explained that we need to annually approve the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The 2008-09 UPWP Budget Summary Sheet, which shows the work program and explains each line item, was distributed to the members. He noted that there are no new line items or major changes. He stated that the overall budget is \$166,227. He explained that we are now required to prepare a Congestion Management Plan (CMP) in order to be eligible for Federal dollars. After some discussions with PaDOT, we were informed that PaDOT will provide funding to commit to prepare a plan. The MPO is looking to hire a consultant to prepare the plan. He noted that we received an estimate from the consultant for \$110,000 to prepare the plan, which will take about 12 months to prepare. We are planning to ask for 80% Federal, 10% State and 10% local match. The local match would be staff time from MCRPC. Mr. Gracenin is requesting that we add the Congestion Management Plan to the work program under the assumption that it gets funded at the 80%/10%/10% split. There being no questions, a motion was made by Mr. Seamans to approve the entire 2008-09 UPWP. Mr. George seconded. The motion passed.

2009-2012 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Gracenin explained that we are about midway into the adoption process of the 2009-2012 TIP. The State Transportation Commission Hearings were held back in August 2007 and a number of meetings were held with the Central office. He stated that about a month ago, a meeting was held in Franklin with the Central office to discuss what is occurring now with the TIP. At that meeting, there was some discussion about the Act 44 funds (I-80 tolling issue). Currently, the State is still moving forward with the assumption that we will receive those dollars. He stated that there are no new highway projects coming into the TIP, but there are a few bridges that will be added to the TIP. The Act 44 funds are really stressing that those funds are placed for critical bridge replacement, etc.

Mr. Hall further explained the bridge initiative and how it will affect the TIP, approximately \$2M increase. He noted that Act 44 funds will be strictly devoted to bridge projects and they must come up with additional bridge projects. He noted that they have until March 7th to put a new draft TIP together. He noted that the MPO will have to approve the new draft TIP. Mr. Gracenin explained that the next MPO meeting is not scheduled until May. He noted that depending upon how much of a difference occurs with the TIP, the MPO might have to hold a special meeting or information concerning changes to the TIP could go out in the mail, with a phone ballot to follow. Mr. Hall stated that the impact to the TIP would be primarily adding new bridge projects.

In discussion, Mr. Theiss asked about a few betterment projects, which Mr. Hall answered. Mr. George asked if the West Middlesex viaduct would be moved up on the TIP. Mr. Hall stated that the West Middlesex viaduct is funded and the engineering phase should start in 2009.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

Mr. Stewart gave a brief update on the Transportation Enhancement Projects: 1) The **Mercer County Trails Association – Trout Island Trail Project** is moving along. The Army Corps of Engineers has approved the 25-year development plan and is preparing the lease agreement and construction details are being finalized. 2) The storm water pipe was installed in August 2007 on Highland Road and PennDOT review comments have been addressed and the project has been scheduled for bid letting this spring for the **Shenango Valley Bikeway/Pedestrian Walkway Project**. 3) Construction is scheduled in early 2008 for the **City of Farrell Mercer Avenue Sidewalk Phase II – Safe Route to School Project**. 4) The **Borough of Sharpsville Hometown Street – Streetscape Phase III Project** on Walnut Street has been completed and closed out. 5) The **Borough of Sharpsville Retaining Wall – Streetscape Phase V Project** on Walnut Street is moving along. An easement was requested from a homeowner and is already in place. Design is complete and under review from PennDOT. 6) The **Borough of Sharpsville – Streetscape Phase VI Project** along Milliken Avenue is ready for bid letting. The Borough of Sharpsville is planning to approve the paper work at their upcoming Council meeting. 7) Phase I is almost complete and Phase II will be done in conjunction with the street improvements in 2008-09 for the **Highland Road – Phase I and II Sidewalks Project**. 8) Construction to start in the Summer/Fall of 2008 for the **East State Street/Maple Drive Intersection Project**. 9) The **Grove City Downtown Project** is moving along and should be completed by spring 2008. 10) There has been discussion regarding the **Sandy Lake Stoneboro Trail Project**.

2008 COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Tulip stated that a draft plan is being finalized and a meeting will be held on February 22nd with the consultant responsible for the development of the plan and how it relates to the Job Access and Reverse Commute Funding and New Freedom Funding, which allows funding for the disabled and handicapped.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Gracenin explained that the Federal Department of Transportation is now requiring that a Public Involvement Plan be in place. He noted that the MPO has an existing public participation plan in place, but the Federal Department of Transportation is requiring more specifics to our plan. The Federal Department of Transportation wants to make sure we are meeting the requirements of taking care of our environmental justice population (low income, minority/handicapped populations) by giving them an opportunity to participate in the process. Mr. Gracenin distributed a copy of the plan to everyone to review and make comments. He stated that we have 45 days to review and comment on this plan, which will need to be adopted. He noted that a Sub Committee will be set up to address this Public Involvement Plan. Mr. Stewart stated that he would e-mail the Sub Committee members on when the meeting would take place.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Brandes from Jefferson Township asked if we could move/reschedule the May MPO meeting back or forward one week because of a conflict with the Township Officials Convention/Trade Show. Mr. Gracenin said he would look into this matter and see what he could do.

Mr. Gargiulo referred to an article from the February PennDOT newsletter about the City of Farrell Broadway Avenue Right-of-Way acquisition project. It states that the final right-of-way contract negotiations were to be completed by early February. Mr. Hall explained that the selection of the right-of-way negotiations consultant has been completed and can proceed with the right-of-way acquisition.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Seamans and seconded by Mr. Hittle to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary