

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 13, 2007 – 10:30 A.M. - MCRPC Offices
Hermitage, PA

PERSONS PRESENT

Marcia Hirschmann
Daniel Gracenin
Joseph Fragle
Jeremy Coxe
Pete Longiotti
Ryan T. Eggleston
Chuck Garrett
Deborah Casadei
Tom Paxton
Stephen Theiss
Diane Helbig
Vance Oakes
Andrea Folkertsma
Dave Beatty
Robert Hannigan
Dan Walston
Don Hall
Dick Brandes
Kevin McCullough
Fred Hoffman
Erin Wiley
Mariah Hanson
Nancy Leone
Barb Brown
Mark Miller
Denise Anthony
Frank Gargiulo
Kim A. DiCintio
Lorraine Jones
Phil & Mary Yasnowsky

REPRESENTING

Hermitage City
MCRPC
Sharon City
Hermitage City
Greenville Borough
Greenville Borough
Wilmington Township
PennDOT
Pine Township
Mercer County Trails Association, Inc.
Rep. Michele Brooks Legislative Assistant
Grove City Borough
Grove City Borough
Liberty Township
PennDOT
PennDOT
PennDOT
Jefferson Township
PennDOT
Sharon City
PennDOT
PennDOT
Rep. Rick Stevenson
Springfield Township
Mercer County
Senator Robbins
Farrell City
Shenango Valley Shuttle Service
Wheatland Borough
Interested Citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Hirschmann called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2006

Ms. Hirschmann asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of the November 14, 2006 meeting. There being none, Ms. Hirschmann asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Paxton so moved, Mr. Brandes seconded. The motion passed.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Ms. Hirschmann 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. Ms. Brown made a motion to retain Marcia Hirschmann as Chair. Mrs. Folkertsma seconded. The motion passed. Ms. Brown next made a motion to retain Tom Tulip as Vice-Chair. Mrs. Folkertsma seconded. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2007-2008 DRAFT UPWP

Mr. Gracenin explained that annually we need to approve the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Gracenin distributed to members the 2007-2008 UPWP Budget Summary sheet and an attachment explaining each line item. (A copy is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes). Mr. Gracenin stated that there are no major changes or no new line items to the entire budget. The base amount for the Highway Planning is at \$83,544. He noted that the M.P.P. are Federal Transit dollars and is at \$41,632 which is an increase over our base, which typically was \$33,000. He explained that the State Motor License Fund is the match from PennDOT, which comes out to 14.9832% of the overall budget. Mr. Gracenin next explained the Local Highway Match and the Local Transit Match. On the Highway side, the local match is 5.0168% of the budget and on the Transit side it would be a straight 20% match. Mr. Gracenin explained that there was a slight increase under the line item of administration and coordination. Other line items that showed an increase were economic development and land use. Mr. Gracenin also noted that there are no special projects that we are applying for this year. He stated that the overall budget is \$156,470. Mr. Gracenin asked if there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the 2007-2008 UPWP. Ms. Brown seconded. The motion passed.

TIP ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Mr. Dan Walston from PennDOT explained the administrative actions for two local bridges:

- 1) Hogback Road Bridge – adding additional funds in the amount of \$150,000 for the construction phase to cover additional construction
- 2) Foxrun Road Bridge – additional construction monies from Capital Bridge funds 183 for local structures in the amount of \$50,000.

Mr. Walston stated that with each of these projects, they see the phases coming on with the state, plus the local match to those structures. He noted that the source of the funds is coming from the local bridge reserve line item for Mercer County and from the McCartney Road Bridge construction phase. Mr. Gracenin stated that no action is needed for administrative actions.

MPO BYLAWS COMMITTEE – UPDATE OF PROGRESS

Mr. Gracenin explained that since Mr. Jeremy Coxe no longer works with MCRPC, no Bylaws Committee Meetings were held in January/February as anticipated. Mr. Gracenin stated that quite a bit of progress was made by the Committee. The Committee reviewed and made some recommendations that will be brought forward to the full Committee regarding the number of voting members, attendance policy and what constitutes a quorum. In discussion, Ms. Brown commented that the Bylaws Committee discussed keeping the voting membership limited to the Department, COG, Mercer County and Municipal Governments of Mercer County. She noted that the Bylaws Committee also discussed not permitting outside agencies into the MPO Committee membership, such as an economic development or housing agency. Mr. Gracenin stated that we will forward to PennDOT, FTA and Federal Highway the Draft Bylaws to approve before the MPO Coordinating Committee would enter into them.

2007 STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION HEARINGS/TIP UPDATE

Mr. Gracenin explained that the State Transportation Commission Hearing is scheduled for August 30, 2007. The location has not been determined yet, but noted that it will be local.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

Mr. Gracenin explained that Mr. Coxe wrote a letter to the Mercer County Transportation Enhancement Funding Project Sponsors and Engineers, by request of PennDOT and the MPO Coordinating Committee, to have each project sponsor submit a quarterly progress report so they can keep informed about the progress of each transportation enhancement project. Mr. Gracenin noted that we did not receive a quarterly progress report from all the Transportation Enhancement Funding Project Sponsors and Engineers for this quarter. The last progress report was dated November 2006. Mr. Gracenin asked PennDOT if there would be another round of enhancement in the near future. PennDOT stated, not in the near future.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hirschmann distributed a handout from the City of Hermitage regarding the STU funding request for the City's East State Street/Maple Drive intersection project. She noted that the handout is an amendment or a clarification to their previous request which was approved at the last MPO meeting. The point of the request is to clarify and make sure that the MPO is in agreement for the funding that was approved from the STU funds to be used for both construction and engineering. The City of Hermitage thought they made it clear at the last meeting, but PennDOT asked that we have this clarified/approved at an upcoming MPO meeting. Mr. Gracenin explained that at the last MPO meeting, the City of Hermitage and Sharpsville Borough both requested STU funds. He noted that the MPO, at that meeting, agreed to allow that money to be for construction. He noted that the City of Hermitage was trying to speed the process along by having their own engineer do the engineering work, which would have been the match, and then just use the construction dollars. PennDOT informed the City of Hermitage that a procurement process needs to be in place, so it will now be an 80%/20% split on everything. Mr. Gracenin noted that at the last MPO meeting, Sharpsville Borough stated that they may have a project, and it was a first come to the table with a

ready project would receive funds. Mr. Gracenin felt that if we are going to make an approval for the Hermitage project, it should also be the same for an option for the Sharpsville project. No one was present from Sharpsville Borough to inform them of the option of doing the 80%/20% split. There being no further discussion, Ms. Brown made a motion to allow the applicants to use the STU funds for engineering as well as construction. Mr. Longiotti seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Gracenin next gave an update on the transit funding. He noted that we have had many discussions with WRTA, the transit authority for the Youngstown, OH MPO area. He noted that a consultant, Chuck Nelson, was selected to develop a coordinated plan, which is a new requirement for JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) dollars and New Freedom dollars. He noted that this is an opportunity for a new program to allow us to potentially provide more rides for clients. In order to receive any funds, a coordinated plan needs to be in effect. Mr. Gracenin noted that a contract was signed by both agencies, SVSS and WRTA, and the plan should be completed by September.

Mr. Frank Gargiulo asked where the railroad crossing on Budd Street reopening issue stands. Mr. Don Hall stated that the City of Sharon and PennDOT held a formal field conference with the PUC back in December. There was discussion with Norfolk Southern on reopening the railroad crossing on Budd Street when they replace the 3 bridges on Route 62 and the City of Sharon is also considering keeping this as a permanent road.

Ms. Mariah Hanson next stated that there is a Safety Line Item on the TIP that needs to be addressed. She stated that there is \$865,000 to be used for safety projects. She noted that we would need to obligate this money to go to an area where there have been accidents. Ms. Hanson stated that they have a project ready for construction in Grove City on Route 208/Route 58 intersection and they were going to use the 2008 safety money for that intersection. Mr. Gracenin felt that this would be an amendment to the TIP since this would be a new project. Mr. McCullough felt administratively this would be considered an administrative action, but there are requirements from the Feds that state it is a coordinated plan, a new project and should probably be approved by the Committee. Mr. Gracenin felt that the long range plan needs to be updated in order to include this new project in Grove City. Ms. Hanson next asked to proceed with the Route 208/58 project and designate this safety line item money to this project. After discussion, Mr. Longiotti made a motion to allocate the 2008 funds to the Route 208/58 intersection on the TIP. Ms. Brown seconded. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary