

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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

PERSONS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Marcia Hirschmann	City of Hermitage
Daniel Gracenin	MCRPC
Matt Stewart	MCRPC
Pete Longiotti	Greenville Borough
Ken Seamans	Mercer County Commissioner
Ryan T. Eggleston	Greenville Borough
Autumn Kelley	PennDOT
Adams Grimes	PennDOT
Tom Paxton	Pine Township
Tom McClelland	PennDOT
John G. "Jerry" Johnson	Mercer Borough
Charles Garrett	Wilmington Township
Kathleen Rodi	Eastgate Regional COG
John Getchey	Eastgate Regional COG
Robert Hannigan	PennDOT
Kristin Egresits	PennDOT
Bill Petit	PennDOT
Mark Nicholson	PennDOT
Bill Jones	Mercer County COG-MCCT
Tom Tulip	Mercer County Regional COG
Stephen Theiss	Mercer County Trails Association, Inc.
Brenda Tomko	Representative Mark Longietti
Don Hall	PennDOT
Barb Brown	Springfield Township
Dick Brandes	Jefferson Township
Gary E. Hittle	Hempfield Township
Chuck Gilliland	Shenango Township
Jeff Dunlap	PennDOT
Erin Wiley	PennDOT
Nancy Leone	Representative Dick Stevenson
Mike Wilson	Sharpsville Borough
Vance Oakes	Grove City Borough
Andrea Folkertsma	Grove City Borough
Mariah Hanson	PennDOT
Dave Beatty	Liberty Township
Gary Dovey	79-80 IDC
Phil & Mary Yasnowsky	Interested Citizens
Keith Mullins	Jacobs Edwards and Kelcey Consultants

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 14, 2007

Ms. Hirschmann explained that the Minutes of the August 14, 2007 meeting were mailed. There being no additions, corrections, or deletions, a motion was made by Mr. Longiotti and seconded by Ms. Brown to approve the Minutes as mailed. The motion passed.

LONG-RANGE PLAN YEAR OF EXPENDITURE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Gracenin distributed a handout which is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes. He explained that when the long-range plan was developed it did not take inflation into account over the 25 year period. Federal Highway stated that they need to adjust our numbers at a 4% annual inflation rate and apply that to the numbers in our long-range plan. Mr. Gracenin noted that no projects will be added or deleted from the listing; the numbers will be inflated by 4% which is shown on the handout. He noted that we are required to be fiscally constrained in our long-range plan. According to past numbers, and what we will expect in the future, we are expected to receive over \$431 Million, which will still be within our fiscally constrained number. Mr. Gracenin noted that this is an administrative action and not an amendment to the TIP. He noted that as we approve this today, there could be some minor adjustments in the next few weeks. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Brown and seconded by Mr. Hittle to approve the long-range plan year of expenditure amendments. The motion passed.

TIP ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Ms. Egresits from PennDOT reviewed two charts. The first chart she reviewed was from the year of expenditures. She noted that two projects needed to slide off of the TIP, but would be put back on at a later date. The U.S. 62 bridge slide off from 2009-2010 into the TYP for bridges; and Broadway Avenue slide off into the TYP for highway. There being no questions, a motion was made by Ms. Brown and seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve the amendments. The motion passed.

Ms. Egresits next reviewed the second chart. She noted that there are two amendments which need approved and several administrative actions. The first amendment is taking money from the State-wide line item to add 6 railroad crossing projects as part of the warning signs and the second amendment is to add a line item to the Act 44 funds and once the money is actually there and the project has been completely identified, they would be drawing down from that line item. There being no questions, a motion was made by Ms. Brown and seconded by Mr. Petit to approve the amendments. The motion passed.

Ms. Egresits next reviewed the administrative actions, which is for informational purposes. The first one is removing money from the safety line item into SR 58 to advance back into final design. The second one is to add money to the Highland Road project from the 2007-08 line item. Money was moved from the 3R line item into the construction phase of SR 208 Borough line SR 58 to cover additional costs.

ADOPTION OF REGIONAL OPERATION PLAN

Mr. Gracenin introduced Mr. Keith Mullins from Jacobs Edwards and Kelcey Consultants. Mr. Mullins stated that their firm was hired by PennDOT to conduct a regional operation plan. Mr. Mullins had a slide presentation that went through the process over the past year. They came up with a list of projects that are related to operations of the roadway. The reason why this is so important is because as the roadways age and become more congested, there is a need for PennDOT to operate their system even better than they do today. PennDOT recognizes that this is a high priority, especially during winter operations. Mr. Mullins stated that in order to actively manage their assets, it requires putting their infrastructure to the point of technology.

After the slide presentation, Mr. Mullins stated that the list of recommended projects were broken up into short term (1-2 years) and long term (3+ years). The short term projects will be updated every 2 years. He noted that the projects were prioritized by the stakeholders. Mr. Mullins went over the short and long term list of projects in Mercer County. In discussion, Ms. Brown stated that she was surprised not to see the dynamic messaging signs at the southern end of I-79 in Mercer County. She felt that Springfield Township would benefit from those message signs. Mr. Mullins stated that the priorities that they set were from the highest volume interchanges. Mr. Mullins explained that the next step would be to consider/adopt this document as they do some TIP updates and as funding becomes available. After the presentation, a motion was made by Ms. Brown and seconded by Mr. Hannigan to approve adopting the Regional Operation Plan as presented. The motion passed.

2009-2012 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Gracenin distributed a handout. Mr. Petit gave an overview of the upcoming TIP. He noted that there are three major projects (PA 60/Broadway Avenue; PA 60/Route 318 Interchange and the 3 bridges along Rt. 62 before entering into Ohio), which PennDOT hopes to fund in this TIP update. He noted that the Year of Expenditure 4% annual inflation rate makes it hard to put new projects on the TIP. Ms. Hirschmann explained that this is the first look at the upcoming TIP. Action will take place at the February meeting.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

Mr. Gracenin gave a brief update on the Transportation Enhancement Projects: 1) **Greenville's Streetscape Phase II Project** continues to progress in the design stage. They are hoping that the project will be bid out in the near future with a possible start date of construction by March or April of 2008. 2) The **Mercer County Trails Association – Trout Island Trail Project** is moving along. They are waiting for an official letter from PennDOT stating that the Environmental Assessment Report is all clear. 3) The construction of the storm sewer and restoration work along the south side of Highland Road was completed under the match portion by the City of Hermitage for the **Shenango Valley Bikeway/Pedestrian Walkway Project**. The project has been scheduled for bidding by PennDOT. 4) The **City of Farrell Mercer Avenue Sidewalk Phase II – Safe Route to School Project** is scheduled for construction in early 2008. 5) The **Borough of Sharpsville Hometown Street – Streetscape Phase III Project** was completed but they have run into some ADA issues regarding the handicap ramps at the Main Street/Walnut Street and Ridge Avenue/Walnut Street intersections. 6) The **Borough of Sharpsville Retaining Wall – Streetscape Phase V Project** is moving along. They are working with PennDOT on the right-of-way clearance.

The design is complete and under review by PennDOT. The project is set for bid letting next month.
7) The **Borough of Sharpville – Streetscape Phase VI (Milliken Avenue-Devil’s Way to Third Street & Fourth Street-Hazen to Koehler) Project** is set for bid letting in December 2007.

UPDATE ON COUNTYWIDE GIS PROJECT

Mr. Gracenin explained that the MPO allocated STU funds to put toward a GIS project at the County level. The County had entered into an agreement with GeoDecisions. He noted that the project had started with a kick off meeting a few weeks ago and basically they will be creating parcel layer data for the County, and we should have all of the data within 12 months. He also noted that we will be partnering with the 911 agency. The 911 agency will be redoing the street centerline and geo-coding them, which should occur by March 2009. Mr. Gracenin stated that once we get the parcel layers developed, we can start looking at the tie between the land use and the projects that we are planning.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Autumn Kelley from PennDOT’s Environmental Unit explained that they are looking for sites that are more than 5 acres for their Wetland Banking Program. She asked that if anybody has any possible proposals, to contact PennDOT. She also noted that if anybody knows of a stream that has a lot of eroding or has been washed out, PennDOT has a program called the Stream Bank Stabilization Program. Mr. Petit also introduced Mr. Jeff Dunlap the new Mercer County Senior Highway Maintenance Manager.

1-80 TOLLING

Mr. Petit introduced Mr. Barry Schof from McCormick Taylor & Associates. Mr. Schof is Project Manager for the I-80 tolling or the Act 44 project, which is a partnership between the Turnpike Commission and PennDOT. Mr. Schof explained the background of the I-80 tolling, how the funding should work and the intent behind the legislation.

In discussion, someone questioned that if I-80 is not a done deal, how can the Turnpike Commission be making payments? Mr. Schof state that two payments had been made from the Turnpike Commission to PennDOT. He noted that the Turnpike Commission is borrowing money against its future revenue. Someone asked why did they pick I-80 and not some other road? Mr. Schof stated that this is not the first time that they looked at tolling I-80. He noted that this is a major east/west route that a majority of people travel. Mr. Schof stated that the turnpike fees will be going up no matter what, even if I-80 is not tolled.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Mr. Longiotti seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Gracenin,
MPO Secretary