

MINUTES

SHENANGO VALLEY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

HYBRID MEETING

MERCER COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

2491 Highland Road
Hermitage, PA 16148
Conference Room

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – 10:30 AM

PRESENT

Jeremy Coxe, Chair
Bill Finley, Commissioner
Parke Wentling, State Representative
Christopher Conti, Senior Planner
Erin, Kepple Adams, Senior Planner
Peter Messina, Planner
Mark Tobin, Director, CPDM
Julia Cornell, Transportation Planning Specialist
Brian McNulty, Executive
Thomas McClelland, Assistant Executive
Courtney Lyle, Project Manager
Sara Tassone, Transportation Planning Specialist
Jill Boozer, Executive Director
Michael Nashtock, Assistant Director
Dale Perry, Supervisor
Robert Lark, Supervisor
Paul Hamill, Mayor
Jasson Urey, Manager
Cindy Black, Secretary/Treasurer
Brenda Heck, Secretary/Treasurer
Ken Robertson, Manager
Mary Kay Mattocks, Council President
Vance Oakes, Manager
Garry Hittle, Supervisor
Jason Tomko, Finance Director
Sandy Swogger, Chief Executive
Erin Houston, President
Rod Wilt, Executive Director
Edward Reese, Director
Andy Wapple, Director
Emily Aloiz, Planning Administrator
Ron Johnson, Public/Resident
Stephen Theiss, Public/Resident

REPRESENTING

City of Hermitage
Mercer County
PA
MCRPC
MCRPC
MCRPC
PennDOT
PennDOT
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MCRCOG/SVSS
MCRCOG/SVSS
Shenango Township
Borough of West Middlesex
Town of Greenville
Town of Greenville
Wilmington Township
Liberty Township
Borough of Sharpsville
Borough of Grove City
Borough of Grove City
Hempfield Township
City of Sharon
Mercer County Agency on Aging
Shenango Valley Urban League
Penn Northwest
GPD Group
AECOM
Erie MPO
Guest
Guest

1. **Mr. Jeremy Coxe, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. **A quorum was present.**
2. **Approval of Minutes of the December 10, 2024 Coordinating Committee Meetings.**
 - A. There were no comments on the December 10, 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made by **Mr. Michael Nashtock** and seconded by **Mr. Gary Hittle** to approve the minutes. The December 10, 2024 minutes passed unanimously.
3. **2023-2026 TIP and 2025-2028 TIP Modifications/Administration Actions, and FY 2025 STIP Amendment - Ms. Julia Cornell, Transportation Planning Specialist, PennDOT, Center for Program Development and Management (CPDM): Information on these items is available on the MCRPC Website (mcrpc.com) on the "Transportation" webpage.**
 - A. **2025-2028 TIP Modifications/Administrative Actions:** Ms. Julia Cornell stated that she only covered informational items concerning amendments that were completed by PennDOT Central Office at the state level. **Therefore, there was no action or vote was needed.**
 - a. Information Item #1 was to add the Service Avenue Bridge Project in Sharon as a TASA carryover program to the current SVATS 2025-2028 TIP. Approximately \$1.3 million was added to the CON Phase in 2025 from TASA Carryover reserve.
 - b. Information item #2 was to add the State Street Pedestrian Project in Sharon as a TASA carryover item to the SVATS 2025-2028 TIP and statewide TIP with a 2025 CON budget of \$811,369.
 - c. Information Item #3 was an amendment made previously by PennDOT Central Office to move approximately \$18 million from the interstate contingency item to the CON phase of the reconstruction of Interstate 80 in Mercer County from mile markers 0 to 5.
 - i. Mr. Dale Perry asked about the Interstate 80 project being over budget and whether it will still be going forward. Mr. Brian McNulty assured that the project is moving forward as planned. He stated that a future amendment will be needed to provide additional funds for this project. These statements were further supported by Ms. Courtney Lyle and Mr. Tom McClelland.
4. **Discussion and Approval of Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek a consultant to undertake the 2026 Long Range Transportation Update.**
 - A. Mr. Peter Messina explained the SVATS MPO will seek a consultant to undertake the 2026 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. He stated the RFP specifies consultants must meet all state and federal requirements and will solicit projects from municipalities to be added to the new project listing. He also stated that the RFP was discussed and approved by the steering committee at their kick-off meeting on February 27, 2025. The RFP will be released this week and responses are due by May 12, 2025 at 4:00 PM. It is anticipated the contract will be awarded at the next SVATS MPO Coordinating Committee meeting on June 10, 2025. There were no comments on the RFP.
 - a. A motion was made by **Mr. Robert Lark** and seconded by **Mr. Paul Hamill** to approve the RFP for the LRTP. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion of PA WalkWorks Program

- A. Mr. Messina explained that the PA WalkWorks Program under PA Downton Center and the PA Department of Health is a program that provides funding for planning grants. He stated that because Mercer County is a priority area, there would be no matching requirements. He also made the committee aware that SVATS MPO is planning to apply for a capacity building program that opens in April 2025. Finally, he stated that there is an opportunity for WalkWorks to hold their regional workshop in Mercer County in 2025.
 - a. Mr. Dale Perry asked if the WalkWorks Program could be used for a corridor study on Route 18 in Shenango Township and West Middlesex Borough. Mr. Messina responded that the WalkWorks program is for municipal wide planning grants and not for individual projects, but Shenango Township could advocate for this project to be included in the upcoming LRTP and the potential Active Transportation Plan.

6. Project Updates Summary

A. STU and TA Projects (SVATS MPO Staff): Mr. Messina gave updates for four STU projects.

- a. SR 18/SR 58 (College Avenue Project) – Town of Greenville
 - i. The upcoming road work on SR 18: SR 58-College Avenue will begin March 15th, 2025 and last through May 8th, 2026. This project includes flexible base replacement, overlays with Superpave Asphalt Mixtures, drainage, traffic signals, ADA curb ramps, signing, delineators, and pavement markings. The operations will span approximately from the intersection of Main St. (SR 18) and College Ave (SR 18) to the intersection of Conneaut Lake Rd. (SR 18) and Mill Hill Rd as well as from the intersection of Clarksville St. (SR 18) and Orangeville St. to the intersection of Main St (SR 18) and S Mercer St. (SR 58). All efforts shall be made to minimize disturbance to traffic flow but occasional lane closures can be expected Monday through Friday between 7 AM-5 PM and Saturdays as needed. Small detours will occur occasionally throughout the year. All work will be performed per PennDOT's traffic restriction requirements.
- b. State Street Pedestrian Project – City of Sharon
 - i. Improvements will be made on East State Street from North Sharpsville Avenue to North Oakland Avenue, as well as a small portion of Pine Street. The proposed pedestrian improvements will include replacement of existing curb and sidewalk, updating the curb ramps to be ADA compliant, and planting of appropriate trees and landscaping. The project also includes the installation of additional drainage infrastructure on both sides of the roadway to control flooding during rain events.
 - ii. The lowest bid for the State Street Pedestrian Project came in overbudget at \$944,000 while the engineer's estimate was \$832,000. The City of Sharon will decide over the next two weeks how to address the deficit in funds and is considering rebidding the project.
- c. Service Avenue Bridge Project – City of Sharon
 - i. HRG is the consultant for the Service Avenue Bridge Project. The General Permit 11 was issued by the PADEP on January 17, 2025. The Type, Size, and Location (TS&L) letter was submitted to

PennDOT and approved on February 19, 2025. The preliminary safety review submission was made to PennDOT and approved on February 19, 2025. The preliminary maintenance and protection of traffic plans were resubmitted to PennDOT and approved on February 28, 2025.

- ii. HRG is currently working on the utility coordination, right-of-way plan preparation, and the Design Field View submission. In the next quarter (4Q 2025), HRG anticipates completing the Design Field View and sending Foundation Plan Submissions to PennDOT.

d. McKinley Avenue Bridge Project – Mercer Borough

- i. This project replaces the bridge that carries McKinley Avenue over Munnell Run. The proposed new bridge is a steel superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck on concrete abutments. Work will also include a new concrete sidewalk on the west side of the roadway to facilitate pedestrian traffic, in particular access for the employees and visitors to Imperial Systems from the parking lot on the south side of Munnell Run. The existing I-beam is classified as in poor condition and the bridge is limited to one lane traffic. Approximately 300 vehicles a day use the bridge on average. The bridge is owned by Mercer Borough.
- ii. Work is expected to occur in two phases during the 2026 construction season to allow for the roadway to remain open during the construction process. Phase 1 includes replacement of the east side of the bridge and Phase 2 involves replacement of the west side of the bridge and construction of a new sidewalk. PennDOT has taken over direct management of this project.

B. Major Projects/Other TIP Projects/PennDOT Construction Project Status 2025 (Tom

McClelland, PennDOT D-I): Mr. McClelland stated that to date PennDOT has bid 8 projects with a total budget of \$123,781,071, and has 43 projects remaining to be bid with an estimated cost of \$90 million to \$100 million. He discussed several key projects in Mercer County.

- a. **Hosack Road (T-784) Bridges (ECMS #112678) Bridge Replacement:** Mr. McClelland gave updates on two bridges on Hosack Road over Yellow Creek Branch in Jackson Township. These bridges are 27 feet and 28 feet in length and will be replaced. The let date was 01/30/2025 and there was an apparent lowest bid of \$987,959 by JET Excavating Co. It is anticipated that construction on this project will begin on 04/28/2025.
- b. **Sharon 2022 STU Grant – E. State Street (ECMS #119220) Transportation Improvement:** Mr. McClelland stated approximately one mile of sidewalk construction and curb replacement will be done on State Route 518 (US 62 & East State Street) from Oakland Avenue to Pine Street in the City of Sharon. The project had a let date of 01/30/2025 and an apparent lowest bid of \$993,843 by M and B Services, LLC. It is anticipated that construction on this project will begin on 04/28/2025.
- c. **I-80 MM0 to MM5 - Reconstruct (ECMS #91569) PAVING PROGRAM Reconstruction:** This project includes 10 miles (4 lanes) of reconstruction on Interstate 80 from mile mark 0 (the Ohio line) to mile mark 5 (West Middlesex) in Shenango Township. Work includes highway reconstruction along with 5 bridge rehabilitations. The project had a let date of 02/13/2025 with an apparent lowest bid of \$115,680,680 by Glenn O. Hawbaker, LLC. It is anticipated that construction for this project will begin on 03/31/2025. Mr. McClelland stated that both lanes will be open as much as possible during construction with only minor, short-term closures.
 - i. Mr. McNulty stated that the project was overbudget after the first round of bidding. Therefore, the project was rebid, and when the lowest bid was once again overbudget the decision was made to

add funding to this project.

- d. **SR 3020: SR 18 to SR 3011 (ECMS #98388) PAVING PROGRAM Resurfacing:** Mr. McClelland stated that this project involves approximately 0.5 miles of restoration on State Route 3020 (Lamor Road) from State Route 18 (Hermitage Road) to State Route 3011 (North Keel Ridge Road) in the City of Hermitage. The let date of this project is scheduled for 04/10/2025. This project has an estimated cost: of \$2.5M - \$5M. Construction on this project is expected to begin on 05/27/2025.
- e. **I-80 WB Mercer CO ITS Addition at SR 173 - TSMO (ECMS #121311) Safety Improvement:** Mr. McClelland described that this project is to install a message board on Interstate 80 Westbound at the State Route 173 interchange in Wolf Creek Township. This project's let date is scheduled for 03/27/2025. The estimated cost of this project is \$200K - \$500K. Construction for this project is anticipated to begin on 05/12/2025.
- f. **Blacktown Road Bridge / I-79 (ECMS #1925) BRIDGE PROGRAM Bridge Preservation: State Route 2006 (Blacktown Road) over Interstate 79 (Raymond P. Shafer Highway) in Springfield Township.** Mr. McClelland stated that improvements will be made to preserve the bridge. The bridge is 236 feet in length. This project has a let date scheduled on 04/10/2025. The estimated cost of this project is \$1M - \$2.5M. Construction on this project is expected to begin on 05/26/2025.
- g. **PA 718: Bank PI - River Road (ECMS #109750) PAVING PROGRAM Resurfacing:** Mr. McClelland stated that this project involves 2.33 miles of resurfacing on State Route 718 (North Water Avenue) from Bank Place to State Route 846 (River Road) in the cities of Sharon and Hermitage. This project has a let date of 04/10/2025. The estimated cost of this project is \$1M - \$2.5M. Construction is anticipated to begin on 05/26/2025.
- h. **PA 718: SR 846 – Ohio State Line (ECMS #115350) PAVING PROGRAM Resurfacing:** Mr. McClelland stated that this project involves approximately four miles of resurfacing on State Route 718 (Ivanhoe Road) from State Route 846 (River Road) to the Ohio State Line in the city of Hermitage and South Pymatuning Township. The let date of this project is scheduled for 04/10/2025. The estimated cost of this project is \$2.5M - \$5M. Construction is anticipated to begin on 05/26/2025.
- i. **I-80: MP 10 to MP 15 (ECMS #117601) SAFETY PROGRAM Safety Improvement:** Mr. McClelland stated that this project will improve skid resistance on Interstate 80 from mile marker 10 to mile marker 15 in Shenango, Lackawannock, and East Lackawannock Townships. The let date of this project is scheduled for 04/17/2025. The estimated cost of this project is \$2.5M - \$5M. Construction is anticipated to begin on 06/02/2025.
- j. **SR 7204 Old Mercer Road (T-401) Bridge (ECMS #1670) Bridge Replacement: Old Mercer Road (Township Road 401) Bridge over Neshannock Creek in East Lackawannock Township:** Mr. McClelland stated that this project will replace the bridge, which is 104 feet in length. The let date for this project is scheduled for 09/11/2025. The anticipated estimated cost is \$2.5M - \$5M. Construction for this project is anticipated to begin on 12/08/2025.
- k. **McKinley Avenue Bridge - STU (ECMS #1693) Bridge Replacement: McKinley Avenue Bridge over Munnell Run in Mercer Borough:** Mr. McClelland stated that this project will replace the bridge, which is 29 feet in length. The let date for this project is 09/11/2025. The estimated cost of this project is \$1M - \$2.5M. Construction is anticipated to begin on 12/08/2025. PennDOT has taken over direct supervision of this project.

- l. **Service Avenue Bridge (ECMS #1884) Bridge Replacement: Service Avenue Bridge over Pine Run in the City of Sharon.** Mr. McClelland stated that this project will replace the bridge, which is 22 feet in length. The let date for this project is scheduled for 10/23/2025. The estimated cost of this project is \$1M - \$2.5M. Construction for this project is anticipated to begin on 1/19/2026.
- m. **SR 718 over Pine Run (ECMS #117537) Bridge Replacement: State Route 718 (Dock Street) over Pine Run in the City of Sharon.** Mr. McClelland stated that this project will replace the bridge, which is 24 feet in length. The let date for this project is scheduled on 11/6/2025. The estimated cost of this project is \$2.5M - \$5M. Construction for this project is anticipated to begin on 12/22/2025.
- n. **Northwest 2025 RPM (ECMS# 116197) Reflective Pavement Markers:** Mr. McClelland stated that this project involves replacement and repair of reflective pavement markings on several state routes in various municipalities in Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties. The let date for this project is scheduled for 3/13/2025. The estimated cost of this project is \$200K - \$500K. Construction for this project is anticipated to begin on 4/28/2025.

D. Comments

- a. Mr. Robert Lark asked about the status of the milling and paving project on SR 18 between Interstate 80 and Interstate 376. Mr. McClelland responded that project would begin this Spring. Mr. Lark then asked about replacing a storm grate that was removed during construction of SR 18. Mr. McNulty said that he will investigate this concern.
- b. Mr. Dale Perry asked about the width of the berms on SR 18. Mr. Brian McNulty stated that the berms will be the same width as they are now (four feet). Mr. Conti noted that there should be enough room for bicyclists to ride on the shoulder with the use of rumble strips. Mr. McNulty stated that there will be enough room for bicyclists.

7. Transportation Funding Updates

- a. PennDOT
 - i. Ms. Julia Cornell stated that a PennDOT Connects municipal outreach session will be held for PennDOT District 1-0 on April 28, 2025 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in Harrisburg or virtually.
 - ii. Ms. Cornell stated that the 2025 public comment period for the State Twelve Year Plan (TYP) is open until April 30, 2025. The survey can be completed online, over the phone, or by requesting a paper survey.
 - iii. PennDOT has released the 2025 Transportation Performance Report that gives a summary of transportation in Pennsylvania over the last two years.
 - iv. There will be an online Public Forum on April 10, 2025 that will feature a presentation from Secretary Michael Carrol and a Q&A with PennDOT officials.
- b. FHWA and FTA
 - i. There were no updates from FHWA or FTA. Mr. Coxe asked if there any issues involving our federal partners. Mr. McNulty assured that there have been no issues to date and

that partners have been having been attending trainings. Mr. Mark Tobin stated that federal partners are examining changes to executive actions and waiting for guidance to be communicated.

8. Additional Discussion

A. Discussion of National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program

- a. Mr. Mark Tobin stated that there are 91 projects under agreement under the NEVI Program. There has been a pause on future obligations with the NEVI Program following rescinding of official federal highway guidance in February 2025. Current projects that have been awarded are still underway and will be going forward.

B. Discussion of PA PROTECT Program

- a. Ms. Courtney Lyle stated that four applications have been submitting for PROTECT funding from PennDOT District 1-0 including one project in Mercer County. The Mercer County project is along SR 58 in Mercer Borough. Ms. Lyle stated that the PROTECT Program is a resiliency program to address areas prone to flooding.

C. Final Discussion

- a. Mr. McClelland noted that the shoulders on SR 18 are four feet wide with eleven feet wide lanes. They will remain the same measurements following the repaving project.
- b. Mr. McNulty stated that Ms. Courtney Lyle has been promoted to a new position and title. She is now the PennDOT District 1-0 Asset Manager. She will now oversee both the planning management and the information/data management units.
- c. Mr. Conti asked Ms. Jill Boozer of MCRCOG/SVSS about the details of their ongoing Transit Development Plan. Ms. Boozer explained that the plan will give the first update to the transit system in Mercer County in over forty years.
- d. Mr. Lark asked for the date for the next SVATS MPO Coordinating Committee Meeting. Mr. Conti stated that the next meeting will be held on June 10, 2025 at 10:30 AM.

9. Adjournment

- A. A motion was called for by Mr. Coxie to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by **Mr. Lark** and seconded by **Mr. Perry**. The motion passed unanimously at 11:12 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doniele Russell,
SVATS MPO Secretary