

**CENTRE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CCMPO)
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Patton Township Building**

Minutes

Voting Members

Brent Brubaker	Patton Township
Sue Hannegan	Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (CCPCDO)
Kent Baker	College Township
Karen Michael	PennDOT District 2-0
Jim May	Centre Regional Planning Agency
Doug Weikel	Benner Township
Amy Story	State College Borough
Dave Modricker	Ferguson Township
Ray Hankinson	Penns Valley Planning Region
Michele Barbin	Mountaintop Planning Region
Eric Bernier for Hugh Mose	Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)
Frank Hampton	PennDOT Central Office
Paul Weener	Harris Township

Non-Voting Members

Doug Holmes for Teresa Davis	Penn State University (PSU)
------------------------------	-----------------------------

Others Present:

Tom Zilla	Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)
Trish Meek	CRPA
Greg Kausch	CRPA
Mike Bloom	CCPCDO
Vickie Rusnak	PennDOT District 2-0
Sharon Hay	PennDOT District 2-0
Tim Nebgen	The Progress
Brian McCauley	Marion Township Planning Commission

1. Call to Order

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Story made a motion to approve the June 10, 2009 minutes. Mr. Weikel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

4. Old Gatesburg Road Extension Project

Mr. Zilla provided a general overview of the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) program and noted that 12 projects were submitted in Centre County. Two projects were approved for funding: the Old Gatesburg Road Extension Project and the Moshannon Valley Park and Ride Study.

The Old Gatesburg Road Extension Project is approximately six tenths of a mile and will provide a roadway connection between Science Park Road and Blue Course Drive. It will provide access to a planned Traditional Town Development (TTD). The road will provide a new link to the roadway system and will also be designed using a complete streets approach by accommodating all modes of travel including vehicles, pedestrians and bikes. Mr. Zilla referred to a sketch of the preliminary alignment in relation to the TTD highlighting the locations of the signalized and unsignalized intersections and the proposed roundabout.

Local funds will pay for the pre-construction phases and the construction phase will be funded with PCTI funds. Because the project is a new road on new alignment the MPO is required to perform an Air Quality Conformity Analysis and the project must be included on the Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

In June the MPO authorized the completion of the AQ conformity analysis. The analysis shows that with the inclusion of the project the TIP and LRTP remain in conformance. A required 30-day public comment period began on August 11 and will conclude on September 11. No comments have been received to date. A public meeting was held on September 8.

The project must also be added to the federal aid system (FAS). The proposal is to add Old Gatesburg Road as an urban collector and the request will be made to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA.) Mr. Zilla added that fiscal constraint is not an issue since this is additional funding above our allocation.

Mr. Weener asked for clarification about the history of the project. He asked how the project would have been funded without the federal funds. Mr. Zilla stated it would have been paid for by the developer. Mr. Modricker provided information about the phasing of the development.

Mr. Baker asked if the development will be constructed concurrent with the road work. Mr. Modricker explained that the proposed buildings closest to Blue Course Drive are included in the first phase. The development company is looking at construction of the road and installation of other facilities and how those will tie into the construction of the remainder of the development.

Mr. Modricker stated that the road is on the Township's Official Map and funding was anticipated in the Capital Improvement Program. A partnership was discussed related to right of way and construction costs. The township wanted the roadway completed as part of the development.

Mr. Weener asked if there will be signals at Science Park Road and Blue Course Drive. Mr. Modricker stated that there is currently a signal at Science Park Road and a signal will be installed at the Blue Course Drive intersection.

Ms. Barbin asked if anything has been worked out related to the driveway to the Citizens Bank building. Mr. Modricker stated that a number of ideas have been discussed including relocating the driveway to the back of the building, turn restrictions and a new access onto Science Park Road. Ms. Barbin suggested that making the driveway one way may be an option.

Mr. Baker asked if the construction cost estimate includes the cost of the roundabout and the signals. Mr. Modricker confirmed that it does. The Township and the developer are funding the engineering for the project. The engineering cost is estimated at \$400,000.

Mr. Modricker made a motion to approve the Centre County Air Quality Conformity Analysis, amend the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to add the project, amend the 2009-2010 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the project and approve a request to add Old Gatesburg Road Extension to the Federal Aid System. Mr. Weener seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Moshannon Valley Park and Ride Lot Study

Mr. Kausch stated that at the June MPO meeting the Coordinating Committee amended the work program to include the Moshannon Valley Park and Ride Lot Study. The MPO must add the project to the TIP to access the funding.

Mr. Hankinson asked if the money is only for the study. Mr. Kausch clarified that the current project does not include funds for construction but will cover the costs related to site selection.

Mr. Hankinson asked if the Cold Stream lot will be considered as part of the study. Mr. Kausch stated that it would be one of the sites that is evaluated as well as the parking lot near the football stadium. Mr. Kausch also noted that the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership (MEDVP) has raised the possibility of a downtown location. The study will look at surrounding municipalities in Centre and Clearfield Counties.

Mr. Weikel asked if a local match is required. Mr. Kausch stated that a local match is not required for the study. Mr. Kausch clarified that the North Central RPO is a project partner.

Ms. Hannegan asked if there be a study committee. Ms. Kausch stated a study committee will be formed.

Mr. Zilla stated that a Moshannon Valley location for a park and ride lot has been discussed for many years. Staff looked at moving a construction project forward on an accelerated schedule but there are a number of environmental issues at the locations that were evaluated.

Mr. Baker asked about the status of the Old Fort Park and Ride Lot. Mr. Kausch reported that the lease agreement is in the process of being revised, PennDOT is working on stormwater issues and additional coordination is needed with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

Ms. Hannegan made a motion to amend the 2009-2012 Centre County TIP to include \$100,000 from the PCTI for completion of the Moshannon Valley Park and Ride Study project. Mr. Weikel seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. 2009-2012 Centre County TIP

Mr. Zilla provided a report about administrative amendments to the 2009 – 2012 Centre County TIP. He stated that the MPO's adopted administrative actions allow for amendments of the TIP without formal MPO approval. There have been a number of amendments related to bridges and pavement restoration projects. He reviewed some of the more significant administrative actions related to the CATA bus rehabilitation project, Old Fort Park and Ride lot, Route 150

Congested Corridors Improvement Program, the Linn Street wall in Bellefonte Borough and the Whitehall Road project.

Mr. Zilla stated that the Route 26 Betterment Project Section 148 includes pavement, drainage, guiderail improvements and sign replacement thru the interchange area and related lane reconfigurations. Ms. Michael provided additional information about the existing conditions. She stated that all the signs need to be upgraded. It was acknowledged that the upgrades will be done as cost effectively as possible, as short term improvements need to be made.

Mr. Modricker asked if people that are traveling southbound on Route 26 will still be able to make a right onto Jacksonville Road. Ms. Michael stated yes.

7. 2011-2014 Centre County TIP

Mr. Zilla stated that we typically begin the TIP process in January or February. Initially there were discussions about whether a TIP update was needed and PennDOT decided to move forward with a full TIP update process. The MPOs received Pennsylvania's 2011 Transportation Program Financial Guidance in August.

Mr. Zilla provided an overview of the guidance. Previously we focused 80% of the funding on system preservation, the new target is to direct 90% to system preservation and 85% of bridge financing is to be directed to structurally deficient (SD) bridges. Another change is to use a 3% inflation rate for year of expenditure (YOE) calculations. Spike funding will continue to be directed to SD bridges and the MPO will help with the narrative for the Twelve Year program (TYP) projects beyond the first four years.

There are a number of unknowns related to the federal reauthorization and the potential state action to provide revenue to replace the Act 44 funds. Staff has heard discussions about the Turnpike Commission revisiting tolling I-80. He added SAFETEA-LU will expire at the end of FFY 2009 (September 30, 2009) and the Federal Highway Trust Fund is in deficit status.

For the next TIP, Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds will be allocated to each region by formula but there will not be a statewide application cycle. In some areas of the state there is still a backlog of TE projects. Areas that have completed projects may develop a local process to allocate funds. Staff will discuss options and provide options to the MPO at the November meeting.

Mr. Zilla reviewed the accelerated TIP schedule. In December 2010 the MPO will need to approve submission of a preliminary draft TIP which will require December MPO meetings. The MPO will consider adopting the TIP in June. The TIP will then go to the STC in August and then to FHWA and FTA. The new TIP will take effect October 1, 2010.

Mr. Zilla identified the need to look at the projects that will need construction funds in the next two years such as the Pine Grove Mountain projects, Whitehall Road Corridor project, Route 322 Corridor Safety Improvements and the Route 26 Betterment. Because the TIP contains a number of projects that will need construction funds it is not likely that we will be adding many new projects.

Mr. Baker stated that the storm sewers on North and South Atherton should be considered as a betterment project on the TIP and he asked if there are any cost estimates for the project. Ms. Michael replied that there are no cost estimates at this time but PennDOT is aware of the issue. Mr. Baker stated that the municipal engineers along the corridor would be supportive of the project.

CCMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Page 5

Mr. Zilla stated that the project could go through PennDOT or it could be requested as part of the LRTP. Mr. Baker asked if this project should be requested by each municipality or as one project. Mr. Zilla stated that it is likely to be a phased project. Ms. Michael stated that in 1997 there were inlet repairs on Atherton Street at a cost of \$3.5 million.

Mr. Zilla stated that PennDOT Central Office is emphasizing the importance of maintenance and preservation which will need to be balanced with the new capacity project requests. It is important to understand the preservation and maintenance cycles.

Mr. Modricker stated that the PennDOT Centre County maintenance office discussed the storm water maintenance issues along North Atherton Street with the public works staffs and suggested looking to the MPO for funding.

8. Announcements

Mr. Zilla announced the next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2009 to avoid the Veterans Day holiday.

He also thanked Lori Shingler who served as the CRPA Office Manager and has taken a job with Penn State University.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Meek
Recording Secretary