

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

**Wednesday, January 14, 2009
9:30 a.m.
College Township Building**

Minutes

Voting Members

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

Non-Voting Members

Teresa Davis	Penn State University
Dallas Gallo	Bellefonte Borough
Matt Smoker	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Others Present:

Tom Zilla	Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)
Trish Meek	CRPA
Lori Shingler	CRPA
Mike Bloom	CCPCDO
Vickie Rusnak	PennDOT District 2-0
George Khoury	Citizen
Sue Mascola	Representative Conklin's Office
Mike Joseph	Centre Daily Times

1. Call to Order

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. MacMath made a motion to approve the November 12, 2008 minutes. Mr. Weikel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

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There were no citizen comments.

4. Member Reports

Harris Township – Mr. Weener reported that preliminary design for the Boalsburg Main Street project should be done in the next two weeks. Referring to the bridge in Linden Hall, he noted that local residents are not happy with the design and feel that it is too wide. They are trying to get an exception to make the bridge 20 feet instead of 24 feet.

Ferguson Township – Mr. Modricker noted that Ferguson Township is considering widening Whitehall Road from College Avenue to Tadpole Road.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Mr. Smoker said that FHWA does not yet know the amount in the proposed Economic Stimulus Package. He noted that projects would be funded through the regular streams and would follow federal regulations.

PennDOT District 2-0 – Ms. Michael reported that the District is pushing their bridge projects. They have bid let 18 out of the 49 bridges on their Program.

Penns Valley – Mr. Hankinson questioned the status of Act 44. Mr. Hampton stated that Act 44 is still law, but he is unaware of any push to rescind the law or revisit tolling.

PennDOT Central Office – Mr. Hampton said that there is some talk of budget rescissions. He did not think this would impact on us. He added that they are hoping to act on the PCTI applications by the end of the week.

CATA – Mr. Bernier said CATA has kicked off their budget and service planning.

5. Draft FY 2009-10 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Zilla reviewed that the MPO adopts a UPWP every year in February and the next Work Program will cover the time period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The UPWP lists work tasks for MPO staff and importation actions to be taken by the MPO. He reviewed the tasks in the base Program. Mr. Zilla noted that there will be no increase in funding for the next UPWP, but supplemental funding will continue to be available for additional projects.

The current UPWP includes supplemental funding for the following projects:

- Coordinate Land Use and Transportation Planning – this includes the Area Plan for Halfmoon/Patton Township and the Route 64/550 in the Bellefonte/Spring Township/Walker Township area. Mr. Zilla said that not a lot of progress has been made on this.
- Assessment of County transportation services – this study is in response to a request from the County and is currently underway.
- Update the travel demand model and socioeconomic forecasts – a consultant should be chosen next month to do the forecast database and model. Staff will perform the socioeconomic forecasts.

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Mr. Zilla said that at this time, staff is not recommending that new supplemental projects be added. However, if the MPO chooses to apply for supplemental funding, candidate projects include:

- Prepare detailed inventory of municipal bridges
- Continue coordination of land use and transportation (additional funds)
- Continue socioeconomic forecasts and model for LRTP (additional funds)
- Update CATA Public Transportation Plan
- Education efforts for municipalities experiencing gas drilling activities
- Additional traffic counts to document patterns after I-99 opening

Because of fiscal constraints, PennDOT is recommending that MPO staff finish the current projects. Mr. Zilla noted that they would probably have to request extensions for two of the three current projects. He said that staff would like to talk to PennDOT about the possibility of requesting additional funds for two current projects at a later date, when it is better known if additional money would be needed.

Reviewing the next steps, Mr. Zilla said staff will be discussing the UPWP at the Coordinating Committee on January 27. A final draft will be prepared for February that the MPO will need to adopt by February 28.

Mr. Weener asked if the staff recommendation meant that they would not be pursuing any of the new candidate projects. Mr. Zilla said that was correct. Ms. Barbin asked if the travel model and socioeconomic forecast project would be short on funding. Ms. Meek replied that when staff began to review the software needs, the estimates were higher than anticipated. Ms. Barbin asked if it would make sense to request additional funding now, with the new UPWP. Ms. Meek said that staff could probably do cost estimates before the next meeting to determine how much would be needed.

6. 2009-2012 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Zilla said there are some projects that will require the movement of funds to advance. At the top of the list is the Route 26 Pine Grove Mills Mountain project. PennDOT presented the three elements to that project, with two further up the mountain and the third just above the village. Additional funds are needed to move the first two elements. Based on the cost estimates, just under \$1 million will be needed. At the same time, there is a substantial cost savings on the Betterment Project on Route 45 in Old Fort. The proposal is to shift \$940,000 from the Betterment Project to the Pine Grove Mountain project in FY 2010. That will allow construction of the top two elements on Route 26.

Staff also recommends that PennDOT advance two of the Route 322 Corridor safety improvements. There were two projects that were identified as high priorities:

- Project F-MOD – third lane near Shaner complex and realignment of Taylor Hill Road
- Project I – Church Hill Road/Dogtown Road intersection improvements and road closure

Staff has not had an opportunity to talk to PennDOT about the cost estimates for these two projects because they have not received any indication from the MPO about whether to move them forward. Mr. Zilla said that it would make sense to put funding in place to make sure there is enough to do the preliminary engineering for these projects. Amendments could be made after an estimate is received.

Mr. MacMath asked what the holdup was for the Old Fort Park and Ride Lot. Ms. Michael said that Mr. Kausch is pursuing a new agreement with the Township and the Legion. When the environmental

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clearance was being sought, the federal agency did not like the fact that the agreement was only for 5-6 years. They requested that the agreement be at least 20 years so that they would be protecting the investment for a longer period. Mr. Zilla said that in addition to that, there was an environmental question raised by the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission related to impacts on the Penns Valley Historic District. This is still being worked out. A third issue was that the Legion was concerned about the timing and other activities in the area. Discussions were held about locating the Park and Ride lot in a different spot, but that did not work out.

Mr. Zilla noted that the money being moved to the Pine Grove Mountain project is actually coming from the Old Fort Betterment project, different from the Park and Ride lot.

Mr. Modricker made a motion recommending to the Coordinating Committee moving \$940,000 from the Route 45 Old Fort Betterment project to the Route 26 Pine Grove Mountain project in fiscal year 2010. Mr. Hankinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Weener asked which two elements of Pine Grove Mountain project would proceed. Mr. Zilla said it would be the pull-off at the top of the mountain and the upper escape ramp.

Mr. Zilla asked it made sense to move forward with the two safety projects in the Route 322 corridor.

Mr. Weener asked if the closing of Church Hill Road was decided upon. Mr. Hankinson said they are still discussing it. Mr. Zilla noted that preliminary engineering will identify issues for Potter Township to discuss.

Mr. Weener made a motion recommending to the Coordinating Committee that they move ahead with preliminary engineering in the Route 322 Corridor for a third lane near the Shaner complex and realignment of Taylor Hill Road (Project F-MOD) and Church Hill Road/Dogtown Road intersection improvements and possible road closure (Project I). Mr. Modricker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Zilla reviewed administrative actions that were taken:

- \$500,000 in funding shifted to reserve line item from Route 45 Old Fort Betterment, because of a lower cost estimate
- Convert \$570,000 in funds from reserve line items for 5 potential economic stimulus projects
- Four pavement restoration projects - \$125,000 each
- One bridge preservation project - \$70,000
- \$157,279 in funding shifted from Old Fort Park and Ride Lot to Route 26 Pleasant Gap Betterment in FFY 2009
- Old Fort Park and Ride will not advance to construction in 2009
- Estimate of cost for Pleasant Gap Betterment higher than TIP amount
- \$51,000 in de-obligated funds shifted into Transportation Enhancements Line Item in 2009

Mr. Baker asked what the savings on the Old Fort Betterment project were. Ms. Michael answered that it was \$1.44 million.

Mr. Hankinson asked about the timing for the Old Fort betterment project and asked if it was delayed a year. Ms. Rusnak said there is a reserve line item in 2009 and the rest is cash flowed in two different

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years. She said they are using the money that is in 2009 to make sure it is expended. This project has a June bid-letting.

7. Announcements

The next Technical Committee meeting will be on February 11, 2009.

Mr. Zilla referred to the Community Transportation Initiative, saying that staff was supposed to have the applications back with a preliminary review from the Central Office, but that has not happened. It is hopeful that they will be received by the end of the week. MPO and District 2-0 staff met last week to talk about 11 applications that were sent from Centre County. Preliminary comments were prepared.

Mr. Zilla said staff has not heard anything about the Federal Safe Routes to School selection process yet.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Z. Shingler
Recording Secretary