

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

June 26, 2024

10:00 AM

SAP&DC

Altoona, PA

ACTION SUMMARY

The following are the major actions taken by the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC) at its regular meeting held on June 26, 2024, at the SAP&DC in Altoona, PA.

1. Approved the April 24, 2024, RTCC meeting minutes as presented.
2. Approved moving \$3.5M from the final design phase to the preliminary engineering phase on the Rt. 219 project in Somerset County.
3. Approved the Draft FY 2025 – 2028 Highway and Bridge TIP, the Draft FY 2025 – 2028 Public Transit TIP, the MOU, and the Environmental Justice Analysis as presented.

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

June 26, 2024

10:00 AM

SAP&DC

Altoona, PA

MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome

The following members were present at the meeting:

- Commissioner J.R. Winck, Bedford County
- Commissioner Randy Bunch, Fulton County (Alternate)
- Commissioner Jeff Thomas, Huntingdon County
- Commissioner Fochtman, Somerset County
- Andrea Bahoric, PennDOT Central Office
- Vince Greenland, PennDOT District 9
- Lee Slusser, SAP&DC (Alternate)
- Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC

Others in attendance included:

- Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
- Jaclyn Himmelwright, PennDOT District 9
- Amanda West, PennDOT District 9
- Michele Ivory, Senator Judy Ward's Office
- Janice Streightiff, SAP&DC Organization

Each participant received a meeting packet that included:

- Agenda
- April 24, 2024 RTCC Meeting Minutes
- RTTC and RTCC Membership Lists
- SA RPO FY 2023-2025 TIP Adjustments
- Draft FY 2025 – 2028 TIP Public Comment Summary

II. Review and Approval of the April 24, 2024, RTCC Meeting Minutes

Vince Greenland welcomed the committee to the meeting and Matthew Bjorkman conducted roll call. Vince asked for a moment of silence for Steve Howsare's wife who passed away over the weekend. Vince asked that the committee review the April 24, 2024, RTCC meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

With no further discussion, Matthew Bjorkman made a motion to approve the April 24, 2024, RTCC meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. RTTC Committee Composition

Matthew informed the committee that the RTTC membership list was included in the meeting packet. He reviewed that section of the Bylaws noting that the committee is currently at the end of a two-year term. At the October meeting, this committee will be approving the membership for the next term. He reviewed the membership noting a vacancy in non-motorized transportation. The RTTC can nominate replacements, but the decision is up to the RTCC. Matthew will send out the bylaws to the committee via email. Jeff Thomas asked if his representatives were attending. Matthew let him know that Stu Neff and Ron Rabena attend regularly. Matthew also noted that he tries to keep the county representation balanced in the membership. He asked the committee to start thinking about replacements for the October meetings.

IV. FY 2023 – 2026 TIP Modifications and Amendments

Vince noted that there is one amendment requiring approval today on US 219. He introduced Jacklyn Himmelwright who would be reviewing the modifications and amendments today as Anne Stich is off. Jacklyn noted that what is included in the packet has been done since the last meeting. She drew the committee's attention to the two slide projects that were approved by memo vote between the meetings. One was for the PA 103 slide and the other was on PA 601 outside of Holsopple. The amendment requiring approval today is on Rt. 219 in Somerset County. On the new section between Meyersdale and Salisbury Road, PennDOT plans to move \$3.5M from the final design phase into the preliminary engineering phase. There is currently \$10M obligated for that phase. Final design can't move forward until the environmental review is completed. These are Federal Appalachian Development Highway System Funds and are not part of the TIP base allocation. These funds have a limited scope of what corridors they can be used for, but Rt. 219 qualifies. The CPDM was approved for the Rt. 219 request. Vince added that when applying for special funds for a project of this magnitude, additional engineering and consultants are required. The total estimated construction cost for the project is \$310M.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Brian Fochtman made a motion to approve moving \$3.5M from the final design phase to the preliminary engineering phase on the Rt. 219 project in Somerset County. Commissioner Randy Bunch seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. FY 2025 – 2028 TIP Approval

Vince informed the committee that PennDOT is asking for approval of the Draft FY 2025 – 2028 TIP today. There have been no major changes since the last time it was presented. The 30-day public comment period has ended. Matthew reviewed the public comment

summary with the committee answering any questions they had. No public comment was received outside of the public meetings.

With no further discussion, Matthew Bjorkman made a motion to approve the Draft FY 2025 – 2028 Highway and Bridge TIP, the Draft FY 2025 – 2028 Public Transit TIP, the MOU, and the Environmental Justice Analysis as presented. Commissioner Jeff Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vince thanked PennDOT and SAP&DC staff for all their work on the TIP.

VI. Other Business

TA Set Aside

Matthew noted that our top-rated project, the H&BT Trail, was funded for just under \$420,000 as well as the third and fifth place priorities. Juniata College received \$988,000 for their Reconnecting Neighborhoods Sidewalk Project, and Alexandria Borough received approximately \$1,022,900 for their Main Street Project. Matthew gave some history on the ranking of the projects and thanked the committee for their efforts. Kick off meetings have been scheduled.

ARC Local Access Road Projects

Matthew noted that the deadline for submitting ARC Local Access Road projects is approaching. Staff is currently working on one pre-application for the Riverview Business Park in Huntingdon County. The TIS is completed, and the application is moving forward. Commissioner Thomas commented that he heard they are looking at the other end of the business park road. he said there is no need for improvements there as there is no truck traffic on that road. Matthew asked that if anyone knows of any additional projects, please let staff know. Commissioner Fochtman asked what kind of projects qualify for ARC LAR funds. Vince replied anything that would spur economic development and create jobs. The funding can be used to open lots for development, safety improvements, etc. He gave some examples of projects that have been funded in the past.

VII. Adjournment

Jeff Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 AM.

<u>NOTE:</u> The next meeting of the RTCC is scheduled for October 23, 2024, at the SAP&DC beginning at 10:00 AM.

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
RURAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
June 26, 2024**

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items	By Whom	Due Date
Send out the RPO Bylaws to the committee via email.	Matthew Bjorkman, SAP&DC	Following the meeting