

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
May 15, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, May 15, 2014, at 12 noon, at Kosta's Restaurant, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mr. Belz.

PRESENT

David L. Belz  
Tim Whited  
Toni Renee Anderson  
Ronald Rovansek  
Russell Kiel  
Eric Wolf  
Lonnie Batdorf

ABSENT

Robert E. Fisher, Jr.  
Joseph McAneny

STAFF

Ethan C. Imhoff  
Christopher D. Allison  
Shanna M. Murphy  
Colleen A. Bukowski

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Wolf , seconded by Mr. Kiel, the April 17, 2014 meeting minutes were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was read by Mr. Imhoff and reviewed by those present. There being no questions on the report, Mr. Whited made a motion that the May Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kiel and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was read at this time.

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff apprised the board of the public meeting held in Carrolltown at which the Chatham University graduate students unveiled their ideas and renderings for the Route 219 corridor through the borough. He explained that each vision was unique, with one rendering focusing on streetscape improvements, one idea emphasizing development of an economic incubator in the community, and the remaining presentation featuring a roundabout at the intersection of Route 219 and

Sunset Road. Mr. Imhoff noted that the meeting was well attended by local residents, as well as PennDOT staff who also shared their thoughts on possible improvements to this portion of Route 219.

Reporting on a recent JATS technical committee meeting, Mr. Imhoff noted that the meeting was held to discuss priorities for the Major Highway Action Plan update. He stated that although there is a consensus that the Sunset Road connector between Route 219 and Route 36 is the top priority, committee members are in agreement that other projects should also be listed for consideration pursuant to completion of the Route 219 projects. Mr. Imhoff indicated that considerable discussion was held regarding the feasibility of reviving a project which would provide improvements to a two-lane connector between Routes 56 and 403 in the City of Johnstown. He explained that this project had been considered several years ago but was postponed due to funding constraints at the state level. During the technical committee meeting, PennDOT staff indicated that they will compile updated financial data on this project to facilitate further discussion on the project's feasibility. In response to a question by Mr. Belz concerning funding of the Route 403/56 connector project, Mr. Allison stated the no funding source was discussed at the meeting.

With staff managing the Wildwood Bridge project on behalf of the County Commissioners, Mr. Imhoff provided a brief update on the project. He stated that a kick-off meeting involving CCPC staff, PennDOT staff, and EADS, the project consultant, was recently held to review and discuss the project. Mr. Imhoff explained that The EADS Group will develop plans for replacement of the existing structure located along Ice Plant Road in Allegheny Township. Actual construction of the project is anticipated to occur in 2017.

Mr. Imhoff commented that he and Mr. Allison continue to coordinate preparations for the Safety Symposium on June 10<sup>th</sup> in Harrisburg. He invited all CCPC members to attend the symposium which will focus on safety issues such as teen driving, seatbelt usage, DUI, and automated enforcement.

Mr. Imhoff reported that he had met with Blair County Planning Commission staff to discuss the possibility of a park and ride site near Route 22 in the Cresson/Gallitzin area. He explained that with the closing of SCI Cresson, individuals now employed at SCI Rockview are carpooling to State College and parking their vehicles along Route 22. Mr. Imhoff stated that a meeting has been scheduled with PennDOT personnel to discuss the availability of funding for a park and ride site, which could help to alleviate this potentially dangerous situation.

#### Transportation

Updating those present on the work activities of the past month, Mr. Allison stated that the Commission, on behalf of the MPO, is in the process of reviewing and ranking of local candidate projects submitted for funding consideration through the Transportation Alternatives Program. He stated that field views of the projects were conducted by Planning Commission staff, PennDOT staff, and the project sponsors. The recommendations of the Planning Commission will be taken into consideration by PennDOT Central Office during the final selection process.

Mr. Allison noted that he had participated in several conference calls and conferences during the past month with regard to the Regional Operations Plans for Intelligent Transportation Systems, the PA Safety Symposium, the JATS Technical Committee meeting, Act 89 funded transportation projects, and local road and bridge projects.

With regard to the County's selection of a consultant for bridge engineering services, Mr. Allison stated that CCPC staff has reviewed and evaluated the eleven Statements of Interest received. He indicated that, based on the evaluation, the Commission will recommend a consultant as the County's engineer of record. It was noted that final selection and official approval of the engineering firm remains with the County Commissioners. Mr. Allison stated that once selected, the engineer will undertake the design and construction of a replacement to the Carney's Crossing bridge.

#### Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy reported that in addition to continuing the local roads data inventory collection, she has completed the update to the CamTran Municipal Demographic Report. She explained that disability data for the municipalities within the fixed urban bus route system was updated using the Census Bureau's 2008-2012 American Community Survey information.

Ms. Murphy provided a brief overview of a Demographic Change and Land Use Policies seminar she recently attended. She indicated that the session focused on changing desires and needs of Pennsylvania's younger generation versus the baby boomer population in terms of housing and transportation.

Ms. Murphy noted that projects reviews were conducted on several applications for municipal water and sewer improvement projects, proposed cell phone tower installations, a bituminous mining permit application in Elder and Susquehanna Townships, and a DCNR application for expansion of the Rock Run Recreation Area campground. Those present briefly reviewed the reviews.

There being no old or new business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Rovanseck. The motion passed unanimously.