

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
September 18, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, September 18, 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  
Lonnie Batdorf  
Ronald Rovanseck  
Eric Wolf

ABSENT

Robert E. Fisher, Jr.  
Joseph McAneny  
Toni Renee Anderson  
Russell Kiel

STAFF

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Whited, the August 21, 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. Mr. Imhoff noted that in connection with the Commission's oversight of the Wildwood Bridge Replacement Project, a receipt of funds from PennDOT (and a corresponding expenditure to The EADS Group) will periodically appear on the Commission's monthly Financial Statement. He explained that this income is essentially a "pass through" transaction in payment of invoices submitted by The EADS Group for design services on the Wildwood Bridge Project. In response to Mr. Belz's concern about the return of planning funds from the 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program, Mr. Imhoff stated that this was a result of the wage differences between retired staff vs. relatively new Commission staff. Mr. Imhoff stated that he does not anticipate a recurrence of this situation under the current UPWP and is considering the possibility of retaining a consultant for some of the upcoming transportation planning activities. Mr. Belz suggested that the feasibility of hiring part-time staff also be considered. In response to a question from Mr. Belz regarding the Commission's contract with Peggy Malone and Associates for traffic counting activities, Mr. Imhoff clarified that although the Commission will contract directly with the consultant for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, future traffic counting activities will be contracted at the State level. On a motion by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Whited, the September Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Imhoff stated that there was no significant correspondence to be read at this meeting.

## STATUS REPORTS

### Executive Director

In regard to municipal planning initiatives, Mr. Imhoff stated that he had met with the Geistown Planning Commission and the Westmont Borough engineer. He explained that the Geistown Planning Commission is very interested in developing a comprehensive plan for the borough and Westmont Borough is investigating the possibility of partnering with Upper Yoder Township to develop a joint comprehensive plan. Mr. Imhoff noted that, if requested, the CCPC will continue to guide both municipalities in their respective planning efforts and will also assist in securing state funding for the projects.

Mr. Imhoff stated that, as discussed at the August meeting, he had submitted comments to Westmont Borough regarding the proposed CVS development in the borough. He indicated that the Commission has received no further information regarding the land development plans or the necessary highway occupancy permit.

Mr. Imhoff reported that, at the request of the County Commissioners, he has been collaborating with County Conservation District staff to organize a Water Symposium. The symposium will be directed toward municipal officials and will focus on stormwater management authorities, the Ms4 program, flood plain designations, and other related issues.

Updating the board on the regional comprehensive plan initiative being presented by the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission, Mr. Imhoff stated that discussions regarding this possibility are continuing. He stated that although a region-wide comprehensive plan may be considered, staff has determined that a regional approach to the long range transportation would not be feasible for Cambria County.

### Transportation Planning

Providing additional information on the feasibility of a regional update to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Mr. Allison informed the board that Commission staff met with PennDOT Program Center staff, air quality conformity staff, and staff from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission to discuss the issue. He stated that it was determined that although a collaborative effort would be possible, it would not be in the best interest of the Johnstown MPO, due to increased staff involvement and varying horizon years. With regard to the next update to the LRTP, Mr. Allison noted that the project selection process will be revised to consider PennDOT's Linking Planning and NEPA initiative.

Mr. Allison reported that staff finalized a purchase order for the collection of traffic count data specified in the 2014-15 Unified Planning Work Program. He indicated that Peggy Malone &

Associates will collect fifty-five traffic volume and classification counts throughout the county for \$6,283.

Mr. Allison stated that staff is coordinating with Mercer County Planning Commission staff to organize a MPO/RPO caucus during the PennDOT planning partners conference to be held in late October. He noted that representatives from planning organizations throughout the state will attend the session to discuss similar transportation-related issues and concerns.

Mr. Allison noted that staff assisted in the development of a formal agreement for engineering services between Cambria County and Keller Engineers. He stated that staff will continue to coordinate bridge inspection and repair services on behalf of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Allison updated those present on the County's Interchange Lighting Service and Maintenance Contract. He explained that staff updated the scope of work, drafted explicit bidding instructions, and placed a request for bids ad in the Mountaineer Herald. Mr. Allison stated that bids will be opened on September 23, 2014 and the lowest responsible bidder will be awarded the contract. Mr. Batdorf suggested that, in the future, a pre-bid conference be scheduled and attendance by interested bidders be a requirement of the bidding process.

In response to board member inquiries during the past month, Mr. Allison reported that the Prospect Viaduct is a rehabilitation project, not a reconstruction project; and the anticipated completion date for the Route 53/Main Street intersection project in Portage Borough is November 14, 2014.

#### Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy reported that in addition to collection of the remaining local roads and bridges field data for the Local Transportation Asset Inventory, she has been collaborating with County GIS staff to develop a tool to facilitate the collection of sign inventory data. She explained that this inventory is expected to be the next phase of the Transportation Asset Inventory. Ms. Murphy noted that the sign inventory data base would then be made accessible to all municipalities throughout the County.

Providing an update on LTAP courses, Ms. Murphy stated that an Equipment and Worker Safety workshop will be held on October 14 in Ebensburg. Other upcoming workshops in Cambria County are Bridge Maintenance and Inspection and Drainage: The Key to Roads that Last. Ms. Murphy noted that Planning Commission staff designed a flyer promoting the courses, which was posted on the website and mailed to every municipality in the county.

Ms. Murphy indicated that she had recently prepared a map highlighting the four major curves on Route 219 in Northern Cambria Borough for the Route 219 Growth Plan. She stated that staff also reviewed the state-wide 2015 Twelve Year Program in an effort to encourage the inclusion of local pedestrian/bicycle projects on future updates of the Twelve Year Plan.

Those present briefly reviewed the application and project reviews completed by CCPC staff during the past month.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Belz stated that there was no "Old Business" to discuss at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There being no "New Business" to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Wolf. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whited and passed unanimously.