

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
February 19, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, February 19, 2015, 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
Eric Wolf
James White
William Trevorrow

ABSENT

Toni Renee Anderson
Russell Kiel
Lonnie Batdorf
Ronald Rovansek

STAFF

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

Mr. Belz stated that Mr. William Trevorrow was appointed to the Commission for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2018. Mr. Trevorrow was welcomed to the Commission and brief introductions followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Whited, the minutes of the January CCPC meeting were approved as submitted. 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 or comments on the report, Mr. Wolf made a motion that the February Treasurer's Report and the bills listed for payment be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. White and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

STATUS REPORTS

Executive Director

Mr. Imhoff distributed several copies of the U.S. Route 219 Corridor Plan/Carrolltown Borough. Noting that the original concept was to include both Carrolltown and Northern Cambria Boroughs in the final document, Mr. Imhoff stated that he decided to prepare separate documents for each municipality. He further explained that Carrolltown Borough adopted the plan in January and is anxious to begin the implementation phase of the project. However, Northern Cambria Borough officials have opted not to adopt the plan at this time. Mr. Imhoff explained that the Borough's rejection of the plan appears to stem from the Commissioners' promoting Sunset Road as a connector to Route 36 and ultimately Route 219N in Clearfield County. Northern Cambria council members are concerned that the diversion of traffic from the current alignment of Route 219 will adversely affect local businesses in the borough. Mr. Imhoff stated that although he has informed several council members that the goals and objectives of borough officials can be reflected in the plan document, no additional comments have been forthcoming. Mr. Belz suggested continuing dialogue with borough officials, reiterating that their position concerning the current alignment of Route 219 vs. the Sunset Road alternative can be presented in the Corridor Plan.

Stating that one of the aspirational goals discussed in the US Route 219 Corridor Plan is to connect Carrolltown with natural gas service, Mr. Imhoff reported that Commission staff facilitated meetings between Peoples Natural Gas (PNG) and Carrolltown Borough officials, which opened a positive dialogue toward this initiative. Mr. Imhoff indicated that he also attended a meeting with the County Commissioners and PNG to discuss PNG's countywide approach to gas service. At this meeting, PNG identified several areas in the County that it would like to connect with service in the near future. Mr. Imhoff noted that this would have a positive effect on economic development, particularly in the northern part of the County.

Regarding the development of a comprehensive plan for the Southern Alleghenies region, Mr. Imhoff explained that although the plan is supported by the Commissioners of each of the participating counties, funding formulas and costs must be established before final commitments can be secured.

Mr. Imhoff reported that Westmont Borough, Upper Yoder Township, and Southmont Borough are committed to participating in the development of a regional comprehensive plan. He noted that he will contact officials from Ferndale Borough, Brownstown Borough, and Lower Yoder Township to apprise them of this endeavor and encourage their participation in the plan. Mr. Imhoff noted that a regional approach would enhance the chances of receiving state funding for the project.

Transportation Planning

Updating those present on the Long Range Transportation Plan, Mr. Allison reported that a 12-member steering committee comprising representatives from the Planning Commission; the JATS committees; PennDOT; transit, bicycling, and recreation/trails entities; and tourism/business organizations has been established. Noting that the contract between Gannett Fleming and the CCPC has been

executed, Mr. Allison stated that a project kickoff meeting has been scheduled for February 25th.

Mr. Allison briefed the members on other transportation activities undertaken during the past month, noting that staff coordinated a JATS meeting in January and participated in a webinar regarding PennDOT's Geographic Information Systems data-sharing program. Mr. Allison noted that staff collected information regarding the status of Transportation Enhancement Program and Safe Routes to School projects awarded in the County since 2006 and forwarded such to the PennDOT Central office.

Regarding staff coordination of the County Bridge Program, Mr. Allison stated that the annual survey of County-owned bridge conditions was completed and forwarded to the County Commissioners. He noted that staff coordination of the County's interchange lighting system continues. Repair and maintenance invoices submitted by Barclay Electric are reviewed and forwarded to the Commissioners' office for payment on an on-going basis. In a related matter, Mr. Allison reported that Planning Commission staff coordinated with PennDOT staff to determine ownership and maintenance responsibilities for some lighting fixtures at the US 219/Elton Road interchange and the PA 56 Expressway/Bedford Street interchange. As a result of these discussions, it was determined that the ownership/interchange lighting agreement between the County and PennDOT should be updated. Mr. Allison stated that, in an effort to improve efficiency, he is investigating the feasibility of PennDOT contracting directly with the maintenance contractor rather than Cambria County contracting for the service.

Community Development Planning

Ms. Murphy reported that with the completion of the Local Transportation Asset Inventory, her efforts during the past month have been focused on scheduling LTAP courses in the upcoming months. She noted that a "Traffic and Safety Development Plans for Local Roads" course will be held in March, and "Principles of Paving" and "Roadside Safety Features" courses are scheduled for April. She requested the members to encourage interested individuals to attend these informative meetings which are free to the public. In response a question by Mr. Whited, Ms. Murphy indicated that notices regarding the courses are sent to all municipalities in the county and the programs are also posted on the CCPC website.

Ms. Murphy distributed copies of the CCPC 2014 Annual Report. She explained that the report highlights the projects and activities undertaken by the Commission during the past year. She indicated that the document can also be viewed on the CCPC website.

Application and project reviews completed during January were briefly noted by Ms. Murphy and reviewed by those present.

OLD BUSINESS

Noting that updating the functional classifications of several roadways in the county had been discussed at previous Commission meetings, Mr. Allison stated that the Johnstown MPO recently voted to approve several recommendations for revisions/ additions to the National Highway System. Maps delineating the roadways being

proposed for designation revision were distributed. The following proposed revisions were explained by Mr. Allison and reviewed by those present:

- Addition of 2.6 miles along Route 271 in Jackson Township (between Benshoff Hill Road and U.S. Route 22)
- Addition of 0.1 mile along Main Street in the City of Johnstown (between Franklin and Clinton Street)
- Addition of 4.6 miles along Route PA 756 (between the Route 403 and US 219)
- Addition of .06 miles along SR 3018/Bedford Street in the City of Johnstown (between SR 8024/Bedford Street and PA 756/Belmont Street)

Mr. Allison noted that although Eisenhower Boulevard, between Route 56 and Route 403, was also considered for NHS designation, it was not being requested at this time. In response to several questions, Mr. Allison explained that an additional section of Route 271 which traverses into Westmoreland and Somerset Counties may be considered for NHS designation at a later date. Also discussed was the addition of Route 53 to the NHS, with Mr. Allison stating that although traffic volumes along this corridor are not sufficient at the present time, a possible designation change can be revisited in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Whited, seconded by Mr. Wolf. The motion passed unanimously.