

MINUTES
 JOHNSTOWN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 COMBINED MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEES
 June 22, 2016

A meeting of the Johnstown Area Transportation Study Technical and Coordinating Committees was held on June 22, 2016 at 9:30 AM, at the Cambria County Transit Authority, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Coordinating Committee

Tom Prestash	PennDOT District 9-0	Present
Larry Shifflet	Program Center Director, PennDOT	(A) Dean Roberts
Open Position	Manager, City of Johnstown	
Renee Daly	Johnstown Comm. & Econ. Dev.	Present
Mark Wissinger	Cambria County Commissioner	Present
Ron Rovansek	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Rose Lucey-Noll	Cambria County Transit Auth.	Present
RaNell Fenchak	Johnstown/ Cambria County Airport Authority	Absent
Adam Henger	Regional Transportation Comm. Johnstown COC	(A) Bob Layo

Technical Committee

Dean Roberts	PennDOT Program Center	Present
Vince Greenland	PennDOT District 9-0	Present
Open Position	Johnstown Redevelopment Auth.	
Renee Daly	Johnstown Comm. and Econ. Dev.	Present
Ethan Imhoff	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Chris Allison	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
RaNell Fenchak	Johnstown/ Cambria County Airport Authority	Absent
Lisa Layton	Cambria County Transit Auth.	Present

Non-Voting Members

Kathy Dimpsey	Federal Highway Admin.	Present
Timothy Lidiak	Federal Transit Admin.	Absent
Lori Pagnanellik	Federal Aviation Admin.	Absent
Gregory Becoat	U.S. Environmental Prot. Ag.	Absent
William Costello	U.S. Dept. of HUD	Absent
Wick Havens	PA Dept. of Environmental Prot.	Absent
William Lundquist	PA Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways	Absent

Guests

Dave Lybarger	PennDOT District 9-0
Anne Stich	PennDOT District 9-0
Jessica Urbas	PennDOT District 9-0
Jim Pruss	PennDOT District 9-0
Dan Ligda	CamTran

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tom Prestash, PennDOT District 9-0. Mr. Chris Allison, Cambria County Planning Commission, polled the members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COMBINED JATS TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEES MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2016, AS WELL AS THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 13, 2016.

The committee members reviewed the meeting minutes. Ms. Rose Lucey-Noll of CamTran made a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bob Larry Shifflet of PennDOT and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2015-2018 HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Dave Lybarger of PennDOT reviewed the modifications to the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), all of which were administrative actions not requiring a vote.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS/ MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2015-2018 PUBLIC TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Ms. Lisa Layton of CamTran stated that there were no changes to the 2015-2018 Public Transit TIP, however, there were several changes to the 2017-2020 public transit TIP draft since its approval at the previous meeting. Ms. Layton reviewed three changes to the TIP draft: A change of \$500,000 from the bus line item to operating assistance, with a resulting change from four bus purchases down to three. Finally, the inclined plane facility improvement cost was adjusted from \$2 million to \$10 million. Ms. Rose Lucey-Noll explained that the cost adjustment on the inclined plane project was due to a recent assessment that was done by a consultant. Ms. Lucey-Noll further explained that the new bus purchases would be CNG busses. Following this discussion, Mr. Chris Allison of the Cambria County Planning Commission made a motion to approve the 2017-2020 Public Transit TIP as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Wissinger, Cambria County Commissioner, and was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE 2017-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Mr. Prestash handed the floor over to Mr. Allison. Mr. Allison explained that a motion was needed to approve the highway and bridge TIP, as well as the associated documents. Mr. Allison further noted that the draft had not been changed since it was approved at the February 19, 2016 combined meeting. Mr. Prestash remarked that no public comments were received. There being no further discussion necessary, a motion to approve the TIP and supporting documents was made by Ms. Rose Lucey-Noll of CamTran, and seconded by Ms. Renee Daly of the City of Johnstown. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Mr. Allison explained that the Technical Committee met on April 13 to discuss changes to the committee representation. Mr. Allison explained that the Coordinating Committee referenced several other similar Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and voted to recommend the

following changes to the committees: Add a representative from a Borough and a Township to each committee. These individuals would be nominated by their respective associations and approved by the Coordinating Committee for a two-year term. Further, the Technical Committee recommended replacing the position for the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority on their own committee with a bicycle/pedestrian representative. That individual would be nominated by the Technical Committee, approved by the Coordinating Committee, and serve a two-year term. These changes would bring each committee up to eleven members. Finally, Mr. Allison noted that the Technical Committee recommended changing the name of the MPO. The current name, JATS, places too much emphasis on Johnstown, and is too ambiguous. The MPO is meant to represent the whole County. After some discussion, the committee members decided to change the name to the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO). Mr. Allison further explained that the changes, if approved, would go into effect at the beginning of calendar year 2017. A motion to approve the changes was made by Ms. Renee Daly of the City of Johnstown and seconded by Mr. Bob Layo of the Greater Johnstown Chamber of Commerce. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Transportation Project Highlights Presentation: Jessica Urbas of PennDOT District 9-0 gave a presentation overviewing a proposed intersection improvement project at the Scalp Avenue, Belmont Street, and Bedford Street intersection in Geistown Borough, commonly referred to as the Geistown Cloverleaf. Ms. Urbas gave an overview of each of the proposed design alternatives, and an update on the public involvement process, noting that the roundabout alternative was the most viable. The presentation spurred a lengthy discussion amongst the committees regarding sidewalks. Mr. Allison stated his concern that sidewalks should definitely be included in the project. Mr. Prestash remarked that sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities should be considered with such projects, but that funding and ongoing maintenance concerns must be addressed at the beginning of the project planning. Committee members discussed making MPO policy changes to encourage pedestrian improvements. The group also discussed establishing target areas for sidewalks. Mr. Prestash mentioned a new state initiative called “Plan 360”, which will emphasize a complete streets planning approach.

Repurposing Earmark Funds: Mr. Prestash explained that there are new Federal requirements to repurpose old earmark funding that is either left over from previous projects, or was never spent. Cambria County has two such projects: A Hastings Area Industrial Development Association earmark has \$683,000 remaining, and a corridor study of US 219 from Carrolltown to DuBois has \$263,000 remaining. These funds can now be directed to another project, but the new project must be within 50 miles of the previous one, be ready for construction, and be a designated National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) route. Mr. Prestash stated that the committees should decide where to spend the funds, with these stipulations. Mr. Prestash suggested moving the earmark funds to the St. Clair Run culvert project, which is already listed on the TIP, and transferring that project’s existing funds to a line item, where their use would be determined at a later date. Mr. Imhoff asked for a list of eligible projects on the NHPP, and Mr. Prestash agreed to ask his staff to provide it. A motion to move the funds to the St. Clair culvert project, and transfer the St. Clair project funds to an NHPP line item for future considerations was made by Ms. Lucey-Noll and seconded by Ms. Renee Daly. It passed unanimously. The committee members decided to convene Mr. Allison agreed to facilitate a meeting of the Technical Committee, to discuss and make a recommendation for use of the funds.