

MINUTES
 JOHNSTOWN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 COMBINED MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEES
 September 20, 2016

A meeting of the Johnstown Area Transportation Study Technical and Coordinating Committees was held on September 20, 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	(A) Ethan Imhoff
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	Absent

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.	(A) Rose Lucey-Noll

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

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 AUGUST 11, 2016.

The committee members reviewed the meeting minutes. Ms. Rose Lucey-Noll of CamTran made a motion that the minutes be approved with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ron Rovanseck of the Cambria County Planning Commission, and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2017-2020 HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Dave Lybarger of PennDOT reviewed the modifications to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), all of which were administrative actions not requiring a vote.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS/ MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2017-2020 PUBLIC TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Ms. Rose Lucey-Noll of CamTran reported that there were no changes to the 2017-2020 public transit TIP.

APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE MPO BYLAWS

Mr. Ethan Imhoff reviewed the changes to the draft bylaws since the last meeting, highlighted in yellow on the attached handout. Borough and Township representatives could be recommended by their respective County associations to both committees, but he has not been able to find information about those organizations. Mr. Prestash said that PennDOT meets with the associations, and volunteered to find contact information.

The CamTran position on the coordinating committee was changed to board member or CamTran Manager, to match the Airport Authority position. Ms. Rose Lucey-Noll asked that CamTran Manager be changed to Executive Director.

In addition to Borough and Township representatives, a bicycle/pedestrian position will be added to the Technical Committee. This position would be appointed by the Coordinating Committee.

The Borough and Township representatives would serve a two-year term, and could only serve two consecutive terms.

Mr. Greenland asked if the Borough and Township representatives would be the different on each committee, meaning four total representatives. Mr. Imhoff responded that they would be. Mr. Greenland asked if there could be a problem with participation. Mr. Imhoff responded that he didn't think there would be, but if so we could re-evaluate the positions in the future.

Mr. Rovanseck asked if a rail representative should be considered. Mr. Imhoff responded that he would be in favor of it, but there is a concern about participation. Mr. Prestash suggested trying to invite someone as an unofficial member.

After the discussion, Mr. Rovanseck made a motion to approve the bylaws, with the changes discussed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lucey-Noll, and was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPURPOSING EARMARK FUNDS

Mr. Prestash introduced the topic and stated that the technical committee was asked to meet and determine a recommendation for use of the \$946,000 in old earmark funds available in Cambria County.

Mr. Imhoff gave a briefing from the Technical Committee's meeting: Since the earmarks were originally intended to be used in the Northern part of the County, they should be reallocated to a project in that area. Funding must be spend on the NHPP; US Route 219 is the only NHPP route in that area, so the funds must be used on 219. No projects in Hastings or on Route 26 would be eligible.

The committee looked at several projects on Route 219: First, slight straightening of Ditter's curve in Northern Cambria for a cost of \$500,000. Second, straightening the s-curve just North of Carrolltown, for a cost of \$2 million. Third, adding the funds to the Carrolltown parking improvements project, which is currently on the TIP for 2019 construction. Finally, sidewalk construction in Northern Cambria Borough

The committee considered all of the above options and weighed them, finally recommending that all of the available funding be allocated to the Carrolltown project, taking that from a \$3 million project to a \$4 million project, which would allow for additional sidewalks connectivity throughout the borough, as well as ensuring that storm water drainage concerns are met.

Mr. Prestash commented that he thought the vetting of the projects was thorough, and communication was good throughout the process. All options were considered.

After the discussion, Mr. Allison made a motion to approve the funding change. The motion was seconded by Ms. Renee Daly of the City of Johnstown. Before the vote, Mr. Imhoff noted that he briefed the County Commissioners, and they were in agreement with the decision. The committee voted unanimously to approve the funding change.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the Cresson Admiral Peary Corridor Study: Mr. Imhoff gave a brief review of the project. Public and stakeholder input has been received, and the planning team is evaluating it and trying to come up with project recommendations. The top three recommendations are: First, a sidewalk connection between Mt. Aloysius College and the PA 53 intersection. Second, improvements at the intersection between The Admiral Peary Highway and PA Route 53, to alleviate traffic backups through Cresson.

The third project would be to build a trail connection between the Allegheny-Portage National Historic Site and Veteran's Park in Cresson. An informal connection already exists there, but there is a grant program called the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) that could provide funding to complete a permanent trail connection. The committee members reviewed aerial photos of the trail area.

Ms. Lucey-Noll noted that CamTran is currently evaluating its rural fixed routes, and is looking at changing service to improve access to the college. Mr. Imhoff noted that surveys for the plan

indicated there was a lot of bus usage by the college, and that more coordination would be valuable.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.