

MINUTES  
JOHNSTOWN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
November 17, 2015

A meeting of the Johnstown Area Transportation Study Technical and Coordinating Committees was held on Monday, May 5, 2014 at 9:30 AM, at the Cambria County Transit Authority, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Technical Committee

Larry Shifflet	PennDOT Program Center	(A) Dean Roberts
Vince Greenland	PennDOT District 9-0	Present
Frank D'Ettorre	Johnstown Redevelopment Auth.	Absent
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	Present
Lisa Layton	Cambria County Transit Auth.	(A) Rose Lucey-Noll
Adam Henger	Regional Transportation Comm. Johnstown COC	(A) Bob Layo

Guests

Ron Rovanseck	Cambria County Planning Commission
Dave Lybarger	PennDOT District 9-0
Ed Cernic, Sr.	Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission
Tom Chernisky	Cambria County Commissioner
Mark Wissinger	Cambria County Commissioner
Paul Rinker	Cambria County Resident
Terry Conrad	Cambria County Resident
Susan Hutten	Hastings Area Industrial Development Association
Richard Stewart	Hastings Area Industrial Development Association
Giles Dumm	Barr Township
Greg Kline	Barr Township
Vince Rietscha	Barr Township
Kenneth Szala	P. Joseph Lehman
Marty Malone	P. Joseph Lehman

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Chris Allison, Cambria County Planning Commission. Mr. Allison then asked each person in attendance to state their name and their business or affiliation, and took attendance of the JATS committee members present.

**2017 TWELVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN (TYP) UPDATE: PUBLIC INPUT SOLICITATION, PRESENTED BY STC COMMISSIONER ED CERNIC SR.**

Mr. Chris Allison of the Cambria County Planning Commission introduced Mr. Cernic, who gave a few brief remarks about the STC and their role in the planning process. Mr. Allison then moved on to the groups that were present to give presentations about their specific projects, as follows:

Hastings Area Industrial Development Association (HAIDA): Mr. Richard Stewart from HAIDA gave a brief presentation about their proposed project to build a road connecting PA Route 36 to the Hastings industrial park. Mr. Stewart

mentioned that a study has been done for the project, and that it is estimated to cost about \$3 million. Mr. Stewart further noted that HAIDA is currently undertaking an \$800,000 project to build an internal access road at the industrial park. Mr. Stewart concluded by requesting that the JATS committees consider adding the connector road project to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program for Cambria County. After a brief discussion, Mr. Allison noted that, while the project has merit, there are would likely not be funds available to add the project to the 2017-2020 TIP.

Cambria County Commissioners Project Priorities: Mr. Mark Wissinger, Cambria County Commissioner gave remarks regarding proposed improvements to Sunset Road connecting Route 219 in Carrolltown with PA Route 36, noting that this was the highest priority for the Commissioners. Mr. Wissinger also noted that such a project would also increase the viability of the proposed HAIDA project, suggesting that the Sunset Road project should have a higher priority. Mr. Vince Greenland of PennDOT remarked that the cost estimate for all of the proposed Sunset Road improvements would be \$30 million. Mr. Tom Chernisky, Cambria County Commissioner, then added that there are some concerns among the residents of Northern Cambria that the project would reduce through traffic in their Borough, and thus hurt the commercial businesses there. Mr. Vince Greenland of PennDOT District 9-0 remarked that PennDOT believes a significant amount of traffic would continue to flow through Northern Cambria even if the Sunset Road improvements were made. Mr. Greenland noted that from the PennDOT perspective, the next step in the process should be to conduct a study of the Sunset Road corridor, considering proposed improvements, and that such a study should also involve the Northern Cambria residents and their concerns for improvements on Route 219 in the Borough.

Barr Township: Mr. Giles Dumm, Barr Township Supervisor, spoke to the group regarding the Township-owned Amadei Bridge. The bridge is in a state of poor repair, and is severely weight restricted. Due to the condition of the bridge, plow trucks and emergency vehicles cannot use it, creating safety concerns. The County's bridge engineer has suggested the bridge should be replaced, and the Township supervisors are requesting it to be placed on the 2017-2020 TIP. Mr. Giles noted that the Township would be willing to do whatever is necessary to pay for their portion of the cost of the bridge. Mr. Allison noted that the Cambria County Planning Commission has field-viewed the bridge, and that they would also recommend adding it to the TIP. Additionally, Mr. Allison noted that the bridge is #1 on PennDOT's local bridge risk assessment listing.

Other comments:

- Mr. Terry Conrad, Cambria County resident, remarked that the section of the PA Route 56 expressway, between the Dale and Widman Street exits, can become dangerous during peak traffic periods. Mr. Conrad stated that much of the traffic entering the highway at the Dale onramp merges at high speed, and then immediately exits at the Widman Street ramp. Mr.

Conrad suggested extending the Dale interchange ramp so that it connects with the Widman Street ramp, thus eliminating the traffic weaving issues. Mr. Conrad's observations were confirmed by several other attendees who travel the road regularly.

- Ms. Rose Lucey-Noll of CamTran noted a few of the high priority CamTran projects for the near future would be the replacement of several buses, as well as replacing the rails and ties for the incline plane. Rehabilitation projects for the incline plane's observation deck and pedestrian bridge were also mentioned. Finally Ms. Lucey-Noll mentioned the Johnstown Connectivity Project, for trails and pedestrian improvements, currently under development.

### **2017 TWELVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (TYP) UPDATE: OVERVIEW, SCHEDULE AND FUNDING CHANGES**

Mr. Dave Lybarger of PennDOT District 9-0 gave an overview of the financial guidance and funds available for the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Update. Mr. Lybarger noted that the total amount of funding available in Cambria County for the four-year program was reduced from \$84 million during the previous update, to approximately \$64 million. Mr. Lybarger further noted that about \$32,767,000 was designated as "flexible" funding, which could be spent at 40% on bridges and 60% on other projects. The remaining funds were required to be spend on the National Highway Performance Program network, or other asset management projects.

Mr. Allison then gave a brief overview of the upcoming schedule and major milestones for the TIP update, noting that a public review period for the draft TIP would be held in the April-May 2016 timeframe, and that the TIP would be formally approved by the JATS Technical and Coordinating Committees in the May-June 2016 timeframe, officially going into effect on October 1, 2016.

### **LOCALLY-OWNED BRIDGE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2017 TYP UPDATE**

Mr. Lybarger also noted that, while the required 1% of funding for local bridges was being met, approximately \$3 million in additional funds should be available, and that the JATS committees would need to recommend a new local bridge project or projects to be added to the TIP. Mr. Allison suggested that the technical committee recommend the Amadei bridge for inclusion on the 2017-2020 TIP, and made a motion for such. The motion was seconded by Ms. Renee Daly of the City of Johnstown, and passed unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Transportation Project Highlights Presentation: Mr. Vince Greenland of PennDOT District 9-0 gave a brief presentation of project highlights, focusing on a few projects and providing detailed information, pictures, and drawings of each.