

MINUTES
 CAMBRIA COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
 COMBINED MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEES
 June 6, 2018

A meeting of the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical and Coordinating Committees was held on June 6, 2018 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
Curt Davis	Manager (Acting), City of Johnstown	Absent
Jonathan Rosenthal	Johnstown Comm. & Econ. Dev.	Absent
Mark Wissinger	Cambria County Commissioner	Present
Ron Rovanseck	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Rose Lucey-Noll	Cambria County Transit Auth.	(A) Lisa Layton
Open Position	Johnstown/ Cambria County Airport Authority	-
Amy Bradley	Regional Transportation Comm. President and CEO, Regional COC	Present
Chris Gibbons	Hastings Borough Council	Absent
Bob Heffelfinger	Richland Township Supervisors	Present

Technical Committee

Dean Roberts	PennDOT Program Center	Present
Vince Greenland	PennDOT District 9-0	Present
Jonathan Rosenthal	Johnstown Comm. and Econ. Dev.	Absent
Ethan Imhoff	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Chris Allison	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Open Position	Johnstown/ Cambria County Airport Authority	-
Lisa Layton	Cambria County Transit Auth.	Present
Clifford Kitner	Cambria County Conservation And Recreation Authority	Present
Joseph Matthew Sernell	Geistown Borough	Absent
Open Position	Cambria Township Supervisors	-

Non-Voting Members

Matt Smoker	Federal Highway Admin.	(A) Michael Sherman
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

Alexa Perez	FHWA
Tia Kirby	PennDOT District 9-0
Tony Tanzi	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 FEBRUARY 6, 2018.

The committee members reviewed the meeting minutes. Mr. Mark Wissinger, Cambria County Commissioner, made a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cliff Kitner, Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority, and passed unanimously.

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

Mr Dave Lybarger of PennDOT District 9-0 presented each of the modifications to the 2017-2020 TIP. None of the modifications required a vote.

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

Ms. Lisa Layton of CamTran reviewed one amendment to the Public Transit TIP: The addition of a Rural Facility Rehabilitation Project in the 2019 Fiscal Year, in the amount of \$600,000. After a brief discussion, Mr. Ron Rovanssek of the Cambria County Planning Commission made a motion to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Allison, and passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FFY2019-2022 TIP FOR HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES, AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Mr. Allison gave a brief overview of the TIP, as well as the process for approval, and the public involvement procedures. He then reviewed each document requiring approval in turn: The Highway and Bridge project listing, the air quality conformity resolution, the self-certification resolution, the public participation plan, public transit financial capacity report, and the memorandum of understanding; procedures for STIP and TIP modifications and amendments. A question was raised, and a conversation ensued regarding the air quality attainment requirements, and why some counties are required to perform air quality analysis, whereas others are not. Also questioned was why some Counties are required to perform vehicle emissions testing, while others are not. Mr. Dean Roberts of the PennDOT Program Center agreed to follow-up on the questions and provide further information to the Committee Members. Ms. Layton then gave an overview of the 2019-2022 TIP for Public Transit. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Amy Bradley, Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce, to approve all of the documents. Mr. Rovanssek seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY, MOBILITY AND OPERATIONS (TSMO) FUNDING APPLICATION

Mr. Tony Tanzi, PennDOT District 9-0 gave a presentation explaining the TSMO funding program. There are \$5 million in Secretary of Transportation discretionary funds available for TSMO projects. Based on TSMO funding program priorities, District 9-0 developed a priority list of projects for which to request funding. In Cambria County, these consisted a retrofit of the variable message sign on US 22 near Dishong Mountain Road in the amount of \$50,000, and the addition of two new variable message signs on US 219: One North of Pensacola Road, and one just South of the end of the four-lane section South of Carrolltown. Mr. Tanzi noted that, due to the priorities of the TSMO funding program, and depending on submissions throughout the Commonwealth, some of the projects submitted may not receive funding in the first year. The Committee members agreed that the message signs were useful for traveling safety and congestion management, and that they should be a high priority. After a brief discussion, Mr. Bob Hellefing of Richland Township made a motion to approve the funding request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovansek, and passed unanimously. Mr. Allison agreed to prepare the application and submit it on behalf of the MPO committees.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Transportation Project Status Report: Mr. Vince Greenland of PennDOT District 9-0 gave a presentation on the PA 160/756 (Elton Rd.) intersection improvement project. Mr. Greenland said that the project will significantly improve safety at the intersection, which has seen a large amount of crashes. It will be completely realigned to a 90-degree intersection, addressing sight distance concerns, as well as grading problems. Mr. Greenland noted that, unfortunately, several properties would have to be acquired to complete the project, but that the property owners had been notified and they were agreeable. The committee members noted that the intersection has been a safety concern for many years, and the project is necessary and will be beneficial.

Review of Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Awards and Multimodal Transportation Fund Applications: Mr. Allison reviewed two recent TA Set-aside project awards for Cambria County: Adams Township received \$936,000 for sidewalk improvements in the Creslo neighborhood, and Mount Aloysius College received \$666,026 to build a sidewalk from their campus to the Cresson central business district. Mr. Allison also reviewed (8) Multimodal Fund applications that were submitted for Cambria County, giving a brief summary of each project, as follows:

Nanty-Glo Signage Replacement and Upgrade

Project Cost: \$116,789

Amt. Requested: \$81,752

This project would improve safety for motorists as well as pedestrians; however, the project scope may not be best suited to this funding program. It is our understanding that the crosswalk portion of this project application will be completed through a PennDOT District 9-0 bridge replacement project. We believe the remainder of the proposed project (sign replacements) would not be eligible.

Portage Sidewalk Improvement Project:

Project Cost: \$650,200

Amt. Requested: \$500,000

This is an excellent project that will enhance pedestrian safety and mobility. The applicant has

successfully delivered similar projects in the past, and this project will build on the success of those projects. The project is consistent with goals set forth in the Cambria County Comprehensive and Long Range Transportation Plans. The MPO highly recommends funding this project.

REACHLand Connect Phase Two:

Project Cost: \$460,273

Amt. Requested: \$350,273

This is an excellent project that would leverage previous investments. It would greatly improve safety and mobility of pedestrians in an area of the County that is in great need of it. The County Commissioners are highly invested in the project; it is one of their top priorities. The project is consistent with goals and objectives in the County Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation plans. Matching funds and project delivery should not be an issue. The MPO highly recommends funding this project.

Iron to Arts Corridor:

Project Cost: \$1,040,000

Amt. Requested: \$800,000

The actual scope of this project is somewhat vague in the application. Improvements to the pedestrian corridor are mentioned, but there is no disclosure of what specific improvements would be done. Trail and pedestrian-related items that would be eligible for funding, but are not shown in the project cost estimate; the cost breakdown for project construction includes only items for “Phase 1: Festival Lawn and Rain Gardens”, which is located entirely on the Bottle Works property. Based on this, we believe the project would not be eligible for funding in its current form.

SFU Connects:

Project Cost: \$1,451,715

Amt. Requested: \$1,016,200

While the proposed project could provide improvements for public transit service, as well as alleviate congestion on adjacent public roadways, the entirety of the project would take place on University property. Ultimately, the project does not provide benefits to the larger traveling public.

Rosedale Business Park Access Road:

Project Cost: \$1,628,100

Amt. Requested: \$1,628,100

This seems like a viable project, which would provide a needed connection to a KOZ. Project readiness is good, and delivery should not be a concern. It should be noted that the City is asking for the match requirement to be waived, while other project applications in the region are committing to provide the matching funds. The MPO recommends funding this project.

Conemaugh Valley School Bus Access Roadway:

Project Cost: \$161,757

Amt. Requested: \$100,050

The School District applied unsuccessfully for multimodal funding for this project in 2017. MPO comments at the time were as follows: This project would repave an existing access road on school property adjacent to PA Route 271. The road itself increases safety for loading and unloading school buses, however no additional safety improvements would result from the project, beyond the continued use of the roadway. The school campus was recently under

construction and a new building was erected, however, the access road issues were not addressed as part of that project.

Conemaugh Medical Center Ingress and Egress to State Highway 22:

Project Cost: \$270,000

Amt. Requested: \$200,000

This project attempts to address serious problems with traffic congestion at the subject intersection, which will only worsen after the construction of the proposed medical center. However, there are several issues with the project: First, the entirety of the project scope involves improvements to a private parcel of land. Second, the project provides no provisions for pedestrians or public transit. Finally, the project, as designed, does not address the numerous access control issues with the driveways of the various businesses within the business parcel. The MPO does not believe this project is eligible for funding in its current state, and suggests a redesign to provide for pedestrian and public transit access, and to address the access control issues.

OTHER BUSINESS

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