

MINUTES
 CAMBRIA COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
 COMBINED MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEES
 JANUARY 28, 2021

A meeting of the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical and Coordinating Committees was held on January 28, 2021 at 9:30 AM. The meeting was held online via Zoom.

Coordinating Committee

Tom Prestash	PennDOT District 9-0	Present
Larry Shifflet	Program Center Director, PennDOT	(A) Michael Gismondi
William Smith	Cambria County Commissioner	Present
Ron Rovanseck	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Open Positon	Manager, City of Johnstown	-
John Dubnansky	Johnstown Comm. & Econ. Dev.	Absent
Chad Gontkovic	Johnstown/ Cambria County Airport Authority	Present
Rose Lucey-Noll	Cambria County Transit Auth.	Present
Amy Bradley	Regional Transportation Comm. President and CEO, Regional COC	Present
Doug Tusing	Borough Representative: North	Present
Vacant	Township Representative: South	-

Technical Committee

Dean Roberts	PennDOT Program Center	Present
Vince Greenland	PennDOT District 9-0	Present
John Dubnansky	Johnstown Comm. and Econ. Dev.	Present
Ethan Imhoff	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Chris Allison	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Chad Gontkovic	Johnstown/ Cambria County Airport Authority	Absent
Lisa Layton	Cambria County Transit Auth.	Present
Clifford Kitner	Cambria County Conservation And Recreation Authority	Present
Robert Callahan	Borough Representative South	Present
Open Position	Township Representative North	-

Non-Voting Members

Eugene Porochniak	Federal Highway Admin.	Present
Chelsea Beytas	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

Randy Hillegass	PennDOT District 9-0
Chris Hull	PennDOT District 9-0
Josh Yoder	CamTran
Tom Chernisky	Cambria County Commissioner
Debra Orner	Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce
Josh Yoder	CamTran
Katie Kinka	Cambria County Planning Commission
Jim Miliauskas	PA Senator Wayne Langerholc Staff

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.

REORGANIZATION: APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR 2021

Mr. Allison presented a list of active committee members and noted that Bob Heffelfinger, Richland Township, was the only member who's term had expired. He had served two consecutive terms and therefore could not be reappointed. Mr. Allison asked the group for recommendations on a replacement.

Mr. Allison also stated that according to MPO bylaws, the Chair and Vice-Chair for each committee were to be re-appointed annually, and there was no term limit for the positions. Mr. Allison asked the committee members to recommend and then vote to approve a Chairperson and Vice-Chair for each committee.

After a brief discussion, a motion to reappoint Tom Prestash as Chair of the Coordinating Committee was made by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Tusing, and passed unanimously. A motion to appoint Rose Lucey-Noll as Vice-Chair of the Coordinating Committee was made by Commissioner Smith, Seconded by Ms. Bradley, and passed unanimously.

Ms. Lucey-Noll then made a motion to appoint Vince Greenland as Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Callahan and passed unanimously. Finally, Mr. Greenland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to appoint Ethan Imhoff as Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee. This motion also passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COMBINED JATS TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEES MEETING OF JUNE NOVEMBER 18, 2020

The committee members reviewed the meeting minutes. Mr. Rovansek made a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Callahan, and passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE FFY 2021-2024 HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE TIP

Mr. Lybarger gave an overview of the funding modifications that had been performed since the last MPO meeting, with the accompanying spreadsheets displayed. None of the modifications required a vote for approval.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS/ MODIFICATIONS TO THE FY 2019-2022 TIP FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT

Ms. Layton reviewed the Public Transit TIP modifications, of which a few required a vote. These included revisions to two bus replacement projects, a \$3.125 million funding addition to the Rural Facility Improvements project, and a \$5.3 million increase to the Johnstown Inclined Plane rehabilitation project, bringing the total cost of that project to \$11.7 million. Ms. Layton explained that these were additional federal funds, but the local share for these funds did not increase. Mr. Rovanseck asked if there was any data on the difference in greenhouse gas emissions of compressed natural gas (CNG) buses, compared to conventional diesel ones. Ms. Lucey-Noll responded that she believed the CNG bus emissions were much lower than diesel, but she didn't know the exact amount. After a brief discussion, Mr. Rovanseck made a motion to approve the Public Transit TIP amendments as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Tusing and passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PM-1, PM-2 AND PM-3 PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS FOR 2021

Mr. Allison gave an overview of the various performance measure categories, which the MPO is required to review and re-approve annually: PM-1 (safety) measures proposed for 2021 are a 2% reduction in fatalities with serious injury unchanged from 2020. PM-2 (highway and bridge) performance measures and PM-3 (congestion and air quality) measures and targets were also reviewed. Mr. Allison said that he recommends the MPO once again adopts the statewide measures, as all other MPOs across the State are doing, except DVRPC (Philadelphia). After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Lucey-Noll to approve the PM-1, PM-2 and PM-3 measures as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovanseck and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Johnstown Mural Project: Ms. Katie Kinka from the Cambria County Planning Commission presented the mural project. The city of Johnstown is working with an artist to have a mural painted on a retaining wall at the intersection of Bedford and Washington Streets. The group needs PennDOT approval to proceed because the retaining wall is part of the state roadway (Bedford St./Route 56). Mr. Prestash noted that all mural projects involving state highways are currently on hold throughout the Commonwealth, as the overall policy is under review. There is no timetable as to when the review may be completed. Mr. Greenland then noted that another concern is safety, and that proper procedures for traffic control would need to be determined and followed. Both Mr. Prestash and Mr. Greenland urged Ms. Kinka to continue working with PennDOT staff on the traffic control issue, so that the project can get underway as soon as the hold is lifted.

Cambria County BUILD Application Update: Mr. Allison updated the group on the BUILD application effort; a committee to draft the application has been established and is currently working on developing the mix of projects, their scope, and cost to be included in the application. The application window is expected to be opened in the spring of 2021. Mr. Imhoff mentioned that one of the key pieces of the BUILD application will be the Johnstown passenger rail station improvements, and that the group is awaiting results of a PennDOT-funded engineering study. Mr. Prestash commented that he believed the study had been completed and that the results should be released soon.

William Penn Ave (Prospect) Corridor Plan: Mr. Allison updated the group on the status of the plan: It is in early stages, and Cambria County Planning Commission staff are pulling together background information, forming a public outreach strategy, and determining who should participate in the steering committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

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