

**MINUTES**  
**CAMBRIA COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**COMBINED MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING**  
**COMMITTEES**  
**AUGUST 29, 2023**

A meeting of the Cambria County Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical and Coordinating Committees was held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 1:31 PM. The meeting was held at the Cambria County Transit Authority office, 502 Maple Avenue, Johnstown.

Coordinating Committee

David Kammerer	PennDOT District 9-0	(A) Tom Prestash
Rose Lucey-Noll	Cambria County Transit Auth.	Present
Dean Roberts (via video)	Program Center Director, PennDOT	(A) Larry Shifflet
William Smith	Cambria County Commissioner	Present
Ron Rovansek	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Ethan Imhoff	Manager, City of Johnstown	Present
John Dubnansky	Johnstown Comm. & Econ. Dev.	Present
Jacob Zerby	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Cory Cree	Johnstown/ Cambria County Airport Authority	Present
Debra Orner	Regional Transportation Comm. President and CEO, Regional COC	(A) Amy Bradley
Doug Tusing	Borough Representative: North	Absent
Paul Pioli	Township Representative: South	Present

Technical Committee

Vince Greenland	PennDOT District 9-0	Present
Shanna Murphy Sosko	Cambria County Planning Comm.	(A) Chris Allison
Vacant	Cambria County Planning Comm.	-
Dean Roberts (Via video)	PennDOT Program Center	Present
John Dubnansky	Johnstown Comm. and Econ. Dev.	Present
Jacob Zerby	Cambria County Planning Comm.	Present
Clifford Kitner	Cambria County Conservation And Recreation Authority	Present
Cory Cree	Johnstown/ Cambria County Airport Authority	Present
Kimberly Morley	Cambria County Transit Auth.	Absent
Dr. Robert Callahan	Borough Representative South	Present
Open Position	Township Representative North	-

Non-Voting Members

Eugene Porochniak	Federal Highway Admin.	Absent
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

Anne Stich	PennDOT District 9-0
Cristy Shumac	PennDOT District 9-0
Brian Funkhouser	Michael Baker International
Thomas Chernisky	Cambria County Commissioner
Vanessa Shamberg	(Via video)

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by David Kammerer. Mr. Zerby polled the members present.

**ACTING DISTRICT EXECUTIVE ROTATION**

Chair Kammerer noted that Tom Prestash moved on to District Two, and both Vince and Brad have acted as Chairmen in the past. Chair Kammerer would be Chair in August through the point where a permanent DE or Chairman would be announced.

**PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COMBINED MPO TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEES MEETING OF MAY 30, 2023**

The committee members reviewed the meeting minutes of May 30, 2023.

Dr. Callahan made a motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Imhoff, and passed unanimously.

**AMENDMENT VOTE FOR MPMS 120073 - Interchange Lighting (PENNDOT DISTRICT 9)**

Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0, discussed the 2024 Cambria Interchange lighting upgrade using the Congestion Reduction Program (CRP), which is a federally-funded program. Areas identified for the upgrade include US 22 and US 219 at the Sidman Interchange. Use of remaining 2023 funding and the full amount left in the 2024 funding would be utilized.

Mr. Kammerer noted looking forward to LED upgrades.

Ms. Lucey-Noll made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and passed unanimously.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION PACKAGE - (PENNDOT DISTRICT 9)**

Anne Stich, PennDOT District 9-0 asked members to review information regarding minor changes to the highways and bridges since the previous meeting.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **STATUS UPDATE ON THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)**

Jake Zerby, Cambria County Planning Commission, introduced Brian Funkhouser, Project Manager, Michael Baker International, who will be assisting with the update process.

Mr. Baker provided a history of his professional background as well as colleagues Casey Bottiger, transportation planner, Toby Fauver, former Deputy Secretary for multi-modal transportation and Julie Johnson, Wordsworth Communications.

He indicated work has begun on developing an existing conditions profile looking at the state of transportation in Cambria County. There are stakeholder interviews and public engagement through the process. He talked about a MetroQuest Survey, which would be initiated later on in the process to assist in identifying strategic directions.

Mr. Baker noted preliminary conversations with PennDOT's central office on project scoring and screening, looking at pavements and bridges and other types of projects more planning related, economic-development related and multi-modal related.

Representatives from various environmental resource agencies including the Fish and Boat Commission and EPA to review the proposed program and projects included with the plan to better understand how the proposed projects would affect various environmental resources.

Mr. Baker had discussion regarding the project schedule, which follows a process running anywhere from 18 to 24 months. There are 10 until June of 2024. He noted working closely with the MPO planning staff and the district and central offices to ensure the plan would be ready for adoption by June of 2024.

He talked about the federal planning factors as an organizing principles around, which to develop the goals and objectives for the plan including how both transportation and tourism help improve travel and tourism within the county. He noted that system operations is "more important than ever" in helping to develop the plan direction.

A management team has been organized and meeting on a regular basis and includes individuals from the MPO planning staff, central office and FHWA, which will "look over our shoulder and provide input".

Work will continue on the background profile. A summary overview of transportation transit issues within Cambria County will be the subject of a future meeting. The MetroQuest survey will be developed by a steering committee. A revenue forecast will be developed to determine the amount of revenue the MPO could reasonably expect to receive over the life of the plan, which is 2050.

Mr. Baker stated the work will get underway on the 2025 program update, which includes working closely with PennDOT and the district office. He noted Jake and Chris would be local points of contact for any questions or concerns.

### **STATUS UPDATE ON THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Mr. Zerby noted that information on the spreadsheet would be emailed to all members for review of all projects. He indicated that municipalities provided feedback. He noted the order of projects includes number one, Iron Street, D Street Extension and a culvert being used as a sidewalk there, and the Eighth Street Bridge. There was discussion regarding ownership of that culvert built in the '80s. A sidewalk in front of the D Street ballfield could be done as part of the project and the ballfield has agreed to maintain it.

There was discussion regarding the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority's project to extend off of Iron Street and the concern is that there are no parapets on the bridge, which is a safety issue.

Ms. Stich commented that the local bridge priorities do require some form of local match funding depending on the size of the structure. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Smith, Mr. Greenland stated Act 89 dollars could be used to counteract some of the local municipalities or fully fund a small bridge. There was further discussion regarding amount of funding per bridge size. It was noted that a bridge over 20 feet was eligible for federal funds, or 80 percent federal, 15 percent state, 5 percent local. Under 20 feet was no federal aid, 80 percent state, 20 percent local. Mr. Zerby indicated that commitment letters to contribute their portion of the funding were received from all municipalities.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Mr. Zerby provided an update of the Public Participation Plan and indicated that older regulations that no longer apply were deleted and current regulations would be the focus. Graphics were also updated. He will provide the plan to members for review. He stated the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) regulations are being changed out. Questions and comments are requested. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements could be included if necessary. The plan would be offered for public comment.

## **BRIEF UPDATE ON THE JOHN MURTHA JOHNSTOWN-CAMBRIA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Cory Cree, Airport Manager, provided an aerial view of the airport for further discussion. He noted that between 2019 and 2023 Hangar 15A and Building 15B were renovated, and in the fall of 2024, St. Francis University will be offering an air frame and power plant (A&P) maintenance program for which approximately \$2 million in grant funds will be used to renovate the hangar and building. The program would provide a certificate in aircraft mechanic.

Also in 2023 Hangar 15C would be converted into flight school for St. Francis students to obtain a pilot's license through Nulton Aviation and the university. Two corporate unit hangars will be constructed this year to bring more business for the airport. Runway lights were converted to LEDs last year. Crack repair and seal coating was done in the parking lots. A one-bay carwash building was constructed for the Hertz rental facility.

Mr. Cree stated, between 2022 and 2023, trees were cleared so there were no obstructions for aircraft landing or taking off. A terminal building renovation project just started converting all interior and outdoor lights to LEDs, and an upgrade as well was done to the terminal building's HVAC system. Crack repairs will be done to the taxiways and hangar areas.

He indicated that 129 acres in the Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) provides a property tax relief for companies that build at the airport. He noted submitting these 129 acres plus two hangar sites to the State Airport Land Development Zone (ALDZ) would provide a tax credit of \$2,100 per new employee that works at the airport instead of taking the KOZ opportunity.

This year and into next year Fox Run Road will be widened and reconstructed up to Hangar 15. In the future, a parking lot and reconfiguration of fencing will also be considered for Fox Run Road. Mr. Cree noted attracting a maintenance repair and overhaul facility or MRO at the airport, which could bring jobs to the area. Grant applications are being submitted to install a second Jet A 12,000 above-ground storage tank. Another parking lot for the terminal area and box hangars for aircraft are also being considered.

Mr. Cree indicated that 10,000 outgoing passengers per year provides \$1 million in FAA funding for the airfield, below provides \$150,000 annually. He commented that the 10,000 number should be hit by the end of the third quarter this year. A 75th anniversary celebration will be held on September 21, 2023 with a business after-hours event at the airport.

## **UPDATE OF CURRENT PENNDOT PROJECTS:**

Mr. Greenland had discussion regarding projects in design phase, including the second phase of the Johnstown Urban Industrial Park Connector Street and issues due to the Cambria Iron site being a National Historic Landmark; a series of bridges on Route 22 from Cresson to Ebensburg, which have clearance restrictions; four-lane facility projects, including Route 56 from Widman Street to Walters Avenue; a connection between Dale Borough and Widman Street; Route 219 from Sunset Road to Nixon Avenue resurfacing.

Future projects include the resurfacing of PA 164 to the Blair County line; resurfacing, drainage improvements from Lamberd Avenue to Alvin Street; extending the turn lane at the Oakridge/Leventry intersection; Alvin Street to Industrial Park Road; a widening project on 756 near Walmart; a center turn lane in the Vo-Tech Drive into Industrial Park Road area; Forest Hills Drive, Adams Township; widening of Route 160 over the Little Conemaugh River; Route 219 from Route 56 to Route 53, Richland, Adams and Croyle Township.

Mr. Roberts had discussion regarding the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program (NEVI) projects, which did not include Cambria County in this round. He referred to it as Fast Charging Direct Current (FCDC) taking no longer to charge a vehicle than what it would take to fill it up with gas. Additional information would be provided to those interested. Mr. Zerby noted interest in a NEVI for Cambria County in the near future.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **REMAINING 2023 MEETINGS:**

It was noted that all remaining 2023 meeting would be held at the CamTran Office commencing at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

### **OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

There was discussion regarding the condition of the bridge across Route 219 at the Galleria Mall. The contractor has been contacted regarding the defective work and a corrective plan of action would be provided.

There was discussion regarding the detour on Route 271 near Waterford and Mr. Chernisky provided positive feedback regarding placement of signage near Ebensburg.

Vanessa Shamberg, Federal Highway Administration, who was present via video explained federal grant opportunities available, including the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program and the SMART Grants Program. She will provide further information regarding both grants.

Mr. Imhoff noted that tomorrow, August 30, 2023, 4:00 p.m., a review of the final concept design for the RAISE grant project will be held in Central Park regarding the Main Street and Central Park designs.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pioli. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.