



NORTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2009

A meeting of the Rural Transportation Planning Committee was held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission's main office in Ridgway, Pennsylvania. Chairman Matt Quesenberry welcomed everyone and general introductions followed.

**Voting Committee Members
& Alternates**

Jodi Brennan, Clearfield County Planning
Dick Castonguay, Sandy Township
Dave Cook, PennDOT 10-0
Charlotte Dietrich, Potter County Planning
Brian Fenton, ATA (Alt.)
Kristin Hullihen, Jefferson Co. Dept. Develop.
Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office
Christopher Hauser, Continental 1
Bob Imhof, NCPRPDC
Amy Kessler, NCPRPDC
Deborah Lunden, McKean County Planning
Karen Michael (Alt.), PennDOT 2-0
Matt Quesenberry, Elk County Planning
Vickie Rusnak, PennDOT 2-0
Dan Salm, Allegheny National Forest

Ex Officio Members and Guests

Sara Andrews, Bradford OECD
Kathleen Bobenreth, DuBois-Jefferson Courier
A.J. Coval, Lee Simpson Engineers
Tracy Frampton, The EADS Group
Brian Funkhauser, Gannett Fleming
Dennis Lebo, Gannett Fleming
Gretchen Rokosky, Bradford Era
Dan Walston, Federal Highway Administration

NCPRPDC Staff

Glenna Sherry, Recording Secretary

Approval of March 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The Chair asked for approval of the March 10, 2009 Rural Transportation Planning Committee meeting minutes, if there were no corrections or additions. **With no corrections or additions brought forth, Dick Castonguay made a motion to approve the March 2009 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Debbie Lunden and so moved.**

2009 TIP Amendments

Frank Hampton gave an update on the 2009 TIP amendments for actions taken between March 09, 2009 and June 09, 2009. To aid him with the update, Frank circulated handouts detailing amendments, general and transit administrative actions, and an executive summary (see attached) that

included an update on the Economic Recovery funds on the back page. With the addition of Economic Recovery funds, over \$7 million in FY '09, funding has been freed up allowing other projects already on the TIP to be backfilled. Since the March meeting, the North Central Transportation Improvement Program balance has increased by approximately \$6.8 million due to the ARRA, de-obligations, I-80 Noise Barrier, Airport Road, Bradford Bypass, Clarrington Bridge Deck, and runway improvements for the Bradford Regional Airport. Actual amendments (additions to the TIP) totaled \$14,434,810.59.

Matt asked how the amendments were introduced. Amy replied that some of the projects had been line items and, because of freed up funding, actual projects from those line items were able to be added to the TIP. Frank added that there are many other reasons why projects become amendments; for example, some projects had been de-obligated or have been under/over bid. The amendments and administrative actions were briefly reviewed and any questions were answered. **Dick Castonguay made a motion to approve the TIP amendments as presented. Motion was seconded by Charlotte Dietrich and unanimously carried.**

A motion was requested to approve the administrative actions. Amy interjected to highlight to the committee that the North Central LED Signal project will be bid and is on the list as an administrative action. This project was carried out through LTAP coordinator, Barry Mayes, for the five counties in PennDOT District 2-0 (Jefferson County is being handled through District 10-0). Barry met with the municipalities to look at upgrading existing overhead signals by changing them from incandescent to LED technology, thereby making them more energy efficient and safe. The bid let date is July 30, 2009. **A motion to approve the administrative actions was made by Deborah Lunden and seconded by Dick Castonguay. Motion was unanimously carried.**

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the transit economic recovery administrative actions (see attached). **Brian Fenton made the motion to accept the transit administrative actions. Motion was seconded by Kristin Hullihen and unanimously carried.**

Frank reminded the Committee that the deadline for ARRA Discretionary funding applications is September 15, 2009. Amy noted that this deadline concerned the \$1.5 million in Tiger Discretionary Grants, about which she had previously emailed information to the Committee. A discussion began on the Tiger Discretionary Grant Program. Dan Walston reported that on May 18, 2009, the \$1.5 billion Tiger Grant Program was posted on the Federal Register. This was in accordance with the President signing the new American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (February 17, 2009). Dan agreed with Amy's former statement that the competition across the nation would be intense for these funds. Projects must have a significant impact on the area, region and across the nation and include, but are not limited to: highway or bridge projects, public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail transportation projects, and port infrastructure investments. He reiterated that September 15, 2009 is the application deadline. The program will be managed and coordinated by the Secretary of Transportation LSD who can be contacted at tigergrants@dot.gov. Dan continued saying the primary selection criteria would be based on long-term outcomes of job creation and economic stimulus, and secondary criteria would be based on innovative work and partnership level at the local level. More information on these criteria can be obtained by requesting a federal notice. If anyone plans to submit a Tiger Grant application, please let Amy know.

Amy noted that there were several additional TIP amendments needing to be addressed by the Committee. The first action regarded low-bid Economic Recovery Funds and the need to backfill these resources. She pointed out to the Committee that we are moving through previously identified recovery projects and the next project ready to go has been identified as the Johnsonburg-to- Wilcox Resurfacing

Project. Vickie reported that an estimated \$5 million would be coming from low-bid savings and the balance from the 2010 TIP reserve line item. An August 20, 2009 let date is anticipated. **A motion to add the Johnsonburg-to-Wilcox Resurfacing Project to the TIP, utilizing low-bid savings, was made by Charlotte Dietrich, seconded by Frank Hampton and so moved.**

Amy asked if any low-bid savings projects from District 10-0 needed to be discussed. The two projects being considered for the approximately \$1 million in low-bid savings are: the resurfacing of State Route 36, and ADA curb ramps in Brockway Borough. Since there is not enough money for both projects, Dave Cook advised that there was nothing to approve at this time; however, the District will continue to evaluate and bring recommendations to the Committee at a later date.

Vickie brought the Committee's attention to an additional request to add the SR3007 (group 2-09-P02) project to the TIP. This project includes adding the construction of eight structurally deficient bridge preservation projects located throughout the region (2 in Clearfield, 2 in Elk and 4 in Potter). A brief discussion followed. A let date is scheduled for September 2009. **A motion to accept adding the group 2-09-P02 project to the TIP was made by Jodi Brennan, seconded by Debbie Lunden and unanimously carried.**

Amy provided the Committee with a handout affording a status update of the local bridge retroactive reimbursement projects (see attached). North Central and PennDOT have been working closely with the municipalities on these projects and, based on the projects, are making a recommendation to add numbers 2 through 8 to the TIP. This funding will come from a local bridge line item and must be obligated by August 2009. Project numbers 2 through 8 have progressed enough to be obligated by this date. **A motion to accept these projects being added to the TIP was made by Frank Hampton and seconded by Kristin Hullihen. Motion was unanimously carried.**

The last amendment item to be addressed by the Committee was the recently announced Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) and Federal Safe Routes to School (FSRTS) funding. The North Central region was recently notified that three projects received funding and must be added to the TIP. These projects included:

1. Punxsutawney Borough PCTI – Upgrade local transportation network (\$607,200)
2. North Central RPO PCTI – Existing and planned land use (\$285,000)
3. City of Bradford FSRTS – Replace sidewalks and curbs (\$911,268)

These projects must adhere to strict obligation dates and applicants have been instructed to work closely with the appropriate PennDOT District and North Central. **Dick Castonquay made a motion to approve adding the Punxsutawney Borough PCTI, City of Bradford Federal Safe Routes to School, and the North Central RPO PCTI project to the TIP. Motion was seconded by Brian Fenton and unanimously carried.**

The bridge repair contract was the final amendment presented for a number of bridges within District 2-0. Vickie noted that the bridges in question were considered a 0-1 priority (see-attached map) and must be completed within a year based on PennDOTs risk assessment. Approximately \$3.5 million will be drawn down Act 44 funding. A September-October 2009 let date has been scheduled. **Jodi Brennan made a motion to add the bridge repair contract to the TIP. Motion was seconded by Kristin Hullihen and unanimously carried.**

Brian Fenton reported that ATA has additional projects that they are requesting be added to the TIP. He gave a brief overview of the projects. Amy asked Brian to contact her once the projects have been approved for Recovery funding by Bureau of Public Transit.

STC Public Hearings

Amy said the STC Hearings have been scheduled and oral testimony (5 minute time frame per project) for the North Central RPO has been scheduled for August 20, 2009 at the Hilton Garden Inn located in St. College. Anyone who would like to give testimony should coordinate with Amy. Guidelines for presenting testimony was previously sent to committee members and are available on our website. Written testimony is also accepted.

Update from Committee Members

Kurt Barclay gave a brief update to the Committee regarding a region-wide effort to identify locally owned bridges under 20 feet in length. He explained the process that is being used to identify these locations and current status of the data collection. Phase 2 of the project was also recently approved.

Sara Andrews informed the committee that the Tuna Valley project is moving forward however they have run into a shortage of funds based on current bid estimates. She inquired about the possibility of additional funds being available to complete the project. The amount needed is \$44,245. Amy and Vickie both stated that all of the region's Transportation Enhancement funding has been obligated to other projects. One possible solution discussed to cover the funding shortfall, if agreed to by the applicant, would be to remove funding from Bradford's Community Parks Trail Project, which is not scheduled to be bid until fall 2010. This would not affect any other projects, would get the Tuna Valley project completed and allow those working on the Community Parks trail to scale back their project and/or secure additional resources if needed. Sara did not see this as a problem and would work with PennDOT's project manager and the applicant.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Kristin Hullihen made a motion to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn was seconded Jodi Brennan.