

Adams County Transportation Planning Organization (ACTPO)  
Minutes for the Committee Meeting on October 28, 2020

**Attendance:**

**Voting Members**

Bob Gordon	Hamiltonban Township, (Chair)
David Scotty Bolton	Abbottstown Borough, ACBA (Vice-Chair)
David Laughman	Arendtsville Borough
Robert Jackson	Liberty Township
Jim Martin	Adams County Commissioner
Beth Nidam	CPTA – Rabbittransit
Robin Fitzpatrick	Adams County Economic Alliance
Anthony Sansone	PennDOT Central Office
Nathan Walker	PennDOT District 8-0
David Hazlett	Carroll Valley Borough
Charles “Skip” Strayer	Adams County Planning Commission

**Legislative Representatives**

Bev Frey	Senator Mastriano’s Office
Catherine Wallen	Representative Ecker’s Office

**Adams County Office of Planning and Development**

Sherri Clayton-Williams  
Andrew Merkel  
Laura Neiderer

**Others**

Rich Farr	CPTA - Rabbittransit
Judie Butterfield	Gettysburg Borough
Kandi Fox	Commuter Services
Will Cameron	County Bridge Engineer
Michelle Tarquino	PennDOT District 8-0
Jeff Puher	PennDOT District 8-0
Anne Geiger	East Berlin Borough
Charlotte Shaffer	Conewago Township Supervisor (Chair)
Jim Van Dyke	Upper Adams School District – Transportation Director

**Media**

None

### **1. Introductory Comments**

Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order just after 1:00pm. Ms. Neiderer took roll-call. It was established that a quorum was present.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bolton motioned to approve the July 29, 2020 minutes. Mr. Martin seconded, and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

### **3. Staff Updates - ACOPD**

- a. Mr. Merkel reported on the list of development projects that have submitted applications for Highway Occupancy Permits. Mr. Laughman asked if the project list is a standard flow of projects, an increase in current projects, or a reignition of projects that were put hold. He made note that the list of projects seems longer this time around. Mr. Merkel confirmed that the list of projects is longer and that possibly the changes to the PennDOT system could be playing a roll in that, as automatic notifications are now generated. He stated that in the past when the system was not as automated, the MPO may not have seen the projects that didn't make it to the stage in the process which required a meeting that included the MPO. He mentioned that there does seem to be an uptick in the number, however it's not clear exactly why that is. He mentioned that the availability of particular types of units available in the real estate market could also be playing a factor.
- b. Mr. Cameron reported that the 2020 interim bridge inspections are wrapping up, and there have been no major changes to bridge conditions. He noted that the routine biennial inspections will begin in the spring of 2021, which is the full cycle of inspections. He reported that construction has proceeded on Adams County bridge Number 5, the Shorb's Mill Bridge rehabilitation project and it is expected to be completed in the summer of 2021. Lastly, they are preparing the design of the next bridge maintenance for the county owned bridges. Mr. Bolton asked if there are any resources for the local bridges that need repairs, but not currently programmed. Mr. Merkel explained that three of the five local bridges that are rated as poor condition are being programmed. Bridge funds were affected by the formula change made during the last TIP update, but we have tried to keep some of the local bridges programmed. Currently, the Country Club Rd bridge and Golden Rd bridge are next on the list as funds become available on the TIP. Mr. Laughman asked how the budget reduction will affect the projects already programmed on the TIP, if there are no funds available for that part of the TIP. Mr. Merkel said hopefully the cycle of one local bridge being in construction and one local bridge being in the design phase can continue. Mr. Laughman clarified his question and asked how the lost revenue from the state shutdown will affect the TIP. Mr. Merkel noted that PennDOT is making some efforts to adjust project amounts, but the effects are not yet known.
- c. Mr. Merkel reported on Eastern Regional Operations Plan that addresses reliability, mobility, and congestion. The plan covers the major projects listed in Adams county including; Gettysburg Signal Improvements, US 15 Corridor Incident Management, and US 30 Fiber Deployment. Mr. Bolton mentioned that Community Media is working on a broadband project utilizing fiber along Rt 30 and asked to be informed of any updates on the topic.

#### **4. Transit Update**

- a. Ms. Fox reported for Commuter Service of Pennsylvania. She reported that 86 new members joined last month. HACC and Gettysburg College are participating in college month promotions. Telework is still the leading mode. Commuter Services is looking at transit feasibility to Plainville Brands, as many employees travel from York County area. There has been an 18% increase in commuters tracking their commutes from January to August.
- b. Mr. Farr reported for CPTA. Ridership is at about 70%. Adams County outperformed all other fixed route services on a percentage basis. Service is operating at about 60%. CPTA received CARES funding directly from the federal government. The funds are being used to support operations, PPE purchases, security and camera systems, and call center upgrades so that representatives can work from home if the need be. A grant is being submitted to FTA for plexiglass barriers for the drivers. A pilot application has been submitted to PennDOT for fixed route service connecting Gettysburg and Hanover through New Oxford, focusing on employment opportunities. At Home in Adams County collaborated on that study. CPTA has also advanced different programs for veterans, including shared ride for transportation to medical services and a fixed route reimbursement program.

#### **5. Long Range Transportation Plan Update – Adams County**

- a. Mr. Merkel shared the list of individuals who volunteered for the sub-committee which will help provide feedback for the LRTP update. They are: Bob Gordon, David Bolton, David Laughman, Anne Geiger, Beth Nidam, Robin Fitzpatrick, Michelle Tarquino, Jeff Puher, and Jamie Lemon.
- b. Mr. Merkel shared the draft outline of the LRTP update. Mr. Merkel included that staff has been in contact with PennDOT and other MPOs regarding a regional travel model effort, however it is not certain that the timing will allow for the inclusion of Adams County. Mr. Merkel noted that travel demand modeling is important because it depicts where commutes occur in the region. He noted that 65% of the workforce in Adams County commutes outside of the county.
- c. Ms. Neiderer reported on the Title VI Review that the MPO underwent in August and September. Many documents regarding the MPOs non-discrimination process have been revised or are in the process of being revised.
- d. Ms. Neiderer reported on the update of the Public Participation Plan and the specific topics of the plan that will be updated. Mr. Laughman asked if there is a penalty if the MPO doesn't receive participation from a particular population. Ms. Neiderer explained that the Title VI review is for the benefit of the MPO in the event there is a legal suit regarding discrimination and there is no penalty for non-compliance. She stated that although the MPO will do its best to provide opportunities for meaningful access to participation for all groups, there is no quota for receiving participation from individual populations.
- e. Ms. Neiderer reported on the update of the Limited English Proficiency Plan and the specific topics of the plan that will be updated. She stated that staff may seed advisement on various topics related to the plan, including complaint logs and LEP frequency logs.

## **6. Performance Measures**

Mr. Merkel reported on the 2019 performance measures for bridges and pavement. He mentioned that in most cases, the performance of bridges in Adams County is better than the state average. He also reported that pavement conditions in Adams County are better than the state average in all categories.

## **7. 2019-2022 TIP Update - PennDOT**

Mr. Sansone explained that there were 6 modifications made to the 2019-2022 TIP since the July ACTPO meeting. There is no action needed for administrative modifications and the 2019-2022 TIP is closed out. Mr. Bolton commented that it is nice to see some projects coming in under budget.

## **8. 2021-2024 TIP Update – PennDOT**

- a. Mr. Sansone explained that a TIP amendment is proposed to add the construction phase of the RT94 and RT234 intersection project to the 2021-2024 TIP. He mentioned that it does not change the schedule of any other projects on the TIP. Mr. Bolton made a motion to approve the amendment and Mr. Strayer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Mr. Sansone reported on 4 administrative modifications to the 2021-2024 TIP.
- c. Mr. Merkel explained that a process has been outlined by PennDOT to identify and prioritize projects for Highway Safety Improvement Funds (HSIP). He went on to explain that there are specific eligibility requirements for using HSIP funds for a project and MPO Staff met with PennDOT staff to review eligible projects in the county. He stated that staff will next meet with specific municipalities to review the projects. In January, staff will then make recommendations to the board for programming. Mr. Walker added that in July when ACTPO last met, there were no eligible projects identified for HSIP funds, so PennDOT District 8-0 staff looked at additional locations which resulted in positive cost-benefit analysis.
- d. Mr. Merkel presented the Federal Planning Finding Letter from the Federal Highway Administration. He explained the letter provides feedback and recommendations to the state on the planning process. He mentioned some recommendations in the letter include improvements to the long range transportation planning process, integration of performance based planning and programming and asset management, recommendations for public safety, air quality safety groups, and efforts related to public outreach. He noted in the past, the Federal Planning Finding Letter has resulted in dramatic changes to the planning process.

## **9. PennDOT Comments**

Mr. Walker reported that there have been no projects let since that last meeting in July, mostly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are four projects due to be let between now and February 2021. Mr. Gordon mentioned that the roundabout was completed in Hampton and he heard positive feedback about the projects from a resident.

## **10. FHWA Comments – No Comments**

## **11. Public Comments**

- a. Mr. Gordon explained that two written comments were received, one positive and one negative. Mr. Merkel explained that the comments were received outside of the public comment period, so they are being presented to the board. He also mentioned that because of the virtual nature of the meetings and outreach efforts currently, written comments can be submitted prior to meeting and staff will present them to the board ahead of meetings.
- b. Ms. Butterfield reported that Gettysburg Borough will be submitting an application for funding to the PennDOT Multi-modal Transportation Fund for the Gettysburg Interloop Phase B2. She noted that Susan Naugle is the contact for the grant application.
- c. Mr. Bolton noted that Abbottstown Borough is also working on an application for the Multi-modal Funding Grant for North and South German Street. The borough is seeking improvement, including resurfacing, bike lanes, and sidewalks.

## **12. Member Comments**

- a. Mr. Laughman asked if there is something the MPO needs to do regarding its status as a non-attainment status of orphan maintenance. Mr. Merkel explained the designation relates to air quality performance and the designations determine if MPOs receive CMAQ funds. He went on to explain that orphan maintenance areas were areas that were noncompliant with either ozone or particulate matter standards, but because of court rulings that changed the standards, some areas were re-designated. He said it does change some technical aspects, however, the biggest impact to the board that the MPO no longer receives CMAQ funds.
- b. Mr. Laughman asked if any CARES funding would go to our highways and benefit Adams County's TIP. Mr. Merkel deferred the question to Mr. Walker, who noted that at this point, and to his knowledge, PennDOT is receiving the same allocation of funds.

## **13. Next Meeting, Time and Place**

Mr. Merkel presented the tentative meeting schedule for 2021. The next meeting will be held January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00 pm. The format is to-be-determined. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.