

**Northern Tier RPO Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, June 6th, 2022
10 AM – 11 AM
Bradford County EOC Building
Towanda, PA

Attendance:
Brian Baker, Northern Tier
Brett Voloshin, Northern Tier
Grant Smith, Northern Tier
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4.0
Matt Williams, Bradford County Planning
Rick Biery, Bradford County
Todd Wright, BeST Transit
Leigh McCullen, BMTS
Christopher King, PennDOT District 4.0
Kaye Aumick, Tioga County
Lynelle Farber, Wyoming County
Justin Batiuk, PennDOT District 3.0
Eric High, PennDOT District 3.0
Chuck Dillon, Senator Cris Dush
Emma Pugh, PennDOT District 4.0
Michael Gismondi, PennDOT Central Office

I. Items For Discussion

a. Approve April 4th, 2022 meeting minutes

Vote to approve the April meeting minutes was passed due to a lack of quorum.

b. 2021-2024 TIP Administrative Actions & Amendments

District 3.0 Amendments & Admin Actions

Justin Batiuk explained the addition of SR 3030 over Tributary Alba Creek. The project exists on the TIP document; however, this action exists to add a PE phase. An increase of \$60,000 was added to SR 2024 slide repaid project due to work of the consultant.

Addition of a new slide project on SR 362 in Shippen Township. A cost increase on SR 220 from Old Route 220 to Route 42 for \$187,000. Project SR 49 over Calunesky river was increased by \$450,000 due to costs associated with the bridge. Lastly, a decrease to meet the estimate for SR1041 over Susquehanna River to \$300,000. Reviewing these actions was for informational purposes only as these actions were already voted on at the April meeting.

District 4.0 Amendments & Admin Actions

Steve Fisher explained the Admin Actions of District 4.0. This is for informational purposes at this time. First, advance the construction phase of SR 6 paving in Wyoming County in order to hit their metric for NHPP projects. Adding construction phases of two more projects from 2018. Adding PE phase of SR 267 over Meshoppen Creek, and SR 1015 over Fieldbrook creek. Adding Right of Way phases to three projects on SR 706,

and increasing the PRA phase of MS4 inspections. Adding PE Phase of SR 29 paving through Susquehanna County.

c. 2023 TIP Adoption

Vote to approve the 2023-2026 TIP adoption was passed due to lack of quorum. An E-ballot will be sent out to all voting members after the conclusion of the meeting.

Carey Mullins asked Brian Baker to discuss the public comment period for the 2023 TIP document. Baker explained that the public comment period ran from May 2nd to May 31st 2022, and that Northern Tier did not receive any public comments, but received comments from PennDOT Central office. Mullins described a public narrative change from their FTA reps. Other issues with BOF and BRIP funding not matching financial guidance. Baker continued by describing the public comment meeting where District 4.0 reps and James Lowenstein from the Wyalusing Rocket attended the meeting. Northern Tier, along with District 4.0, addressed Lowenstein's questions at the meeting. One question to note regarded the potential roundabout at Route 6 and Route 187 in Wysox Township.

d. Local Bridge Subcommittee reorganization

Baker announces the kick off meeting of the Local Bridge Subcommittee following this meeting at 1:30 PM. The meeting will be held in person at the Bradford County EOC building and online over Microsoft Teams. The aim of the meeting is to review the LRTP, and other necessary documentation to develop a process and criteria to add local bridges to the TIP document.

e. Supplemental Funding Update: Marsh Creek, Tunkhannock Mobility

Marsh Creek Updates

Kaye Aumick has no further updates to address at this meeting.

Tunkhannock Mobility Updates

Lynelle Farber expresses that the committee are aiming for their final public meeting to occur during the week of June 20th. No other updates to address at this time.

II. County & Agency Reports

a. Legislative Report

Chuck Dillon describes that this is the time for budget season. There have been some issues in the legislature so the bridge funding that PennDOT request through the PPP funding has not been completed as of yet.

b. FHWA Report

No one present from federal highways to report.

c. PennDOT Report

i. Central Office

Mullins has no updates from central office to discuss.

ii. District 3.0

Eric High is introduced as the new district executive and he takes a moment to introduce himself and express his excitement for this opportunity.

Batiuk explains two updates regarding projects in District 3.0. Route 6 and 187 intersection crossing data is collected and a meeting is scheduled with the rail line operator to continue exploring roundabout option. SR 3002 in New Albany, the District has elected to move forward with improvements to the existing road to reopen the roads. There is website in development detailing these improvements along with the SR 3004 detour improvements. District 3.0 is also developing an Every Door Direct Mailer as well.

Matt Williams informs Batiuk that the Wysox Sand and Gravel company is looking into adding additional road siding on their property, which is near the roundabout project intersection.

Dillon inquires about an update regarding the intersection realignment project on SR 6 and SR 660 outside of Wellsboro, as well as the repaving of SR 6. Construction of SR 6 and 660 should begin in the summer of 2023 as long as no further issues appear, and construction of repaving SR 6 should have already started prior to this meeting.

iii. District 4.0

Emma Pugh chimes in that there are no further updates from District 4.0

d. County Reports

Williams reports on bridge projects within Bradford County. Bridge 21 on Kellogg Road is anticipated to be open to traffic on June 20th. This bridge project was started back in 2018. Bradford County planning has a maintenance package out with Larson Design Group to address six additional structurally deficient bridges, which will bring the number of structurally deficient bridges in the county down to five remaining. Bridge 38 is still awaiting NEPA clearance, Bridge 13 had a field view scheduled in coordination with FHWA that went well, and that closes the updates for Bradford County.

No further updates from Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga or Wyoming Counties.

e. BeST Reports

Todd Wright reports that BeST relocated their administrative and call staff from Green's Landing and Williamsport to Towanda. BeST's goal is to improve the Green's Landing facility to expand maintenance and training facilities for bus drivers. The Tioga County facility is in the design phases to expand the building for more office space and a wash bay for the busses.

f. BMTS Report

Leigh McCullen reports that BMTS is working on their TIP document as well. BMTS are behind their schedule but hope to have a public comment period in July followed by the adoption of their TIP in August.

g. NTRPDC Report

Baker does not have any reports or updates from Northern Tier.

III. Other Items For Discussion

Mullins suggests the idea that voting members of the committee can send alternates to attend future meetings to fulfill the necessary quorum, since the committee has struggled to have a full quorum at previous meetings due to Covid. Baker explains the process Northern Tier follows to appoint voting members of their committees. Mullins agrees and expresses his opinion that these meetings may not have to occur every two months. Williams suggests to meet with County commissioners to express the importance of attending these meetings. Batiuk asks Baker for a copy of the of the bylaws to check the verbiage regarding the appointment of voting members or if they can send alternates. McCullen explains that BMTS does allow for voting members to send alternates to vote, but she believes that the voting members tend to forget the weight and importance of their position as voting members on this committee.

IV. Public Discussion

No public discussions, comments, or questions occurred at this point of the meeting.

V. Adjournment & Next Scheduled Meeting

The next RTAC meeting will occur on August 8th, 2022; however, this meeting may be canceled if there is a lack of topics to discuss. With hearing no further comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned by Brian Baker at 10:47 AM.