

Northern Tier RPO Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 12, 2019
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Northern Tier Offices
Towanda, PA

Attendance:

Brian Baker, Northern Tier
Ethan Sexton, Northern Tier
Katie Prichard, Northern Tier
Dakoatah Manning, Northern Tier
Matt Williams, Bradford County Planning
Lynnelle Farber, Wyoming County Planning
Alan Hall, Susquehanna County Commissioner
Mark Hamilton, Tioga County Commissioner
Brian Hoffman, Sullivan County Commissioner
Fred Jugan, Sullivan County
Jack Conroy, Susquehanna County
Alex Komar, Susquehanna County
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Justin Batiuk, PennDOT District 3-0
John Frankosky, PennDOT District 4-0
Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0
Jason Krise, Representative Tina Pickett
Alexandra Allen, Representative Jonathan Fritz
Arnie Kriner, Senator Yaw
Kevin Kilpatrick, BEST
Al Quimby, Develop Tioga
Tim Smith, Gannett Fleming
Cara Lane, Gannett Fleming

I. Items for Discussion

A. Approve April 8, 2019 Minutes

- Justin asked that the “I-99 study is still ongoing and on track to be done fall 2019” statement in the last meeting minutes to be moved under the Central Office heading. Arnie suggested that Congressman Marino be removed from the distribution list and Congressman Keller be added. A motion was made by Carey Mullins to accept the June meeting minutes, seconded by Matt Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

B. 2019 – 2022 TIP Administrative Actions and Amendments –

District 3.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

- All administrative actions, no amendments necessary
- Project #1 & 2 – Cash flow money
- Project #6 & 7 – Adding study phase
- Project #11 – Adding preliminary engineering
- Project #12 – Reducing ROW phase to meet updated estimate
- Project #14 – Cash flow preliminary engineering funds out of FFY 2019 into FFY 2021. Funds will be carried over at the draft TIP update.

District 4.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

- Administrative actions
- Project #1 – 8 – Fiscal adjustments for future actions.
- Project #10 – 15 – Added phases to process agreements
- Project #17 – 20 – Added phases to process agreements

C. 2020 – 2022 UPWP Update

- A copy of the UPWP draft was handed out. Northern Tier will apply for supplemental funding for projects such as a Bridge Redundancy Study. Carey will receive a draft of the UPWP on August 16th. The draft will be reviewed at the October RTAC meeting and sent to the executive committee for their meeting in December. The UPWP is required to be completed by January 30, 2020, but will be completed a month and a half prior. Brian Baker reviewed the projects that have been completed and will be completed. Brian asked for suggestions for any project ideas. Carey suggested adding in how the plans will be implemented.

D. 2021 TIP update Financial Guidance

- The kickoff meeting was in July. Funding is being refocused to interstates rather than bridges and highways. However, Northern Tier RPO has been affected less than other RPO's in the state. Carey stated that some projects may be deferred on the next TIP update. Commissioner Hall had concerns about the money being redirected to the interstates instead of being used for maintenance on existing roads in Susquehanna County. Brian explained that maintenance dollars are separate and the RTAC deals with money towards highways and bridges. Commissioner Hall stated that many local bridges in Susquehanna County are not being added to the TIP. Carey explained that it is a statewide issue, not just county. The problematic 706 project in Montrose was mentioned, but was stated it is currently in a legal situation. Commissioner Hall stated that funding to Susquehanna County seems to be limited more so than other counties. Brian explained that a formula is used in the financial guidance that all planning partners in the state have input. Commissioner Hall stated that projects on the maintenance and reconstruction maps never seem to get done. Brian stated that funds are limited not all projects can be addressed. Matt voiced his concern over the addition of miles to NHS and NHPP leading to higher performance metrics but less money to keep them up to standards. Justin Batiuk stated that District 3-0 is having difficulty hiring new people and losing experienced people to retirement. The lack of knowledge and people is leading to more consultant work instead of in house design, which is much more expensive. The funding is not going as far as it would for projects done in house. Commissioner Hall stated that more funds need to be found and the situation cannot continue to be accepted. Marie told Commissioner Hall that Representative Fritz was appointed to a new task force that may take on this issue. Commissioner Hall stated that it needs to be taken to higher levels. Commissioner Hall gave an example of a dirt road that the Secretary traveled on and it was suggested that millings and tar be mixed to make a blacktop road. They put the millings on the road instead of mixing in the tar, causing the millings to plug the drainage system. Brian stated that it is maintenance issue and the RTAC does not control what the maintenance crew does. The Lawton section of 706 was mentioned as a problem area, but it is currently on the TIP. Brian stated that the RTAC does not have the authority to push the contractor into working on a project. The committee only spends the funds that are allocated through financial guidance from the state and federal government. Increases in revenue would be a way to address this problem, but it can only come from higher levels. Carey stated that he would take Commissioner Hall's comments and concerns back to Central Office. Brian stated that he would be setting up meetings with the counties to discussion the TIP update and rollover projects.

E. LRTP Update, Gannett Fleming Consultant and NTRPDC Staff

- A schedule and summary of the completed draft was passed out to the members. Tim reviewed what was completed in the draft and the changes from the last LRTP update. Tim requested input on new or major changes for industries in the area. New Fortress near Wyalusing, a sand facility near Tunkhannock, Diaz industrial park in South Montrose, RHL on the Gibson exit, and an LMG station near New Milford were developments mentioned to have an impact on the area. Northern Tier is on track with their portion of the LRTP. Tim and Cara discussed the performance measures

with the group and took suggestions for potential local performance measures. Gannett Fleming created a transportation survey to identify transportation needs.

I. LTAP Training & Equipment Show Updates

- The Susquehanna-Wyoming equipment show was held on Thursday, July 25th at Lazybrook Park. There were 43 vendors and 250 attendees. The Tioga-Bradford show will be held on August 22nd at Alpine Park in Troy and currently has 36 vendors.

J. Community Development GIS, What is Going On?

- Ethan had a few inquiries about grant opportunities, but no responses after guidance and matching requirements were sent to them. Katie has been heavily involved with the LRTP update.

II. Reports

A. Legislative Report:

Rep Karen Boback – No one present

Rep. Tina Pickett – Representative Pickett is meeting about once a week with PennDOT and gas companies in Susquehanna County.

Rep. Jonathan Fritz – Representative Fritz has been named to the new House Transportation Infrastructure Task Force. They are currently looking into privatizing the turnpike to free up a large amount of money.

Rep. Clint Owlett – No one present

Senator Gene Yaw – Senator Yaw’s bill on the exemption of dairy haulers during travel bans passed, but was then vetoed by the governor.

Senator Lisa Baker – No one present

Senator Joseph Scarnati – No one present

Congressman Marino – No one present

B. FHWA Report

- No one present

C. PENNDOT Reports

Central Office – FHWA deemed the area for the I-99 study a mountainous region, so more funds were added to the project. It is still on track to be done fall 2019.

Dist. 3.0 – No comment

Dist. 4.0 – No comment

D. County Reports

1. Bradford County – Bridge bundle is underway. They are getting ready to start pouring abutments at county bridge 11. The box culvert project is moving along. The box was set last week and it will be open before school starts. The county would like a concurrence on the needs analysis from FHWA for county bridge 38.

2. Sullivan County – Commissioner Hoffman stated that there was a 180 day delay for the Broker System. BeST Transit is expanding fixed routes.
3. Susquehanna County – No comment
4. Tioga County – No comment
5. Wyoming County – There was a kickoff meeting last week for the Greenways Trail and Open Space Plan and it was well attended. A trail easement agreement to further the Iroquois Trail is currently being worked on.

E. BEST Report – No comment

F. BMTS Reports – No one present

G. NTRPDC Reports – Brian Baker stated that the next meeting is on October 21, 2019.

IV. Other Items for Discussion – none.

V. Public Discussion – Lunch was provided by the NTRPDC.

VI. Adjournment - With no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM