

Northern Tier RPO Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 5, 2020
10AM – 10:45 PM
Northern Tier Office (Conference Call)
Towanda, PA

Attendance:

Brian Baker, Northern Tier
Katie Prichard, Northern Tier
Matt Williams, Bradford County
Rick Biery, Bradford County
Dakoatah Manning, Tioga County Planning
Bob Getz, Sullivan County
Mark Hamilton, Tioga County Commissioner
Alan Hall, Susquehanna County Commissioner
Kaye Aumick, Tioga County
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Michael Gismondi, PennDOT Central Office
Justin Batiuk, PennDOT District 3-0
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0
Emma Pugh, PennDOT District 4-0
Jamie Lemon, FHWA
Jason Krise, Representative Tina Pickett
Jean Ruhf, Wyoming County EMVB
Al Quimby, Develop Tioga
Leigh McCullen, BMTS

I. Items for Discussion

A. Approve June 8, 2020 Minutes

- A motion was made by Rick Biery to accept the June meeting minutes, seconded by Al Quimby, the motion carried unanimously.

B. 2019 – 2022 TIP Administrative Actions and Amendments –

- District 3.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions
 - All Cash flow for the end of the fiscal year
- District 4.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions
 - Minor actions and cash flow for the end of the fiscal year
 - Upcoming call to Central Office may result in amendments to add projects to the 2021 - 2024 TIP that were missed.

C. 2021 – 2024 TIP update/STIP approval

- Brian Baker stated that last week Northern Tier received a letter stating the Secretary, FHWA, and FTA approved the STIP which included the Northern Tier TIP. Carey Mullins stated that the Long-Range Transportation Plan is now an active document from October 1, 2020 through April 14, 2025.

D. PennDOT Connects

- Brian Baker explained that Northern Tier had a conference call with District 3 and 4, and Central Office regarding how to approach PennDOT Connects for the new projects on the TIP. The projects will be entered as PIF forms into the PennDOT Connects system and outreach to involved municipalities will begin. If the municipalities are interested, conference calls will be set up to

review the projects and gauge any concerns. Northern Tier is planning to have the PIF forms completed by mid-November and outreach will begin from November through February.

E. Redundant Bridge Study

Northern Tier is working with Central Office, District 3 and 4, and WATS MPO to put together a study to determine redundant bridges in the region. The funding situations have made this study much more of a priority. The state transportation advisory committee is currently working on a similar study in draft format. During this study, a more efficient process of how local bridges are selected for the TIP will be created. Outreach at a county level will be necessary.

F. Public Participation Plan update

Northern Tier has been reviewing North Central and WATS PPP's to use as a guideline update Public Participation Plan. A conference call will be set up with Central Office, the Districts, and FHWA to determine what is needed in the updated plan, especially regarding the virtual elements.

G. 2021 RTAC meeting dates

The RTAC meeting dates were sent out to the members. Those dates are: February 1st, April 12th, June 14th, August 9th, October 4th, and December 13th. No in-person meetings will be held until further notice.

II. Reports

A. Legislative Report:

Rep Karen Boback – No one present

Rep. Tina Pickett – The office is bombarded on a daily bases with unemployment calls. Over 500 requests were submitted so far to Labor and Industry to look at unemployment claims. Labor and Industry is now requesting compiled forms in rounds on specified dates. Payments are backed up for months.

Rep. Jonathan Fritz – No one present

Rep. Clint Owlett – No one present

Senator Gene Yaw – No one present

Senator Lisa Baker – No one present

Senator Joseph Scarnati – No one present

Congressman Keller – No one present

B. FHWA Report

- President Trump signed a bill last week to avoid a government shutdown and keep federal agencies running through December 11th. That resolution included a one-year extension of the FAST Act. That extension keeps surface transportation programs funded into 2021. There is a provision to transfer \$13.6 billion from the general fund into the highway trust fund. It is a short-term fix, but it gives legislatures another year to work on a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill.

Commissioner Hall asked the status on I-81 Gibson interchange and project from the state line to New Milford. Steve Fischer said he would follow up on that and inform the committee.

C. PENNDOT Reports

Central Office – Carey Mullins stated that PennDOT is looking at an estimated \$842 million shortfall due to a lack of gas tax during COVID. The budget in November should provide a more accurate number. In response to Commissioner Hall, Carey stated that the I-81 project is still currently moving forward but it is unknown what the future holds due to funding.

Dist. 3.0 – None.

Dist. 4.0 – Commissioner Hall requested information from Steve regarding New Milford with the interchange of 492 and 11. He wanted to know whether a roundabout is planned or not. Commissioner Hall also requested information about a paving project on 267 from the state line through Choconut. He stated that the road was milled, base repair, and two layers of top coat were laid, but two days later the road was tarred and chipped. He wanted to know if that was the new process. Steve said he would follow up on that.

D. County Reports

1. Bradford County – Matt stated that 6 of the 8 bridges are completed in the bundle project. The 7th will be completed by the end of the year and the 8th will likely be done next spring. There was a problem encountered where the pre fabricator for the box culverts shut down and did not inform the contractor. It slowed the process, but all 8 will be done in spring 2021. Bridge 21 on Kellog Rd, which is the FEMA project, has been slowed due to a property owner. They got to the Right of Way acquisition and were ready to bid the project, when the property owner stepped in. Negotiations with the owner are underway to be able to complete the bridge. Bridge 38 received a supplement from the district as part of the historic preservation process. There are current relocation efforts underway and a meeting occurred that may lead to the placement of the bridge at the intersection of Rt 6 and 14 in Troy. That is part of the Northern Central Rail Trail corridor that they are looking to develop. There was a study done to assess the effect it would have on the car dealership there. Construction will most likely not begin until 2022.
 2. Sullivan County – Bob Getz had concerns about trees threatening power lines and roads. Justin stated that specific locations can be emailed to him and forwarded on. He said that PennDOT has tree trimming contracts and trees in the right of way can be taken care of. Bob stated that there are three trees on Rt 87 near Proctor & Gamble that need to be cut. Steve said he would pass the information on to county maintenance.
 3. Susquehanna County – Commissioner Hall stated that Bridge 30 was closed. It was offered to the township but no response was received. The new beams were placed last week on the bridge and the deck is currently being worked on. Footers for the public safety building will be set tomorrow and concrete will be poured at the end of the week. The building should be completed by mid-May.
 4. Tioga County – Commissioner Hamilton stated that the Greenways Trail process is slowly moving forward and the BUILD grant was applied for. Tioga County partnered with Lycoming and Clinton County to submit the grant for multi-modal use in all three counties. The county is in the process of purchasing a piece of property adjacent to the courthouse with plans to put in additional parking.
 5. Wyoming County – None.
- E. BEST Report – Commissioner Hamilton gave an update on BEST. PennDOT informed them that they cannot continue to operate under the current management system after July 2021. The BEST board would need to have come up with a long-term solution for management and

this would require at least a 5-year agreement. \$300,000 in federal funds will be in jeopardy if there is no restructure to meet federal standards.

F. BMTS Reports – BMTS LRTP is out for public review and comment on their website and they hope to have it adopted by Monday, October 26th.

G. NTRPDC Reports – Brian Baker stated that the next meeting is on December 14, 2020 by teleconference again.

IV. Other Items for Discussion – none.

V. Public Discussion – none.

VI. Adjournment – A motion was made by Carey Mullins to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rick Biery. With no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11 PM.