

Northern Tier RPO Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 12, 2021
10AM – 12 AM
Northern Tier Office (Conference Call)
Towanda, PA

Attendance:

Brian Baker, Northern Tier
Katie Prichard, Northern Tier
Frank Thompson, Northern Tier
Bob Getz, Sullivan County
Alan Hall, Susquehanna County Commissioner
Mark Hamilton, Tioga County Commissioner
Kaye Aumick, Tioga County
Kerry Nelson, Tioga County
Matt Williams, Bradford County
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Michael Gismondi, PennDOT Central Office
Justin Batiuk, PennDOT District 3-0
Chris King, PennDOT District 3-0
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0
Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0
Emma Pugh, PennDOT District 4-0
Gene Porochniak, FHWA
Alexandra Allen, Representative Jonathan Fritz
Julie Williams, Representative Karen Boback
Chuck Dillon, Senator Joseph Scarnati
Al Quimby, Develop Tioga

I. Items for Discussion

Presentations given during the meeting: Deputy Secretary Larry Shifflet – PennDOT Pathways Initiative Overview
District 4.0, Susan Williams – Interstate 81 Bridge Tolling Susquehanna County
Mansfield Borough Manager, Chris McGann – Mansfield Borough Trail Project

A. Approve April 12, 2021 Minutes

- Do not have the necessary number of voting members for a quorum. Approval of the minutes will be pushed to the June RTAC meeting.

B. 2021 – 2024 TIP Administrative Actions and Amendments –

District 3.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

- Slide developed on SR2005 in Covington Township, Tioga County. Added study phase to the TIP.
- Reduce the estimate for a department force paving project in Bradford County on SR 4021.
- SR349 Westfield Borough reconstruction project will move out. Added a new project in its place.

District 4.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

- Two management actions
- Add two structures on SR 3004 over Riley Creek. Beginning design.
- Add Fox Road Bridge Replacement, multimodal project

- Increasing Nicholson DL-W RR Station project to finish off project
- Adjusting SR 706 project to be 80% federal & 20% state and decrease to PS&E estimate.
- Add Planning Research Administration (PRA) phase for MS4 Inspection which is separating the storm water from the sewer water inspection.

C. PennDOT Connects Update

- Brian thanked both Districts for their continuous efforts in reaching out to the municipalities.

D. Redundant Bridge Study

There was a study done at the state level that Mark Murawski was involved in. PTAC is moving forward with their redundant bridge study. Northern Tier RPO decided to hold off on the study to determine what results PTAC finds so it can be a cohesive effort.

E. Public Participation Plan update

Northern Tier had conference calls with FHWA, the PennDOT Districts, and Josh Bartash. We received suggestions on what elements we needed to update. The study was pushed off a little due to the Congressional Earmarks deadline.

F. Supplemental Funding Update: Marsh Creek, Tunkhannock Mobility

The Marsh Creek project was delayed with some of the planning. Looking to construct the first half of the trail next year. People will be able to access the old Tioga Street at Hillbolt road with parking access. The funding secured to date will allow for that construction to be completed. They have a couple pending applications with various state agencies and hope to secure federal funding one more time. They started to do bicycle and pedestrian study and planning through DCNR C2P2 funding to study Wellsboro as far as connecting to the downtown restaurants and lodging. Implementation is next once the study finding has been outlined. The county had acquired some land for the trail head facility. They will again be looking for federal and state funding for the second section of the trail.

Bob asked what the economic impact would be for the Wellsboro area. Kerry said she would be willing to share an economic impact study that was done in 2018. She said it would be about an \$8 million increase to the local economy and an additional 40,000 trail users per year.

Brian will be reaching out to Kerry and Lynnelle regarding moving funding into the next fiscal year.

G. Congressional Earmarks

The RPO was putting together a list of projects from each county that were going to be earmarked, possibly projects on the current TIP that will go to construction within the next 18 months. Guidance is still unclear, but once it is finished Northern Tier must have the information in to Congressman Keller's office.

II. Reports

A. Legislative Report:

Rep Karen Boback – No comment

Rep. Tina Pickett – No one present

Rep. Jonathan Fritz – No comment

Rep. Clint Owlett – No one present

Senator Gene Yaw – No one present

Senator Lisa Baker – No one present

Senator Joseph Scarnati – Finishing up budget hearing in Harrisburg in the next week or two. They will have a budget passed in June.

Congressman Keller – No one present

B. FHWA Report

- Gene Porochniak shared a link to the American Jobs Plan in the comments section.

C. PENNDOT Reports

Central Office – None.

Dist. 3.0 – Justin Batiuk told Bob Getz that the project is still scheduled to occur next year on SR 43.

Dist. 4.0 – Steve Fischer stated that they have been working to get SR 1009 in Susquehanna County open by tomorrow. They are pursuing emergency funds through Central Office for the permanent repair.

D. County Reports

1. Bradford County – All 8 bridges in the Bridge Bundle are now complete and open to traffic. Waiting on painting to be finished on two of them. FEMA projects are out to bid and one came in at half the expected cost. Working with the Progress Authority on CHIRP funding and have distributed about half of the \$683,000 that the county was allotted.
2. Sullivan County – None.
3. Susquehanna County – None.
4. Tioga County – Rail trail committee meeting coming up. Commissioner Hamilton gives his support to the Mansfield project presented today but is nervous about having two projects in the area going on at the same time.
5. Wyoming County – None

E. BEST Report – No one present.

F. BMTS Reports – No one present.

G. NTRPDC Reports – Brian Baker stated that the next meeting is on June 14, 2021 by teleconference again.

IV. Other Items for Discussion – none.

V. Public Discussion – none.

VI. Adjournment – Do not have the necessary number of voting members for a quorum, so no motions were made. With no further items to discuss the meeting was ended at 12 PM.