

Northern Tier RPO Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 7, 2022
10AM – 11AM
Northern Tier office (Conference Call)
Towanda, PA

Attendance:
Brian Baker, Northern Tier
Brett Voloshin, Northern Tier
Katie Prichard, Northern Tier
Matt Williams, Bradford County Planning
Brian Hoffman, Sullivan County Commissioner
Bob Getz, Sullivan County
Kaye Aumick, Tioga County
Marc Rice, Tioga County
Mark Hamilton, Tioga County Commissioner
Alan Hall, Susquehanna County Commissioner
Jack Conroy, Susquehanna County Commissioner
Alex Komar, Susquehanna County Commissioner
Lynnelle Farber, Wyoming County
Jean Ruhf, Wyoming County
Alex Komar, Susquehanna County
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office
Michael Gismondi, PennDOT Central Office
Justin Batiuk, PennDOT District 3-0
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0
Alexandra Allen, Representative Jonathan Fritz
Jason Krise, Representative Tina Pickett
Julie Williams, Representative Karen Boback
Janenne Goliash, Senator Gene Yaw
Tracy Eisenbury, BeST
David Gunsallas

I. Items For Discussion

A. Approve December Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall to accept the December meeting minutes, seconded by Alex Komar, the motion carried unanimously.

B. 2021 – 2024 TIP Administrative Actions & Amendments

District 3.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

Admin Actions –

- 3 projects on SR 6 - Construction Phase-Increase to meet updated estimate from contract management
- Advance and fully fund a group of local bridges in 2022, using IJJA BIL bridge funds for BOF

Amendment Actions –

- Moving STP funds and adding NHPP funds on NHPP eligible projects

A motion was made by Commissioner Hamilton to approve the amendment, seconded by Bob Getz the motion carried unanimously.

District 4.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

Admin Actions –

- Increase the Nicholson DL-W RR Station and Northern D&H Rail-Trail Improvements projects.
- MPMS# 56738, 68954, 96731, and 96757- Right of Way Phases- Add ROW Phases to the TIP per claim estimates
- MPMS# 67523- Right of Way Phase- add the ROW phase of MPMS 67523 and decrease the FD phase to agreement amount.

Amendment Actions –

- From the IJJA legislation, the NHPP and BOF system and safety funds are going to be added to keep the program moving the way it has been.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hamilton to approve the amendment, seconded by Alex Komar the motion carried unanimously.

C. 2023 TIP Draft TIP

Northern Tier RPO is continuing the process of the 2023 TIP Update. The next major steps in the process is to schedule meetings with each of the county offices to discuss the Draft TIP. Northern Tier RPO plans to host a public comment period for thirty days from May 2nd to May 31st, and during that time there will be a meeting open to the general public. The final draft of the TIP will be voted on for adoption at the June Meeting.

D. BIL Competitive Infrastructure Funding Opportunities for local governments

Brian Baker sent the funding attachment and factsheet to the committee to review. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes billions of dollars in competitive funding available to cities, towns, and municipalities across dozens of new and existing programs.

E. Local Bridge Sub-Committee reorganization

Northern Tier is interested in reorganizing the Local Bridge Sub-Committee in the near future. Brian Baker stated that previous members of the committee will be contacted to schedule a kickoff meeting. One project the Committee worked on that will resume is the Bridge Redundancy Project. This project aims to develop a criteria for assessing bridge projects in order to better prioritize project funding.

F. Supplemental Funding Update: Marsh Creek, Tunkhannock Mobility

Marc Rice stated that on January 5th they submitted a final request for the remaining UPWP supplemental funds. They should have those funds drawn down, they're just waiting on a reimbursement check. They will continue to apply for additional supplemental funding opportunities.

Lynnelle Farber announced that the kickoff meeting for the Tunkhannock Mobility project is tomorrow. It will be held in person; however, Brian Baker asked if the meeting could also be held virtually as others on the committee expressed interest in attending. Lynnelle responded that it would not be a problem for her.

II. County & Agency Reports

A. Legislative Report:

Rep Karen Boback – None.

Rep. Tina Pickett – Tomorrow (February 8th) is the budget address by Governor Wolf. They are all anxious to see what taxes will be increased and where the spending will be going.

Rep. Jonathan Fritz – None.

Rep. Clint Owlett – No one present

Senator Gene Yaw – No one present.

Senator Lisa Baker – No one present

Senator Cris Dush – No one present.

Congressman Keller – No one present

B. FHWA Report – No members present.

C. PENNDOT Reports

- a. Central Office – No comment.
- b. District 3.0 – Justin stated that the previous DE at the District 3.0 office has retired after at least 35 years in the office. The acting DE is Justin Blakely, and they're awaiting the appointment of a permanent DE.
- c. District 4.0 – No comment.

D. County Reports

- a. Bradford County – Matt Williams stated that they are working to finalize the bridge inspection package for the county and municipal structures. It will be awarded to Lawson Design Group. Some historic preservation funds were awarded and they are in favor of the Bridge 13 project continuing. Bridge 38 is still in progress and the let date is 2023. Bridge 21, the FEMA replacement project, the contractor had to shut down due to bad weather but he is now ready to pour the deck. It should be open sometime in the spring of 2022. They have been in contact with the Northern Central Rail Trail group. They are working with Wilson Consulting. There is part of the Troy section that was washed out in the 2018 flooding. Matt expressed his frustration about the unavailability of PennDOT county maintenance crews to clean up downed trees on state routes during normal business hours. The fire companies have been taking on this task. He wants to work towards another solution.
- b. Sullivan County – Commissioner Hoffman stated their praise to district 3.0 for their efforts on the Nordmont project to preserve the historic arch. They are continuing to work and refine their Stream Stabilization Project. They also received reports from the Sullivan County Fire Department regarding requests for better coordination with PennDOT for response times to remove downed trees or other obstacles from the road.
- c. Susquehanna County – Commissioner Hall stated an issue with road maintenance, especially in light of recent weather events. They have received multiple complaints regarding the conditions of the roads and the response times of snow plows to affected areas.
- d. Tioga County – stated that bridge #3 that fell in August is being put up for a study regarding replacement of the bridge. They will vote on this project tomorrow during their commissioner meeting. They also gave praise for the efforts of District 3.0 in regards of

getting a tree trimming project rolling. The Marsh Creek Greenway project recently had an open house for the public. Fifty people attended and provided a variety of feedback. Kaye stated that the Marsh Creek Greenway public open house for the downtown connector study was held on January 26th.

- e. Wyoming County - Lynnelle stated that the commissioners adopted the Greenway Trail and Open Space plan at the end of December

E. BEST Report -- Tracy Eisenbury stated that they are currently researching Alternative Fuel Vehicles for use in their transit system. She mentioned propane as an alternative fuel. In the meantime, they are moving admin staff to their new space in Towanda. This will free up space for more resources like vehicles or drivers. Lastly, they plan to take a closer look at bus stops and shelters within the Northern Tier to ensure ease of access to the public.

F. BMTS Reports – No members present.

G. NTRPDC Reports – Brian Baker stated that the next meeting will be held on April 4th, 2022. This meeting may be held in person or in a virtual format. More details to follow.

III. Other Items For Discussion – none.

IV. Public Discussion – none.

V. Adjournment – With no further items to discuss, the meeting ended at 11 AM. A motion was made by Alan Hall to consider the meeting adjourned, seconded by Carey Mullins, the motion carried unanimously.