

# Northern Tier RPO Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021  
10AM – 11 AM  
Northern Tier Office (Conference Call)  
Towanda, PA

**Attendance:**

Brian Baker, Northern Tier  
Katie Prichard, Northern Tier  
Bob Getz, Sullivan County  
Brian Hoffman, Sullivan County Commissioner  
Mark Hamilton, Tioga County Commissioner  
Mark Rice, Tioga County  
Rick Biery, Bradford County  
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office  
Michael Gismondi, PennDOT Central Office  
Justin Batiuk, PennDOT District 3-0  
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0  
Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0  
Gene Porochniak, FHWA  
Jason Krise, Representative Tina Pickett  
Jean Ruhf, Wyoming County EMVB  
Al Quimby, Develop Tioga  
Leigh McCullen, BMTS  
Todd Wright, BeST Transit

### I. Items for Discussion

**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 August RTAC meeting.

**B. 2021 – 2024 TIP Administrative Actions and Amendments –**

District 3.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

Admin Actions

- SR 14 Canton Twp Embankment Repair – Add ROW phase.
- SR 14 over Tannery Creek - Increase to cover additional consultant design.
- US 220 to PA 487 – Increase to meet the updated estimate.
- Lycoming Co to SR 42 - Increase to meet the updated estimate.

Amendment

- Amendment T-105 over Cayuta Creek – Increase by \$2.4 million to meet the updated construction estimate. Do not have the necessary number of voting members for a quorum. An email ballot will be sent out today to the committee members.

District 4.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

Admin Actions

- SR 706 Section 501 Bradford to Rush - Increase to meet low bid amount
- SR 92 over Tributary of Susquehanna River - Construction Phase- advance phase and convert to 80% federal/20% state funding. Also decrease to PS&E estimate.

### **C. PennDOT Connects Update**

Steve Fischer stated that they have received minimal responses such as project timing and what is planned. Steve said they are sending out another round soon. District 3 had a PennDOT Connects meeting last week with Windham Township in Bradford County. Justin Batiuk said they have also had minimal responses.

### **D. Public Participation Plan update**

Northern Tier is continuing to move forward with the draft. Northern Tier employees are in the office more often now, so coordination should become much easier.

### **E. Supplemental Funding Update: Marsh Creek, Tunkhannock Mobility**

Mark Rice provided an update. Kerry Nelson has stepped away from the project to focus on family. Send all further communications regarding the Marsh Creek Greenway project to Kaye Aumick and Mark Rice. They are currently in the process of bringing on Allison Herman, who will work 20 hours per week specifically on the project. She will be finalizing the funding strategy, working on grant applications, and community outreach. There is currently \$3.6 million in hand from state funding for Phase 2, which is the section from SR 287 to Hillbolt Rd. They submitted a grant application to DCNR C2P2 for \$581,000 and will be submitting another application in July to CFA for \$800,000. If they are successful with those two grant requests, phase 2 of the project will be fully funded. The estimated cost of Phase 3 from Hillbolt Rd to Patterson Trail Head facility is \$5.5 million. They currently have \$1.5 million secured. They will be applying for \$1 million for TA Set-Aside in late summer/early fall. There is currently a federal appropriations request in for \$5 million. It is included in the House bill through Representative Keller's office. They will also be submitting a Raise application due July 10<sup>th</sup> and will be requesting letters of support. They are partnering with Clinton and Lycoming County for that application.

Due to COVID, there were two contracts scheduled to let back in spring of 2020 but let in November 2020. Data is starting to be received from the soil borings, but they are currently still waiting on the geotechnical reports. As information comes in, that will allow them to move forward with the design of the Northern and Southern section. The southern section north of Hillbolt Rd is 85% complete. The southern portion from Hillbolt Rd into Wellsboro is in design. A contract was let to demolish the Patterson Freight Station, which is located at the future sight of the trailhead.

No update was received on the Tunkhannock Mobility Study.

### **F. Congressional Earmarks**

The RPO had submitted a list of five projects from each county for consideration. The Kettle Creek Bridge Rehabilitation project in Sullivan County and the Asset Management project in Wyoming County are going to be included by Congressman Keller's office in the Highway Reauthorization bill. The Marsh Creek Greenway project submitted by Delta is also included in the legislation.

### **G. Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) grant**

Brian sent out an email regarding the ARLE grant, which is open until July 1<sup>st</sup>. The email highlights different types of funding that can be used for road safety, mobility projects, traffic signal upgrades, signs, and pavement markings. Please let Northern Tier know if you would like to submit any requests.

### **H. Non-Metropolitan Local Official Consultation Procedures letter**

Feedback is required on the effectiveness that the RPO has on the development of the statewide LRTP and the STIP. Input is also required on the communication between the counties and the RPO about the statewide financial guidance and how PennDOT works with the RPO for the planning process in the Northern Tier region. There is a 60 day comment period and comments are due by July 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **I. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

Applications start on June 28<sup>th</sup> and are due on October 15<sup>th</sup>. There is \$18 million statewide available for projects. Brian will send out the link further explaining project eligibility.

### **J. Multi-Modal Funding**

The multi-modal funding is through DCED. The application will be accepted through July 31<sup>st</sup>. There were seven projects in our region that were previously approved back in April 2021. A link with more information will be sent out to everyone.

## **II. Reports**

### **A. Legislative Report:**

Rep Karen Boback – No one present.

Rep. Tina Pickett – Act 13 funding was announced today. You can go on the PUC website and look up per county and municipality. Also, the budget is looking to be approved on time.

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 – No one present.

Congressman Keller – No one present

### **B. FHWA Report**

- Gene Porochniak shared a link to the RAISE Act application in the chat box, which Brian Baker forwarded in an email to the committee. The application is open until July 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

### **C. PENNDOT Reports**

Central Office – Carey Mullins stated the financial guidance work group has been working together. June 29th we have the Spring Planning Partners meeting and the financial guidance should be out. Brian will be reaching out to the counties to get their input on some of the TIP projects. The UPWP guidance for the next round will be coming out as well. There is a call scheduled for today to start the UPWP discussion. Carey suggested that Northern Tier should put together a summary for those who could not be in attendance of this meeting.

Dist. 3.0 – Justin Batiuk said that if anyone has any questions regarding the amendment to please contact him.

Dist. 4.0 – None.

### **D. County Reports**

1. Bradford County – None.

2. Sullivan County – The County owned industrial building in Mildred is now full of tenants. Two of them are industrial, so heavier truck traffic is expected around that area. North of Dushore, there is an industrial building owned by Hoffman New Yorker. It is transitioning to a new owner and there will be increased truck traffic.
  3. Susquehanna County – No one present.
  4. Tioga County – The Laurel Festival is this week. The Westfield project is 97% cleaned up and the Develop Tioga board last week voted to split that property up. There are two remaining buildings on the property which currently have sale offers pending. The part of the property where the tannery sat will be split off. There is a pending sale offer for a Tractor Supply to come in. A 4 or 5 mile section in the center of Bailey Creek Rd has a large amount of ash trees that need to be taken down. Justin stated that he would forward this on to the maintenance crew.
  5. Wyoming County – None.
- E. BEST Report – Commissioner Hamilton stated that an RFP was put out for management services and they are in the middle of sorting through the RFP's that have come back. They are hoping to award a new long term management contract within the next month or so. Through the national RCAP a grant application was submitted for the amount of \$70,000. This will secure additional funding for the shared ride side of operation. BeST partnered with Tioga County for the CFA grant. \$500,000 was awarded with BeST's portion between \$45,000 and \$50,000 to put up a new bus shelter and do sidewalk work in Wellsboro around the Marsh Creek Greenway trailhead.
  - F. BMTS Reports – Leigh McCullen stated that they are waiting on federal guidance for their TIP update. They would like to coordinate to make sure projects in the shared region are on both their TIP and Northern Tier's. They are also currently working on their Public Participation Plan.
  - G. NTRPDC Reports – Brian Baker stated that the next meeting is on August 9, 2021 by teleconference again.

**IV. Other Items for Discussion** – none.

**V. Public Discussion** – none.

**VI. Adjournment** – With no further items to discuss the meeting was ended at 11 AM.