

# Northern Tier RPO Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021  
10AM – 11 AM  
Northern Tier Office (Conference Call)  
Towanda, PA

**Attendance:**

Brian Baker, Northern Tier  
Katie Prichard, Northern Tier  
Mark Hamilton, Tioga County Commissioner  
Kaye Aumick, Tioga County  
Al Quimby, Tioga County  
Alan Hall, Susquehanna County Commissioner  
Matt Williams, Bradford County  
Rick Biery, Bradford County  
Lynnelle Farber, Wyoming County  
Jean Ruhf, Wyoming County  
Carey Mullins, PennDOT Central Office  
Michael Gismondi, PennDOT Central Office  
Justin Batuik, PennDOT District 3-0  
John Petrini, PennDOT District 4-0  
Alexandra Allen, Representative Jonathan Fritz  
Chuck Dillon, Senator Cris Dush

Before the meeting, 2 presentations were given for the TA Set-Aside Program: D&H Rail Trail Construction Melrose to Stevens Point and South Main Street/Business 15 Pedestrian Improvements. A scoring sheet was provided to the committee. Scores were collected by the RPO and the 2 projects were ranked.

### **I. Items for Discussion**

#### **A. Approve October Minutes**

- A motion was made by Commissioner Hall to accept the October meeting minutes, seconded by Rick Biery, the motion carried unanimously.

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

District 3.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

Admin Actions

- A few cost increases due to consultant estimates.
- Cash flow between federal fiscal years.

Amendment Actions

- Utilizing additional funding, PennDOT is able to advance the list of projects that were provided to the committee. A motion was made by Rick Biery to approve the amendment, seconded by Matt Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

District 4.0 – Amendments & Admin Actions

Admin Actions

- Adding ROW for SR 374 over East Branch of Tunkhannock Creek, SR 1009 over Starrucca Creek, and SR 167 over Hop Bottom Creek
- Increasing PE phase for 2 bridges on SR 3004 over Riley Creek
- Increasing CON phase for Carmalt Rd Bridge

- Increasing FD phase for SR 2012 over Tunkhannock Creek

### **C. 2022 – 2024 UPWP Draft**

The 2022-2024 UPWP draft was sent to PennDOT Central Office and FHWA for review in October. Comments were received and addressed. The 2022-2024 UPWP was adopted at the Executive Committee meeting on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. It needs to be adopted by the RTAC members. Commissioner Hall made a motion to adopt the 2022-2024 UPWP, seconded by Rick Biery, the motion carried unanimously.

### **D. Safety Performance Measure Adoption**

Northern Tier is adopting the state's safety performance measures for the Northern Tier. A motion was made by Alan Hall to adopt the state's safety performance measures for the Northern Tier, seconded by Matt Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

### **E. 2023 TIP Update**

Northern Tier RPO is currently in the process of the 2023 TIP Update. Preliminary financial guidance was received, but a 5 year \$350 billion bill was passed for the highway and bridge program on November 5<sup>th</sup> that may affect that. There are still questions and no final guidance received yet. More information should be received in February. A substantial amount of money should be received for bridges and funding was also set aside for safety. Carey Mullins stated that the Northern Tier RPO could be looking at an estimated \$84 million over 5 years. At the February meeting, funding should be more concrete.

### **F. TA Set-Aside Project Ranking**

D&H Rail Trail Construction Melrose to Stevens Point was the first choice with 67 points and South Main Street/Business 15 Pedestrian Improvements was second with 60 points. The rankings will be submitted to Central Office on the TA Set-Aside website. Northern Tier RPO will highly recommend both projects.

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

Kaye Aumick stated that the main focus is on the connection to downtown Wellsboro from the new trail head on Charleston Street. They are working with Wilson Consulting to get that plan done. There were 5 different options and they narrowed it down to one. The next step is a public meeting to gauge the public's opinion on the chosen option. Carey Mullins stated that the agreement for the supplemental funding runs out on June 30, 2022. Kaye is unsure if they will be wrapped up with the project by that date. Carey stated they will have to resubmit for the funding if it is not complete by that date. Brian stated that he checked with Northern Tier's finance person Amy and she had said the finances were spent. Kaye is unsure, so Brian is connecting Amy with Kaye to verify. Commissioner Hamilton checked on the funds. He said what is not used is already committed and will be used before June.

Lynnelle Farber is meeting with the consultant tomorrow to finalize the kickoff meeting and schedule. She transferred the data to them with background information from the prior study that was recently done. She also updated them on some of the incoming projects in the next year or two that may have an impact on the study. She hopes to have a kickoff meeting after the holidays so they can close out by the deadline.

### **H. Multi-Modal Projects**

The Multi-modal projects were recently approved and we had 2 in the Northern Tier region. One was for Oakland Borough West Fall Ave sidewalks and drainage in Susquehanna County for \$300,000 and then Sayre Borough downtown Streetscape phase II in Bradford County for \$250,000.

## **II. Reports**

**A. Legislative Report:**

Rep Karen Boback – No one present

Rep. Tina Pickett – No one present

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 – They will be doing redistricting in the next 6 weeks, so expect some changes in populations moving south and east. The Senate will be losing one district somewhere in the west and creating one district somewhere south and east of here.

Congressman Keller – No one present

**B. FHWA Report**

- No one present.

**C. PENNDOT Reports**

Central Office – Carey stated that the region was awarded SPIKE funding for a new TSMO project Sayre signal improvement for around \$150,000. The other SPIKE project Susquehanna paving is a carryover which is supposed to take place in 2027, but should be moved up after District 4 completes their asset management pavement cycle study.

Dist. 3.0 – Currently working on the TIP update and will hopefully have it completed in December.

Dist. 4.0 – None.

**D. County Reports**

1. Bradford County – Matt Williams stated that for Bridge 38, they are still working with Dawood and Aaron Crist from the District to get through the section 106 process. They are hoping to let in 2022 and construction in 2023. They are concerned that the posting is already down to 5 tons, if they have to lower it again they may have to close it. Bridge 21 FEMA project on Kellogg Rd took on significant delays due to additional damages sustained from the flooding in July. There were significant cost increases for rock protection and the movement of a Towanda Municipal Authority water line that had become exposed. It was supposed to be open to traffic by the end of the year, but they made the decision last week not to pour the deck concrete. They will finish it up in the spring. Matt received a call from Aaron Crist regarding the potential for some rehab funds for one of the historic structures as part of the MOU historic study that was completed for the bridge 16 removal. One possible structure that could be rehabbed is Bridge 13 in Franklin Township.

2. Sullivan County – No one present.

3. Susquehanna County – Commissioner Hall stated that Susquehanna County has received an award for the top ranking construction site in the state for 2021 at the PACA

Convention Public Safety Center. The building is just about complete. 911 is already in and there is partial occupancy. There should be total occupancy by the end of December/beginning of January.

4. Tioga County – Commissioner Hamilton said they are in the midst of getting Bridge 3 that fell in during the flooding removed. They are working with some contractors and hosted a flooding tour with governor’s staff and several legislators. It was shown that if they were able to remove an island and put the stream bank back where it was originally that the bridge would have been fine in the flooding. It is putting pressure on DEP to aid in those situations. They just received an email that the Marsh Creek Greenway Project has made it through the first round of the Build Back Better. They had submitted an application for a grant in conjunction with DCNR. There were 2 or 3 other projects included. The second phase has to be put together and should be awarded sometime in March or April.
5. Wyoming County – Lynnelle stated that the Greenways Trails and Open Space plan is wrapping up and should be printed in the next week or two. She needs some further conversations and direction after the conversation with Carey last week regarding the traffic impact on the rail project on 92 and the bypass.
- E. BEST Report – None.
- F. BMTS Reports – Lee stated they are also working on their UPWP and TIP update. They have no guidance on what allocation will be, but anticipate similar levels to the prior TIP. They want to make sure that any projects that Northern Tier RPO has on their TIP in the shared BMTS service area will be on the BMTS TIP as well.
- G. NTRPDC Reports – Brian Baker stated that the next meeting is on February 7, 2022 at 10AM.

**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.