

Adams County Transportation Planning Organization (ACTPO)  
Minutes for the Committee Meeting on January 27, 2021

**Attendance:**

**Voting Members**

Bob Gordon	Hamiltonban Township, (Chair)
David Scotty Bolton	Abbottstown Borough, ACBA (Vice-Chair)
David Laughman	Arendtsville Borough
Jim Martin	Adams County Commissioner
Beth Nidam	CPTA – Rabbittransit
Robin Fitzpatrick	Adams County Economic Alliance
Anthony Sansone	PennDOT Central Office
Nathan Walker	PennDOT District 8-0
David Hazlett	Carroll Valley Borough
Charles “Skip” Strayer	Adams County Planning Commission

**Legislative Representatives**

Bev Frey	Senator Mastriano’s Office
Catherine Wallen	Representative Ecker’s Office
Chris Kimple	Representative Moul’s Office

**Adams County Office of Planning and Development**

Sherri Clayton-Williams  
Andrew Merkel  
Laura Neiderer

**Others**

Judie Butterfield	Gettysburg Borough
Caroline Johnson	@ Home in Adams County
Kandi Fox	Commuter Services
Will Cameron	County Bridge Engineer
Michelle Tarquino	PennDOT District 8-0
Jeff Puher	PennDOT District 8-0
Jonathan Owens	PennDOT District 8-0
Beth Raves	PennDOT Central Office
Jen Crobak	FHWA PA Division
Deb Adamik	Main Street Gettysburg, Inc.
Thomas Jolin	HAPBI
Charlotte Shaffer	Conewago Township Supervisor
Louann Boyer	Conewago Township Supervisor
Kevin Holtzinger	Reading Township Supervisor (Chair)
Gregory Heefner	Reading Township Supervisor (Vice-chair)
Jason Phillips	Reading Township Supervisor
Chris Santay	Franklin Township Supervisor (Vice-chair)
Jack Ketterman	Germany Township Supervisor
Heather Snyder	Oxford Township Manager
Bob Miller	Conewago Twp Resident/ McSherrystown Boro Business Owner
Gary Laird	Hanover Chamber of Commerce
Bobbi Bican	Conewago Valley School District
Zach Bolitho	National Park Service
Fred Wilke	Conewago Township Resident

Ellen Ryan

Conewago Township Resident

**Media**

Michael Cooper-White

Gettysburg Times

**1. Introductory Comments**

Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order just after 1:00pm. Ms. Neiderer took roll-call. It was established that a quorum was present.

**2. ACTPO Re-Organization / Selection of Officers**

Mr. Gordon accepted nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Laughman motioned for Mr. Gordon and Mr. Bolton to retain their positions as chair and vice-chair, respectively. Beth Nidam seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Martin motioned to approve the October 28, 2020 minutes. Mr. Bolton seconded, and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**4. Staff Updates - ACOPD**

- a. Mr. Merkel reported that six proposed development projects submitted applications for Highway Occupancy Permits, conducted traffic studies, or held a project meeting in relation to traffic impacts. The developments included: Harvest Chapel (Berwick Township), Thunderbolt Self Storage (Union Township), 545 Crooked Creek Road (Franklin Township), Bare Development (Conewago Township), Proposed 1115 York Road Site (Straban Township), and Hunterstown Road Site (Straban Township).
- b. Mr. Cameron reported that the 2021 County bridge inspections will begin in April.
- c. Mr. Merkel presented the 2020 Adams County Annual Obligation Report. He explained that this report is required to be posted on the MPO's webpage by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and lists the federal funding obligations for 2020.
- d. Mr. Merkel presented the Five Year Plan for Gettysburg Regional Airport. He noted that a letter had previously been sent to SARAA to reiterate the local position to retain fuel service at the airport. Mr. Martin suggested that ACTPO should repeat the request for fueling at the airport. Mr. Cooper-White noted that the airport has since implemented fueling service that is operated by private lease-holder.
- e. Mr. Merkel reported on the passage of PA Act 106 of 2020, which legalizes Personal Delivery Devices (PDD) to be used to supplement delivery services. He explained that there is a very short time frame for PennDOT to develop authorization and permitting processes in order for the devices to be used in the state. He noted that the Borough Association did provide feedback on the matter, which was passed along to PennDOT. Mr. Bolton explained that the prior to the passage of the law, organizations did have the opportunity to comment. The Borough Association held a neutral stance at that point because they had not met to discuss the matter in detail, which is why comments were submitted in the last round of public outreach. Mr. Gordon mentioned Boroughs will likely be impacted in the county rather than the rural areas. Mr. Laughman asked why such a short time for PennDOT to get processes in

place for PDDs. Mr. Merkel responded that the time schedule was established within the law. Ms. Wallen said that she will ask Representative Ecker for more detail on the quick timeframe of this particular law and follow-up after the meeting. Mr. Bolton noted that the bill was introduced by Senator Aument and was being pushed by FedEx.

- f. Ms. Tarquino explained that PennDOT is exploring initiatives for alternative short-term and long-term funding sources to help close the funding gap, as the needs in the state far outweigh the available funds. This initiative is PennDOT Pathways. Mr. Gordon asked about tolling systems on interstate bridges. Ms. Tarquino said that is one of the options proposed to be implemented. She also mentioned that another public comment period will begin in February. Ms. Kimple noted that she read information regarding a pilot study examining mileage based user fees and asked if that is also a possibility being explored. Ms. Tarquino responded that website does outline the different options being explored as alternate funding sources. Mr. Gordon urged the board to review the resources and stay attentive to this topic.

## 5. Transit Update

- a. Ms. Fox reported for Commuter Service of Pennsylvania. She reported that 128 new members joined since October. There has been an 11% increase in commuters tracking their commutes. Commuter Services is looking at additional initiatives with employers. She mentioned that Commuter Services is also looking to establish a telework committee to support employers that intend to keep a portion of their workforce teleworking. She noted they are promoting more regional competitions, such as “clash of the careerlinks”. Mr. Laughman asked how the work that Commuter Services does intertwines with the effort to retain a Gettysburg-Hanover bus route, which would pass by several employers. Ms. Fox responded that Commuter Services has established relationships with employers in 12 counties and that the ultimate goal is to educate employees on different transportation options and to collect data related to commute patterns. She mentioned that these efforts lead to relationships and coordination with transit providers and partnerships with other organizations such as @ Home in Adams County.
- b. Mr. Merkel explained that ACOPD staff is appointed by ACTPO to act as a voting representative to SRTP. The alternate member position has been vacant and staff is proposing to add Laura Neiderer as the alternate voting member. Mr. Bolton made a motion to appoint Laura Neiderer as an alternate voting member to SRTP, and Mr. Strayer seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.
- c. Ms. Nidam noted that CPTA is very busy with planning efforts on upcoming matters, however, there is not much to report on at this point. Mr. Gordon asked about a merger with Capital Area Transit (CAT). Beth explained that it has not yet been determined that it will be a full merger. The new name of the entity will likely be Susquehanna Regional Transportation Authority. She noted anyone interested can register for the upcoming public hearing and that she will have more details on the matter at the next meeting. Mr. Laughman asked Ms. Nidam for a brief description of the geographic territories that each entity currently covers. Ms. Nidam noted that the two entities are currently somewhat related and provide different services in shared counties. She also noted that Rich Farr is in a management agreement with CAT. Mr. Strayer asked who will take over ownership of the capital should the two entities merge. Ms. Nidam replied that to her understanding thus far,

each transit authority will keep their assets, however that is not definite at this point in time.

**6. Performance Measures for Adams County – Adams County**

- a. Mr. Merkel explained that the safety performance measures (PM-1) establish baseline and targets for fatalities and serious injuries occurring during traffic incidents. He explained that the trends have been very up and down since 2012 and that property-damage-only crashes are not reported and thus not part of the measurement. The performance measure targets are set each year, and the staff recommended supporting and adopting the targets established by the state.
- b. Mr. Merkel explained that not all of the pavement/bridge performance measures categories (PM-2) are applicable to Adams County. He went on to say that this is a mid-cycle review, and no changes are being proposed to the targets.
- c. Mr. Merkel explained that not all of the performance measures for system reliability (PM-3) apply to Adams County. Adams County is meeting the targets that are applicable. He explained that PennDOT is altering some of the targets for PM-3, however none that are applicable to Adams County. Adams County is still required to recognize that the MPO supports the set targets. Staff recommended that the board adopt the statewide targets. Mr. Martin asked Mr. Merkel if he anticipated the MPO setting its own targets for PM-1 in the future. Mr. Merkel said discussions have occurred, however, the process would have to be worked out with the PennDOT and other MPOs. Mr. Gordon entertained a motion to adopt the PM-1 and PM-3 targets as established by the state, and authorize a staff member to sign on behalf of the board. Mr. Bolton motioned and Mr. Martin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Long Range Transportation Plan Update – Adams County**

- a. Ms. Neiderer briefly reviewed the LRTP overview. She mentioned that the plan is set to be adopted by July 2022, it will be prepared in-house by ACOPD staff, and that there is a “kick-off” meeting scheduled with PennDOT and FHWA next week.
- b. Ms. Neiderer reminded the board of the list of members that will be participating as LRTP sub-committee.
- c. Ms. Neiderer updated the board on the Title VI compliance efforts. She explained that agreements with Language Line, Inc. were going to be presented at the next commissioner’s meeting for approval. These agreements allow the staff to utilize Language Line Inc. services for translation and interpretation on an as-needed basis. Should these services be utilized, funds from the UPWP will cover the cost. Mr. Laughman asked what Title VI is. Ms. Neiderer explained that Title VI lays out federal regulations for non-discrimination compliance.
- d. Ms. Neiderer reviewed the tentative LRTP outline with the board.

**8. 2021-2024 TIP Update – PennDOT**

- a. Mr. Sansone explained that there were 4 modifications made to the 2021-2024 TIP since the October 2020 ACTPO meeting. There is no vote required for administrative modifications.
- b. Mr. Merkel explained that the 2021-2024 TIP contains a line item for roughly \$3.5 million of HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) funds, however these funds require certain eligibility to be spent. Ms. Tarquino explained the process used to identify areas that may be

eligible for the use of HSIP funds, as not all locations are eligible. Mr. Merkel explained that three locations were identified as eligible in the county. The locations identified were SR0030, SR0234 & Stoney Point Rd, and SR1015 & Red Hill Rd. He explained that staff met with officials from each municipality for feedback. The locations identified in each municipality are of priority to the respective municipal officials. Ms. Tarquino explained the programming process should the board agree to the identified locations, however no action is needed today. Mr. Bolton expressed that all three locations are in need of improvements, and Red Hill Rd specifically has surface issues. Mr. Merkel noted that it is believed that all three locations can be programmed in terms of funding. Ms. Snyder reiterated the perspective of Oxford Township, saying that they support improvements to the Red Hill Rd intersection. Mr. Laughman asked what section of SR0030 was identified and Mr. Merkel explained that it is the segment roughly between Ciao Bella and Paramount. Mr. Martin asked technically if that should be noted as US0030 and Mr. Merkel explained it is designated as both SR0030 and US0030, but technically it is US0030. Mr. Martin also commented that there are probably “near-misses” at the Red Hill Rd intersection that are not accounted for in any data. Mr. Merkel explained that also unreportable accidents are not captured in the data. Mr. Hazlett asked if these were the only three potential projects that qualified for the HSIP funds and if not, what criteria was used to select these three locations. Ms. Tarquino explained that through the process, two locations were identified by the district based on recommendations by PennDOT Central Office. If the district then felt the need to identify an additional location, they did so based again on recommendations from CO. Ms. Tarquino also explained that the “excess factor” was also a variable used in the selection process and the “excess factor” has to be above 1 in order for a location to be considered eligible for HSIP funds. Mr. Hazlett asked for clarification; if these were the only projects that qualified for the program. Mr. Merkel explained that these were the only three candidate projects that were presented to the MPO staff. Mr. Hazlett noted that the board does not know the criteria to determine eligible locations. Ms. Tarquino explained these locations were selected for additional analysis based on crash data trends over the last five years. Mr. Bolton asked if there is a list of other locations that can be reviewed and Ms. Tarquino replied no, there were no other locations analyzed. A lengthy discussion continued regarding potential eligible projects in the county and the process the district went through to settle on the selected locations. Mr. Walker attempted to clarify the process utilized to select locations that may be eligible for the HSIP funding and noted that the district would check with “traffic” to determine what data can be shared with the group. Mr. Hazlett reiterated that it is not clear how these specific locations were selected. Mr. Merkel said that this discussion is for initial feedback, and additional work needs to occur on this topic so that it is clearly understood. He added that no action on the topic will occur during this meeting. Mr. Laughman reiterated the need for additional information on the subject. Ms. Crobak added that the framework described by the district is based on guidance and requirements from the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Martin asked about Michael Baker and it was explained that Michael Baker International is a consulting firm. Mr. Merkel said that staff will need to do some additional coordination with the district office and the item will be brought to the April 2021 ACTPO meeting. Mr. Heefner added that some improvements have been made to intersection of Stoney Point Rd and SR0234, however,

the location is in need of additional safety improvements. He noted that the township officials were pleased to see this location as an eligible candidate for HSIP funds.

#### **9. PennDOT Comments – No Comments**

#### **10. FHWA Comments**

Ms. Crobak introduced herself as the MPOs FHWA liaison. She noted that a COVID Relief Bill was passed by Congress in December 2020 which does provide PA about \$407 million of additional transportation funding. She added that the FAST Act was extended for one year at FFY 2020 levels. Mr. Bolton asked Ms. Crobak if she will be replacing Jamie Lemon on the LRTP subcommittee and Ms. Crobak responded yes.

#### **11. Public Comments**

- Mr. Gordon mentioned that several written comments were included with the meeting packet and asked Mr. Merkel if he would be responding to the comments. Mr. Merkel stated that staff will respond to some of the comments.
- Mr. Miller said the intersection of Main St and Third St in McSherrystown is getting increasingly problematic and he believes it warrants review. He noted that the traffic study done in McSherrystown Borough does not mention this particular problematic intersection.
- Ms. Butterfield gave an update on the funding sources being pursued for the Gettysburg Interloop project.
- Mr. Holtzinger reiterated Reading Township's support for the HSIP candidate location on SR0234 & Stoney Point Rd, and encouraged the board to also support the project. He also mentioned a desire to see a list of any other potential candidate projects. He asked the district how quickly HSIP projects are programmed if selected. Ms. Tarquino said a Draft TIP will be developed over the next couple months and additional coordination will occur with the planning regions.
- Mr. Martin noted that the publication "Rural Perspectives" provides an overview of the status of bridges in Pennsylvania.

#### **12. Member Comments**

- a. Mr. Laughman made an announcement that the COG is convening at 8:30am on January 28, 2021.
- b. Mr. Bolton made an announcement that the Adams County Borough Association will be meeting on January 28, 2021.

#### **13. Next Meeting, Time and Place**

The next meeting will be held April 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm. The format is to-be-determined. The meeting was adjourned around 3:10pm.