

Adams County Transportation Planning Organization (ACTPO)
Minutes for the Committee Meeting on July 28, 2021

Attendance:

Voting Members

Bob Gordon	Hamiltonban Township (Chair)
David Laughman	Arendtsville Borough
Beth Nidam	CPTA – Rabbittransit
Raymond Green	PennDOT Central Office
Nathan Walker	PennDOT District 8-0
Anne Geiger	East Berlin Borough
Charles “Skip” Strayer	Adams County Planning Commission
Robin Fitzpatrick	Adams Economic Alliance

Legislative Representatives

Cathy Wallen	Representative Ecker’s Office
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Adams County Office of Planning and Development

Sherri Clayton-Williams
Andrew Merkel
Laura Neiderer

Others

Judie Butterfield	Gettysburg Borough
Laura Heilman	Commuter Services
Jeff Puher	PennDOT District 8-0
Ronique Bishop	FHWA PA Division
Jill Sellers	Main Street Gettysburg, Inc.
Charlotte Shaffer	Conewago Township Supervisor
Jack Ketterman	Germany Township Supervisor
Darrin Catts	Oxford Township Manager
Chris Caba	York County Planning Commission
Tom Jolin	HABPI

Media

None

1. Introductory Comments

Mr. Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:02pm and announced that the meeting was being conducted using a hybrid meeting. It was established that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Laughman motioned to approve the April 28, 2021 minutes. Mr. Strayer seconded, and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

3. ACTPO Re-organization / Selection of New Vice-Chair

Mr. Gordon announced that Mr. Bolton, current vice-chair of ACTPO, submitted a resignation letter to the board. Mr. Laughman motioned to accept the resignation of Mr. Bolton, and Mr. Strayer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Gordon entertained a motion to accept nominations for a new vice-chair. Ms. Nidam volunteered to take on the position of vice-chair. Mr. Green motioned to approve Ms. Nidam as Vice-Chair and Mr. Strayer seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

4. Staff Updates – ACOPD

a. HOP/Traffic Study/Project Meetings

Mr. Merkel reported that the following meetings were held since the last ACTPO board meeting:

- A Highway Occupancy Meeting was held for Misty Creek Village - Lot 111 in Oxford Township. A single commercial structure is potentially being proposed on the site.
- A follow-up meeting was held to discuss the intersection of PA 234/Peepytown Rd in Reading Township. There are safety concerns at this intersection, and more discussion will take place as the next TIP update is developed.
- The National Park Service held a planning workshop related to the Gettysburg National Military Park and the Eisenhower National Historic site. Several community members were involved to discuss transportation issues. The NPS is preparing for internal transportation planning efforts. Some of the issues raised coincided with issues and concerns identified in Adams County's Long Range Transportation Plan.
- Mr. Merkel and Ms. Neiderer met with two McSherrystown Borough Council members in McSherrystown to discuss transportation related concerns in the Borough, specifically along Main Street. Mr. Gordon asked if the Borough council is aware about the pedestrian crossing signs that are available through a PennDOT program. Mr. Merkel was not sure, however, will follow up with the council representatives to be sure they are aware of any resources available.
- Staff attended a meeting with the Hanover Chamber of Commerce to discuss transportation issues with chamber staff.
- Staff virtually attended the Spring PennDOT Planning Partners meeting.
- Staff attended the South Central Travel Demand Model meeting. This project will benefit the LRTP that the MPO is currently updating. Currently, the Harrisburg, Lancaster, and York MPO Travel Demand Models (TDM) have been combined into one. The next step with the project is to incorporate Lebanon, Franklin, and Adams MPOs to the project. Travel Demand models aid with congestion planning and other planning related efforts. Currently, the data needed to run the model is being entered into the program. Mr. Merkel explained that there are some administrative details to be worked out among the department and the other MPOs.

Mr. Laughman asked if the legislative representatives will be brought on board to understand the intent of the model. Mr. Merkel said that is a possibility when the model is up and running, but it is very technical in nature. The results and output of the model could be shared with interested parties for planning efforts. Mr. Strayer asked how this project relates to the various transit agencies. Mr. Merkel explained that the model looks at various trips and can potentially assist with route issues, but wouldn't address issues such as capital investment strategies.

- b. Mr. Merkel reported that the 2021 biennial County bridge inspections are underway. He also reported that the bridge maintenance project that was bid is now under construction. He also reported that Shorb's Mill Road Bridge rehabilitation project is currently under construction. Mr. Gordon mentioned that Hamiltonban Township has contracted with the county bridge engineer to do two studies on bridges in the township.

5. Transit Update

- a. Ms. Heilman reported for Commuter Service of Pennsylvania. Commuter Services has done outreach events in Adams County with the Packaging Corporation of America and the Adams County Housing Authority. The outreach events focus on educating employers and agencies about Rabbitransit's Gettysburg-Hanover Connector. More events are planned at additional locations along the route. Commuter Services is also partnering with the Center for Traffic Safety to hold a bike safety event at the Heritage Center Museum on August 10th from 9am-12noon. September is car free month and commuters are encouraged to track at least three green trips. Mr. Laughman commended the effort that went into getting the Gettysburg-Hanover Connector in operation.
- b. Ms. Nidam reported that the merger between Rabbitransit and Capital Area Transit is still in the works, however not yet legally complete. Ridership is continuing to trend back toward "pre-covid" levels. She also reported that the application process for paratransit riders is now available online. Mr. Laughman asked which "sectors", whether it be tourism, pleasure, business, are still experiencing the lag in ridership. Ms. Nidam responded that trips are down across all sectors, however, rides to vaccine centers are offered at no charge, which is a new "trip purpose" that is contributing to a upswing in the trend toward pre-covid levels.

6. Long Range Transportation Plan Update – Adams County

- a. Ms. Neiderer reported that the Long Range Transportation Plan subcommittee met for a second time on June 23, 2021. The main focus of the meeting was to review the survey questions that staff drafted and review the survey marketing plan. She discussed the main points of feedback, which were included in the meeting packet for today's ACTPO board meeting. Ms. Neiderer exhibited the LRTP hub site, which is intended to inform the public about the LRTP development process. Discussion occurred about the complexity of the LRTP hub site web address, and staff noted that there IT issues with assigning a "simpler" web address.
- b. Ms. Neiderer announced that the LRTP survey and other LRTP resources were going "live" today for public access. She summarized and displayed the survey questions. Some additional discussion occurred between board members and staff regarding the content and interactive format of the survey.
- c. Ms. Neiderer exhibited the LRTP hub site, which is intended to inform the public about the LRTP development process. Discussion occurred about the complexity of the LRTP hub site web

address, and staff noted that there are IT obstacles with assigning a “simpler” web address. Staff commented that links to the LRTP website can also be accessed through other resources, such as the county website. Mr. Laughman asked if the hub site is an ongoing project. Staff responded that the intent is to transition the hub site to a general Adams County transportation hub site after the LRTP update is complete. She continued to demonstrate the public comment map that the public may use to share feedback. She explained that the survey will potentially be open through the September, although a definite closing date has not yet been determined. A third LRTP subcommittee meeting will likely occur before the next ACTPO meeting in October to discuss the feedback received during the public engagement period. Mr. Merkel explained that other components of the plan are also being developed while the public engagement process is underway.

7. 2023-2026 TIP Development Process

- a. Mr. Merkel reported that the 2023-2026 TIP development process is underway and reviewed survey results specific to Adams County from a recent State Transportation Commission’s outreach effort. Mr. Laughman noted that interstate highways were an overall statewide priority during the current TIP cycle and Adams County received relatively low funding because there are no interstate highways in Adams County. Discussion continued regarding the potential statewide priorities for the 2023-2026 TIP update. Mr. Merkel reminded the board that the current federal transportation bill is due to expire in September and explained that the interstate priority will likely continue into future TIP cycles.
- b. Mr. Merkel discussed the Financial Guidance for the 2023-2026 TIP cycle, which was released to MPO staff during the last planning partners meeting. He mentioned that the funding formulas are very similar to the current TIP cycle. Adams County will receive no CMAQ funds during the next TIP cycle.
- c. Mr. Merkel discussed the General and Procedural Guidance for the 2023-2026 TIP cycle, which was released to MPO staff during the last planning partners meeting. This document outlines the general schedule and steps for the TIP document.

8. 2021-2024 TIP Update – PennDOT, Adams County

- a. Mr. Green discussed the administrative modifications made to the 2021-2024 TIP since the April 2021 ACTPO meeting. There is no vote required for administrative modifications.
- b. Mr. Walker discussed the projects using HSIP funding that were approved at the April MPO meeting. He noted that all three projects are programmed on the first and second four years of the TIP.

3. PennDOT Comments

- Mr. Walker noted that the Latimore Valley Rd was let since the April ACTPO meeting. There was also a resurfacing project let on SR0116 that utilized 409 funds. Mr. Gordon asked for the start date of the resurfacing project. Mr. Walker will follow-up after the meeting with that information.
- Mr. Walker noted that details regarding the Eisenhower Extension project public open house meeting are still being worked out, but details will be released when a final date is selected.

- Mr. Walker noted that public meetings related to projects are announced on the District 08 website. He noted that PennDOT has converted to a more virtual format for public meeting, which has garnered more participation and feedback.
- Mr. Green reminded the board that SPIKE funds are available to assist with projects. They are not guaranteed funds but are dispersed by the state for projects.

4. FHWA Comments

- Ms. Bishop introduced herself as the new FHWA representative for Adams County. She also announced that FHWA released “livability” factsheets as a planning resource.
- Ms. Crobak shared the opportunity for a new USDOT discretionary grant program. The RAISE grant program will replace TIGER and BUILD grant programs.

5. Public Comments

- a. Mr. Gordon discussed the written comments that were submitted to staff anonymously. He mentioned that it has been the staffs’ practice in the past to share all public comments with the board, whether submitted anonymously or not. Mr. Gordon stated that the county solicitor was contacted regarding the matter of anonymous submitted comments and replied that it is up to the discretion of the board whether anonymous comments are shared by staff and recognized by the board. Ms. Clayton-Williams clarified that staff only shares anonymous comments with the board that are specifically directed to board members. Mr. Gordon said that the policy will continue as is but could be discussed at a future board meeting if an alternate policy is proposed. Mr. Ketterman discussed advice that was received by the Germany Township Board of Supervisors, from the Germany Township Solicitor, not to submit anonymous comments to boards due to legalities with the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act. Mr. Laughman said the board’s awareness of anonymous comments may be beneficial for informational purposes, even if they are not considered of to the level of public comments. Mr. Gordon confirmed that the policy will continue and comments will be directed to the board, as necessary.
- Mr. Ketterman discussed some bridges in Germany Township. Mr. Merkel is going to follow-up with specific information related to those projects. He also mentioned that the bridge project on Feeser Road between Mt. Joy Township and Germany Township is complete.
 - Mr. Jolin announced that the annual Children’s Bicycle Parade will be held September 19, 2021. He also discussed the mission of HABPI to promote a healthy lifestyle, especially among children.
 - There was discussion about the current road construction projects occurring in the county.

6. Next Meeting, Time and Place

- a. Mr. Gordon noted that the next meeting is October 27, 2021 at 1:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47pm.