

H A T S
Coordinating Committee Meeting
Capital Area Transit
Dick Miller Board Room, 2nd Floor
Meeting # 189
December 5, 2008, 9:00 AM
DRAFT

The December HATS Coordinating Committee meeting began at 9:00 AM. Representative Keller welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

Attendance

Members and guests present are noted on the attached attendance sheet.

1. Meeting Minutes

Representative Keller asked if there were comments concerning the June 27, 2008 Coordinating Committee minutes.

- #189-1: Commissioner Rovegno motioned to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Link seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Representative Keller noted the November 21, 2008 Technical Committee minutes had been included for informational purposes only.

2. Current TIP (FFY 2009-2012)

a. Email Ballot – Fiddlers Elbow Road Bridge

Ms. Myers-Krug asked for ratification of the electronic ballot passed November 3, 2008.

- #189-2: Mr. Memmi motioned to ratify the results of the Fiddlers Elbow Road bridge electronic ballot. Mr. Turner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Amendments

Mr. Panko asked for approval of the addition of the Shippensburg Circulator project to the FFY 2009-2012 TIP.

- #189-3: Commissioner Rovegno motioned to approve the addition of the Shippensburg Circulator to the FFY 2009-2012 TIP. Mr. Memmi seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

c. Administrative Actions

Mr. Panko explained the administrative actions modifying the 2009-2012 TIP (*see handout “FFY 2009-2012 TIP Modifications from 10/1/08 to 11/21/08 – Revision #1” for details*).

- Added all projects not encumbered or obligated from 07 TIP to 09 TIP (*see handout “Candidate carry over projects from 2007 TIP to 2009 TIP” for details*).
- The New Kingstown Bypass project was let on November 13th.
- Exit 44 improvements: \$5,000 of state funds was released into the reserve, and the project is now fully funded.
- The Burd Street Bridge project was let in October.
- Fifth Street/University Drive project is still waiting for a cost estimate.
- West Hanover Street Widening project is not ready for construction, and utility work has been updated.

Mr. Memmi thanked PennDOT staff for all the work they have done to deliver the Burd Street Bridge project and the Route 39 widening, as well as the work done to move the Fifth Street/University Drive project.

d. Safety Projects

Ms. Myers-Krug went over the list of safety projects identified and suggested potential projects that could be done from the list. The identified projects are based on PennDOT District 8-0 Traffic Unit evaluation of crash data, then compared with the HATS RTP and CMP plans, as well as recommendations from planning studies. The projects with the most commonalities were recommended for funding with the 2009 HSIP line item. In the future, the safety data from PennDOT district traffic unit will be incorporated in the development of the RTP, and safety needs and projects defined and prioritized for programming HSIP funds.

- #189-4: Mr. Gossert motioned to approve the methodology for ranking safety projects. Mr. Bugaile seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Smart Transportation Project Application

Ms. Myers-Krug noted \$60 million was available from PennDOT for “smart transportation” projects. The applications were available online on HATS and PennDOT websites and the deadline to submit project applications to PennDOT is December 15th. Applications submitted from the HATS region include:

- Modern Transit Partnership for the Lemoyne Connector project
- City of Harrisburg for the Southern Gateway project
- Cumberland County for Rail trails in Shippensburg, Borough of Carlisle Road Diet project, and one from Camp Hill, Lemoyne and Wormleysburg

5. Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008

Federal HR 2095 was passed earlier this year: Division A reauthorizes the Federal Railroad Administration and provides \$1.6 billion for rail safety; Division B, Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement, reauthorizes Amtrak and provides \$13 billion for new and improved intercity passenger rail. The provisions for developing new intercity projects and resolving passenger-freight rail provider disputes were discussed for their regional potential. Congress has not yet allocated the funds authorized in the bill. Mr. Bugaile added that the federal government will be looking to form regional high-speed rail commissions.

a. PA Rail Network Initiative

Lehigh Valley MPO has proposed a Pennsylvania Rail Network, combining Harrisburg Corridors One, Two and Three; Reading Commuter Rail (SEPTA Extension); Quakertown Commuter Rail (SEPTA Extension); Easton Commuter Rail (NJT Extension); and Scranton Commuter Rail. A network (v. corridor) approach makes sense due to limited revenues, increased construction and energy costs and for economic revitalization. There should also be large ridership gains due to increased origin-destination pairs; greater mobility per unit of investment; more realistic alternatives to flying and driving; and a broader political coalition to obtain funding. Transit-Oriented Design (TOD) would also be a much more attractive option.

b. State Rail Passenger Plan

States must evidently have a (passenger) rail plan in place to be eligible for Act funds. While a PA plan has not been completed to date, PennDOT completed a Statewide Passenger Rail Needs Assessment in December 2001, including goals/objectives, recommendations and priorities. Ms. Green suggested action could be taken to determine if this document satisfies eligibility requirements; the issue was considered moot since there are no funds, though the Department was asked to give plan development priority in the near future. (*Editorial note: On the flip side, the funds need to be made available through legislation first in order to be authorized to spend. Step #1 is complete.*)

6. Status Reports

PennDOT (Mr. Christie)

- I-81 work completed on bridges.
- Grantham Road Bridge completed
- US 15/PA 581 project construction going on
- Lower Allen Drive to be closed for construction in February

FWHA (Mr. Walston)

- FHWA will conduct certification review in 2009 (1st or 3rd week of May). Committee members and public are invited to participate. (May 6 & 7 dates have been confirmed for the review.)

CAT (Mr. Hoffer)

- Fixed route ridership continued to increase for the first four months of the current fiscal year, July through October ridership increased 13% over last years ridership during the same four month period.
- CAT acquiring six new 40 foot buses. Five will be replacement for 1994 models and one bus will a fleet addition.

PMTA (Mr. Runk)

- Lower diesel prices are resulting in improved carrier revenues compared to earlier this year. The proposed 25% increase in Turnpike tolls will be expensive for carriers and may cause trucks to take other roads.

City of Harrisburg (Mr. Link)

- All roads within the city that had been recently closed for work are now open.

HATS Staff

- CAT Service Study (Mr. Kmiecinski)
 - Finishing existing conditions evaluations
 - Starting alternative studies analysis
- Bike/Ped Task Force (Mr. Kmiecinski)
 - The Bicycle/Pedestrian/Passenger discussed various ways to improve bike/pedestrian facilities in the area. The task force suggested a spur from the Greenbelt on the east side of 323 in Susquehanna Township. These efforts will be coordinated with Greenbelt Association.
 - The committee also continued work on the Sidewalks Best Practices manual.
- Regional Goods Movement Forum (Ms. Green)
 - Last 2008 meeting on December 10th at Swatara Township; Secretary Biehler and a shipper/producer organization representative are scheduled to speak.
 - Draft 2008 RGMF Accomplishments document needs review/comment by 12/10
- Regional Action Plan (Mr. Szyborski)
 - Executive committee met with consultants
 - Focus group sessions will be conducted with recommendations from County Commissioners
- Transit Round Table (Mr. Reardon)
 - Discussion was held at HACC to take a closer look at transit.
 - Participants included regional stakeholders from public and private entities.
 - Three national experts talked about funding for transit, land use management issues, benefits of transit and identify future of transit in our region.

7. Other Business

- HATS committee meeting dates for 2009 are available.

8. Adjourn

- 189-4 Mr. Memmi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Link seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Attendance

Name	Affiliation
Coordinating Committee Members Present	
Coordinating Committee Officers	
Representative Mark Keller, Chairman	Perry County
Coordinating Committee Members	
Commissioner Rick Rovegno	Cumberland County
Mike Gossert	Cumberland County
Skip Memmi (Alternate)	Dauphin County
James Turner	Perry County
James Close (Alternate)	Harrisburg City
James Hoffer (Alternate)	Capital Area Transit
Joseph Link	Harrisburg City
Eric Bugaile	Dauphin County
Scott Christie	PennDOT District 8-0
Coordinating Committee Members Not Present	
Commissioner Jeff Haste, Vice-Chairman	Dauphin County
Jim Ritzman	PennDOT Office of Planning
Robert Shaffer (Alternate)	Perry County
Frank Pinto	Capital Area Transit
Dan Leppo (Alternate)	Harrisburg City
Commissioner John Amsler (Alternate)	Perry County
Mayor Stephen Reed	Harrisburg City
Robin Metz (Alternate)	PennDOT Office of Planning
Mike Gillespie (Alternate)	PennDOT District 8-0
Other Attendees	
Tim Reardon	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Diane Myers-Krug	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Al Sundara	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Karen Green	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Drew Ames	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Mike Kmiecinski	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Dan Walston (ExOfficio)	Federal Highway Administration
Tom Helm	Harrisburg Bicycle Club
Larry Shifflet	PennDOT Central Office
Walt Panko	PennDOT Office of Planning
Dennis Sloand	PennDOT District 8-0
Jay Sengoz	PennDOT District 8-0
Jim Runk	PMTA
Dave Spaulding	SARAA
Jason Yakelis	Delta Development Group
Jody Harpster	Cumberland County
Laura Conrad	Rep. Glen Grell's Office, Cumberland County
Dorothy Matesevac	Highspire Borough
Dan Flint	Lower Allen Township
Michael Ryan	Baker Engineering