

H A T S  
Coordinating Committee Meeting  
Capital Area Transit  
Dick Miller Board Room, 2nd Floor  
Meeting # 191  
April 24, 2009 9:00 AM  
DRAFT

The April 2009 HATS Coordinating Committee meeting began at 9:00 AM. Rep. Mark Keller, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **1. Attendance**

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

### **2. Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the previous coordinating committee meeting were reviewed.

- #191-1: Commissioner Haste moved to accept the minutes as submitted; Commissioner Rovegno seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The minutes from the previous technical committee meeting were available for informational purposes.

### **3. Presentation**

The presentation was by Mike Fesen of Norfolk-Southern (NS) regarding their crescent corridor initiative. The crescent corridor is a rail corridor parallel to I-81 that is currently under-utilized. NS plans to modernize the corridor to improve the speed of rail traffic and serve as an alternative to long-haul truck traffic. NS predicts the project will reduce truck traffic on I-81, which was originally designed for only 10% trucks. Improvements are proposed for Harrisburg and Rutherford yards, with expansion planned primarily at the Harrisburg yard resulting in about ten new daily trains; a new intermodal facility will also be built near Chambersburg (Franklin County). Improvements proposed in Pennsylvania total \$64 million; the draft state budget allots \$45 million over the next three years. Due to PA and other state (e.g. Virginia) support, budget cuts, etc. the Lemoyne Connector project may be delayed beyond 2010.

Mr. Link noted a letter the City of Harrisburg mailed to PennDOT, asking that public funding to NS be contingent upon improvement of the connector streets to the intermodal yards in the HATS region. Mr. Link stated significant road and bridge work may be required to accommodate the additional truck traffic, including Industrial Road (e.g. I-81 slip ramp) and Maclay Bridge. Commissioner Rovegno asked that such improvements be coordinated with the I-81 Corridor Coalition; Mr. Fesen indicated discussions had begun with PennDOT re: Chambersburg.

### **4. Memorandum of Understanding with LebCO**

HATS has received letters from the three municipalities in Lebanon County currently in the HATS MPO stating they would like to become part of the Lebanon County MPO. All phases of the Campbelltown Connector project will remain on the HATS TIP for administrative purposes;

the remaining funds are all earmarks. All future projects in those municipalities will be included as part of the LebCo TIP.

- #191-2: Commissioner Haste moved that HATS sign the MOU with the Lebanon County MPO; Commissioner Rovegno seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

## **5. Current TIP**

### *a. Amendments/Administrative Actions*

Mr. Panko sought to ratify the 3/5/09 e-mail ballot provided at the meeting.

- #191-3: Commissioner Haste moved to ratify the ballot; Commissioner Rovegno seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Mr. Panko presented information on the four safety projects recommended for funding, in coordination with HATS' Congestion Management Process (CMP) and special studies. He also recommended remaining CMAQ funds, previously distributed half each to CAT and HATS, all be provided to CAT for capital purchases.

Mr. Ames noted the technical committee recommended Duke Street Bridge (Dauphin County bridge #32) be added to the TIP (see the attached handout for information). This bridge is the last structurally-deficient, county-owned bridge needing work. Mr. Panko recommended approving the William Penn Highway Bridge for surplus funds: it was design/build, received a favorable bid and is shovel ready.

- #191-4: Commissioner Haste moved to add the Duke Street and William Penn Highway Bridge projects to the TIP; Mr. Gillespie seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Mr. Panko presented the remaining administrative actions and amendments (see attached). Rep. Keller asked Mr. Panko what would happen to the TE funds returned by Marysville Borough. Mr. Panko responded they would be returned to the MPO reserve.

- #191-5: Commissioner Rovegno moved to approve the modifications to the TIP; Commissioner Haste seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

### *b. Economic Stimulus TIP*

Mr. Panko reviewed this document (see attached), noting significant cost savings on at least four project bids. Bob Reilly, Congressman Platts' office, announced \$1.5B in discretionary grants for regional/national significance projects, with eligibility criteria to be released May 18<sup>th</sup> (then 180 days to apply).

Rep. Keller and Mr. Link recounted an April 10, 2009 letter from Harrisburg Mayor Reed noting a concern that HATS was not notified by PennDOT that stimulus legislation contained a direct HATS MPO suballocation of approximately \$9M. It appears PennDOT at its own discretion folded the HATS suballocation into a total HATS MPO funding pot of money totaling about \$34M. As a result, the MPO did not have the opportunity to more decisively apply the funds to eligible local projects. Mr. Link proposed a resolution petitioning PennDOT for the \$9M to be

spent on local government priorities. Mr. Shifflet, PennDOT Central Office, noted these funds were a ST-U allocation for which PennDOT has discretion; he also stated PennDOT could have allocated the \$9M to the MPO, but had no obligation to spend the remaining \$25M in this region. Mr. Shifflet encouraged Mr. Link to submit projects for a current candidate list. Mr. Keller noted a HATS list had been sent previously to Mr. Christie; he was encouraged to send it again. Mr. Panko reminded members of the shovel-ready requirement; the next round of funding is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ames stated his understanding was that the funds specifically called out to be allocated to the MPO had different time requirements than those allocated to the state DOT. Mr. Szyborski appealed to PennDOT again re: HATS' requirement for the technical and coordinating committees to weigh in on these initiatives (and the time needed to do so).

- #191-6: Mr. Link moved to petition PennDOT for the \$9M in HATS local stimulus funds; Commissioner Haste seconded the motion. The motion was approved with PennDOT representatives abstaining.

*c. Act 44 Funds*

Mr. Panko provided a brief presentation on the availability of Act 44 funds. Because I-80 was not approved for tolling, highway funding for the MPO is reduced from ~\$15 million in 2010-11 and 2011-12 to ~\$5.8 million. Transit operating funding will stay the same in those two years, and transit capital funding is reduced to zero. Mr. Shifflet noted the federal highway fund may be broke again by July.

*d. Hershey Square Project*

Rep. Keller noted a letter from Representative Payne asking that the project not be delayed by non-resolution regarding pedestrian underpass(es). Mr. Gillespie indicated utility R/W, EIS and design would need to be revisited for the underpass(es); these items would need to be completed by February 2010 so as not to delay the project. Mr. Memmi will research additional funding, and noted need by Hershey Company for the entire project (including underpass on PA 422).

## **6. Walnut Street/Progress Avenue Project**

Rep. Keller noted a 4-24 letter from the coordinating committee to Congressman Holden seeking support for this project in the next authorization, which needs committee approval:

- #191-7: Commissioner Rovegno moved to approve the letter; Commissioner Haste seconded the motion, which was approved.

## **7. MTP Letter of Support**

Rep. Keller noted a 4-24 letter from the coordinating committee to the federal delegation seeking support for mass transit in the next authorization, which needs committee approval:

- #191-8: Commissioner Rovegno moved to approve the letter; Commissioner Haste seconded the motion, which was approved.

## **8. Smart Transportation Applications**

The committee discussed the technical committee, CCPC and DCPC recommended rankings of the smart transportation applications. Mr. Szyborski cited his phone conversation with Jim

Ritzman whereby the latter indicated there was still time for coordinating committee review. Mr. Shifflet confirmed for Mr. Link that no decisions had been made yet. While the grade-separated Lemoyne Crossing is the number one regional priority, CAT is awaiting approval of a Conditional Exemption (CE) for the project; if FTA approves the CE, economic recovery funds will be used and PCTI funds shouldn't be required.

- #191-9: Commissioner Haste moved the Lemoyne Connector as the first regional priority, then Dauphin and Cumberland's top two priorities, then HATS staff priorities; Mr. Link seconded the motion, and the motion was approved; the representatives from PennDOT abstained.

## **9. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP)**

Ms. Green briefly described the process HATS staff is using to update the RTP and RGMP concurrently. RGMP Steering Committee is almost complete and will have their first meeting soon; the Committee will include at least one liaison from the RTP Task Force. RGMP Steering Committee will also recommend additional/ad hoc advisors throughout plan development.

## **10. Status Reports**

*PennDOT (Mr. Gillespie, who was congratulated on his new role as District 8-0 Executive)*

- Phase 1 of the US 15/PA 581 project is 50% complete
- US 22/Lower Paxton repaving between I-83 and Mountain Road, work to be done nights
- Union Deposit Road: repaving near I-83 scheduled for early June
- Exit 44 (I-81): under construction, completion targeted for November 2009
- Dauphin County bridges: HIA-Amtrak-PA 230 and Chambers Hill underway; Commissioner Haste asked for the status of Burd Street bridge
- PA 234 bridge (Perry County): Rep. Keller asked for the status

*City of Harrisburg (Mr. Link)*

- The State Street Bridge lighting project is underway
- 7<sup>th</sup> Street Widening will be bid this season (thanked 8-0 for R/W facilitation)

*HATS Staff*

- CAT Service Study (Mr. Ames): (see attachment)
- Park & Ride Project (Mr. Ames): Meeting to be scheduled with 8-0 re: process.
- Regional Goods Movement Forum (Ms. Green): February meeting noted legislators hear little/nothing from constituents about transportation; that, on top of fears legislators believe stimulus funds are all that's needed to resolve funding, prompted scheduling a June 2<sup>nd</sup> legislative session; FHWA may send a Peer-to-Peer team as keynote presenters.
- Regional Action Plan (Mr. Szyborski): The RAP group met to discuss potential projects as well as regional coordination of the transit services in the eight counties; Commissioner Rovegno noted a recent meeting of regional transit representatives, and asked how current service overlaps developed; Mr. Szyborski indicated they developed from a series of past SRTP and County Commissioner Council meetings.

*Legislative Reports*

Mr. Reilly (Platts): Chair Oberstar intends an “ambitious” reauthorization, though it’s in early stages; members have until May 8<sup>th</sup> to submit needs, funding requirements, projects, etc.; earmarks from any/all previous authorizations may be rescinded.

**11. Other Business**

*Revised Federal Aid Classification: Hempt and Texaco Roads*

Ms. Green informed members of technical committee (and District 8-0) approval and submission of revisions recommended by PennDOT Planning Office. Contingent on FHWA approval, the segment of Texaco Road including the Petroleum Products Corporation pipeline facility would be eligible for NHS intermodal connector designation, and HATS staff will pursue this.

*SRTP Letter of Support for JARC Application*

The SRTP sought a letter of support to PennDOT Deputy Secretary Fauver for their Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) application (through YAMPO) to use 15 van pools in eight counties (now including Berks) to close gaps in fixed-route transit service.

- #191-8: Commissioner Haste moved to approve the letter of support; Commissioner Rovegno seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

*Certification Review — May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>*

Rep. Keller reminded the committee that HATS will be going through its FHWA certification review on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at CAT offices and that everyone is invited to attend.

**12. Adjourn**

Representative Keller adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.

### 13. Attendance

Name	Affiliation
<b>Coordinating Committee Members Present</b>	
<b>Coordinating Committee Officers</b>	
Representative Mark Keller, Chairman	Perry County
Commissioner Jeff Haste, Vice Chairman	Dauphin County
Commissioner Rick Rovegno, Secretary	Cumberland County
<b>Coordinating Committee Members</b>	
Mike Gossert	Cumberland County
Skip Memmi (Alternate)	Dauphin County
James Turner	Perry County
Joe Link	Harrisburg City
Dan Leppo	Harrisburg City
Larry Shifflet (Alternate)	PennDOT Office of Planning
Mike Gillespie	PennDOT District 8-0
<b>Other Attendees</b>	
Jim Szymborski, AICP	TCRPC/HATS Executive Director
Alfred Sundara, AICP	HATS Planning Staff
Drew Ames	HATS Planning Staff
Karen Green	HATS Planning Staff
Walt Panko	PennDOT Office of Planning
Dennis Sloand	PennDOT District 8-0
Bob Reilly	Congressman Platts' Office
Jason Yakelis	Delta Development Group
Ben Scott	Northern Dauphin Revitalization
Jon Fitzkee	Lebanon County MPO
Brian O'Neill	South Middleton Township
Bill Peterson	Center for Community Building, Inc.
Rob Lauriello	Rettew
Jess Toomey	Senator Piccola's Office
Lou Roth	Delta Development Group
Drew Lyons	Rep Delozier's Office
Mike Fesen	Norfolk Southern
Todd Pagliarulo	Rep Payne's Office