

H A T S
Technical Committee Meeting
Capital Area Transit
Dick Miller Board Room, 2nd Floor
Meeting # 255
June 12, 2009 9:00 AM
DRAFT

The June 2009 HATS Technical Committee meeting began at 9:00 AM. Mr. Szymborski 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

The minutes from the previous Technical Committee meeting were reviewed.

- #255-1: Mr. Memmi moved to accept the minutes as submitted; Mr. Stoner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The minutes from the previous Coordinating Committee meeting were available for review.

2. Presentations

A presentation was given by Swatara-Omni Associates on the proposed Swatara Marketplace development on US-322 between Penhar Road and Mushroom Hill Road in Swatara Township. The plans for the development show 1 million square feet of retail, office, and hospitality space. Proposed changes to the road system include:

- A new road through the site parallel to US-322, referred to as a “spine road”
- Elimination of the Mushroom Hill Road connection to US-322
- A new at-grade signalized intersection with US-322 for access to the site
- Additional lanes for US-322

The developer, along with Swatara Township, presented the plan to the Technical Committee to explore funding options for changes to the six-leg intersection of US-322, Grayson Road, Chambers Hill Road, Hilton Street, and 82nd Street. The developer presented an alternative that would:

- Cul-de-sac 82nd Street
- Cul-de-sac Hilton Road and provide access to affected properties from Presidents Drive
- Realign Grayson Road and Chambers Hill Road to a right angle approach

The developer estimates that this alternative will cost \$2.5 to \$3.5 million. Mr. Link suggested they apply for ARRA TIGER funding, emphasizing the intermodal aspect of the improvement because of the Rutherford and Triple Crown intermodal freight yards. Mr. Reardon stated the requirements for TIGER funds, which is a \$20 million minimum for a project, obligated by 2011, and completed by 2012. This project would have to request a waiver on the minimum cost (which is a program option). Mr. Panko suggested that the project be submitted for consideration in the current TIP (using available STU funds), or in the 2011 TIP update process. He also stated

that to be considered for safety funds, an intersection must be in the top 25 most dangerous in the county, determined by crash statistics.

The second presentation was by Mr. Chad Decker of Dewberry Associates on the Carlisle Road Diet plan/project, which was selected for funding through PennDOT's smart transportation (PCTI) program. The plan makes several recommendations for transportation changes in the Carlisle central business district, including:

- Reducing four lane streets to two lanes
- Adding a left turn lane at each intersection
- 5 foot bike lanes
- Corner bulb-outs and pedestrian count-downs
- New signal timing and emergency pre-emption
- Video detection to trigger light phases
- Signage encouraging truck traffic to I-81 instead of traveling through the borough

Carlisle Borough is paying for design, and the PCTI grant has been approved for 100% of construction.

Mr. Hoffer asked if buses will be restricted in the targeted area. Mr. Truax answered that they would not be. Mr. Ames asked if any HATS staff ideas for facilitating buses in the area had been incorporated. Mr. Truax answered that they had not. Mr. Harpster asked about possible traffic problems when I-81 has to be shut down. Mr. Truax answered that the Borough will request the power to override the traffic lights to move traffic through more quickly. Mr. Helm of the Harrisburg Bicycle Club stated that the bicycle lanes as shown on the conceptual drawing are unsafe. Mr. Helm said he would be drafting comments on bicycle safety in regard to the plan. Mr. Panko and Mr. Sundara informed Mr. Truax of possible air quality analysis requirements. Mr. Panko asked for a narrative on the scope of work to determine if analysis will be needed.

3. Current TIP

a. Amendments

Add the construction phase of MPMS 76163 US-209 & Water Company Road Intersection to the TIP.

- #255-2: Mr. Stoner moved to accept the amendment; Mr. Sloand seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Add the Carlisle Road Diet, contingent on air quality analysis, and the Mechanicsburg Borough Federal Safe Routes to School project, and the Newville Elementary Federal Safe Routes to School project to the TIP.

- #255-3: Mr. Stoner moved to accept the amendments; Mr. Memmi seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Administrative actions (see handout)

- #255-4: Mr. Harpster moved to accept the administrative actions; Mr. Sloand seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

CAT bus purchases will be removed from the ARRA TIP and will be put on the candidate list

- #255-5: Mr. Hoffer moved to accept the action; Mr. Stoner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Administrative actions to the public transit TIP to reflect FY 09 5307 funds less than projected, ADA funding reduced 10%, to remove 5309 funds for bus purchases.

- #255-6: Mr. Hoffer moved to accept the amendments; Mr. Panko seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Economic Stimulus TIP

Mr. Panko stated that there has been \$5.2 million in savings from underbid ARRA projects. This money can be spent on projects in the HATS region that fit the guidelines:

- Projects let by August 27, 2009
- Must follow federal guidelines for federal funds

The committee discussed the prioritized list of projects from each county. Mr. Hoffer pointed out that the Department keeps changing the rules for ARRA funds and it is making it very difficult to prioritize and plan projects. Mr. Memmi noted that the three District 8 candidate resurfacing projects from Cumberland County are nearly ready to let and are about \$3.1 million together. Mr. Link stated that Harrisburg has enough resurfacing projects ready that could spend the entire \$5.2 million, if an additional project to upgrade Industrial Road is included (with additional HATS funding). The 15 City resurfacings eligible for federal funds are estimated at \$2.1 million. The Industrial Road upgrade would serve the heavy truck traffic on the road caused by expansion of the Harrisburg Rail Road Yard, however was not included in the City's request for county review and prioritization. It was asked if the second Dauphin County priority, the Hummelstown Park and Ride, could be ready to let in time. Mr. Panko said the P&R would require air quality analysis, and suggested CMAQ funds be used for it. Mr. Memmi stated that the prioritized lists should be followed and, per HATS policy, regular TIP funds be kept separate from the economic stimulus funding discussion.

- #255-7: Mr. Memmi moved that the three Cumberland County resurfacing projects be funded (Newville Road, York Road, and Carlisle Pike), that the Hummelstown P&R be funded contingent on meeting the deadline and AQ requirements, that the balance be used for Harrisburg repaving, and that if the P&R can't meet the deadline those funds also be used for Harrisburg repaving; Mr. Panko offered an amendment to the motion that 2010 CMAQ funds be used for the P&R if the deadline isn't met, and that reserve funds be used for the Industrial Road upgrade. The amendment was not accepted, noting there is a different process to be followed for funding projects with regular TIP funds which needs to be adhered to in deference to all the projects that have already done so. Mr. Stoner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Link asked to amend the motion, that the Harrisburg projects be bid with the Industrial Road project as an alternate item to be funded in the case of future savings. Mr. Sloand stated that a project cannot be bid without the funding.

Staff provided information regarding the ARRA discretionary TIGER funds. A list of 25 projects from the HATS long range plan fitting the parameters for TIGER funding was distributed. No information has been provided from PennDOT or municipalities indicating any applications for TIGER funding will be submitted in the HATS region.

5. Status Reports

PennDOT

- Exit 44 and 581 projects are moving along.
- Mr. Memmi requested Department help in getting the University Drive/5th Street project started this year and kept on track.
- Funding Status – The Federal Highway Trust Fund is projected to be insolvent in July or August. SAFETEA-LU expires in September and cannot be extended unless the Trust Fund is repaired. Act 44 capital funding will be less than projected.

CAT (Mr. Hoffer)

- CAT ridership is holding steady.
- Hershey Park route has started for the season

SARAA

- Access bridge work is going well
- Overall ridership is down, Orlando route ridership is up; new direct service to Atlanta has begun.

Franklin County RPO

- Franklin County just became a rural planning organization (RPO). There will be an informal planning agreement between the RPO and HATS because Shippensburg Borough straddles the Cumberland-Franklin County line.

City of Harrisburg (Mr. Link)

- The State Street Bridge lighting project has begun.

HATS Staff

- CAT Service Study (Mr. Kmiecinski): The study team is evaluating a series of alternatives to improve regional transit service, including two versions of local Carlisle service, intersection improvements, Progress Avenue, and the West Shore Office Park.
- Park & Ride Project (Mr. Ames): Inventory is complete, next meeting will be about site selection.
- Regional Goods Movement Forum (Ms. Green): Second quarterly meeting was a legislative session rescheduled from the Capitol to the Keystone building. The subject was sustainable transportation funding and public-private partnerships (P3) and speakers included FHWA and VA DOT representatives. Senator Wonderling wants to move SB 693 (P3) through quickly to prepare for future P3 possibilities; since a turnpike lease or similar deal is not on the table currently, there may be legislative support for this.
- Regional Action Plan (Mr. Szymborski): The RAP group met to discuss regional coordination of the transit services in the eight counties.
- Regional Transportation Plan (Ms. Myers-Krug): Task force members are being confirmed with a kickoff meeting anticipated for the end September.
- Regional Growth Management Plan (Ms. Green): The kickoff Steering Committee meeting took place, and there will be monthly meetings for the near future. A purpose/

need approach (a la NEPA) will be taken, and scenario analysis will be critical in Plan development as historical trends cannot necessarily be expected to be repeated.

6. Other Business

Lemoyne Connector: The CAT board is dealing with Norfolk Southern on coordinating the project, and there is still support from Norfolk Southern.

State Transportation Committee hearings for HATS region will be September 17 in Lebanon County. Information is on the PennDOT website at:
<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdCommissCommitt.nsf/TransCommissHomepage?OpenFrameset>.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm

8. Attendance

Name	Affiliation
Technical Committee Members Present	
Technical Committee Officers	
James Szymborski, AICP, Chairman	Dauphin County
Timothy Reardon, AICP, Vice-Chairman*	HATS Planning Staff
Karen Green, Secretary*	HATS Planning Staff
Technical Committee Members	
Kirk Stoner, AICP	Cumberland County
Jody Harpster	Cumberland County
Skip Memmi (Alternate)	Dauphin County
James Turner	Perry County
Diane Myers-Krug, AICP	Perry County
James Hoffer	Capital Area Transit
Joe Link	Harrisburg City
Dan Leppo (Alternate)	Harrisburg City
Walt Panko (Alternate)	PennDOT Office of Planning
Jim Close	Harrisburg City
David Spaulding	Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority
Bill Jones (Alternate)	Capital Area Transit
Dennis Sloand	PennDOT District 8-0
Technical Committee Members Not Present	
Commissioner Rick Rovegno (Alternate)	Cumberland County
Commissioner Jeff Haste	Dauphin County
Robert Shaffer, Sr (Alternate)	Perry County
Larry Shifflet	PennDOT Office of Planning
Mike Gillespie (Alternate)	PennDOT District 8-0
Other Attendees	
Alfred Sundara, AICP	HATS Planning Staff
Drew Ames	HATS Planning Staff
Mike Kmiecinski	HATS Planning Staff
Terry Grove	Grove-Miller
Frank Cozzolli	Patriot-News
Rick Jordan	Smith Land & Improvement Corp
Emily Opilo	Patriot-News
Lou Roth	Delta Development Group
Laura Conrad	Rep. Glen Grell
Brandy Heilman	Commuter Services
Mike Berner	The Berner Group
John Snyder	RGS Associates
Craig Mellott	Traffic Planning and Design, Inc
Ron Jones	Traffic Planning and Design, Inc
Tom Imholte	Dawood Engineering, Inc
Rachel Cornman	Harrisburg Regional Chamber
George Wolfe	Lower Paxton Township

Rick Jordan III
Paul K. Cornell
Jay States
Daniel Flint
Tom Helm
Larry Joyce
Rob Lauriello
Troy Truax
Chad Decker
Steve Hietsch
Bill Peterson
* Non voting member

Smith Land and Improvement Corp
Swatara Township
Grove Miller Engineering
Lower Allen Twp.
Harrisburg Bicycle Club
Sierra Club
Rettew Associates
Delta Development Group, Inc
Dewberry
Carlisle Borough
Center for Community Building, Inc