

H A T S
Coordinating Committee Meeting
Capital Area Transit
CAT Board Room, 2nd Floor
Meeting # 171
January 27, 2006
9:00 AM

Attendance

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

1. Welcome & Introductions

Representative Keller called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM by welcoming everyone to the Capital Area Transit Offices. He then asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Election of Officers

Mr. Reardon explained HATS officers needed to be elected for the 2006 calendar year. The 2005 officers were Mark Keller, Chairman, Jeff Haste, Vice-Chairman, and Bruce Barclay, Secretary.

- #171-01: Mr. Turner motioned the same three officers retain the same positions in 2006, Representative Marsico seconded
- #171-01a: Mr. Hoffer motioned the nominations be closed, Mr. Link seconded, Representative Keller, Commissioner Haste, and Commissioner Barclay were elected unanimously to the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary respectively

3. Minutes of the December 2005 Coordinating Committee and January 2006 Technical Committee meetings

Representative Keller asked if anyone had any comments about the December 16th HATS Coordinating Committee minutes, there were none.

- #171-02: Commissioner Barclay motioned the minutes be accepted, Commissioner Haste seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- Representative Keller noted the January Technical Committee minutes had been included in the agenda packets for informational purposes.

4. Air Quality Conformity Determination for PM_{2.5}

(see Public Comments Received Strawberry Square – January 10, 2006 handout for list of comments)

Mr. Sundara informed the Committee the Air Quality conformity analysis demonstrates the TIP and RTP transportation projects conform to PM_{2.5} standards and also ensures all criteria established by EPA are met. The conformity determination must be approved by U.S. DOT by April 5, 2006 for all areas statewide. Mr. Sundara noted the conformity analysis has undergone the public participation requirements. A public meeting was held on January 10, the comments received were summarized (see handout). The public comment period ended January 17th, and no further comments were received after the public meeting. The air quality analysis demonstrates lower emissions throughout future years; implementing the TIP and RTP will not adversely affect the air quality.

- #171-03: Commissioner Barclay motioned to forward Air Quality Conformity Determination report be approved. Mr. King seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Joyce noted the report indicated total vehicle miles traveled would increase by 51% between 2002 and 2030, while NO_x emissions would decrease by 88% over the same time frame. Mr. Stevens stated that was a function of much cleaner vehicles and fuels being used by the end of the time frame.

5. Short Range Transit Plan

(see *CONNECTIONS: A Guide to Public Transportation in the Metro-Harrisburg Region and Beyond* handout)

Mr. Dickson briefly discussed the updated version of the Short Range Transit Plan, which was enclosed in the packet. He stated the plan included updated schedule and ridership information for the various transit providers within the region. Those facts included modified paratransit information and information about Capital Area Transit's new employer-oriented routes. Mr. Dickson mentioned the report will be sent out in either hard copy or compact disc to various community organizations, agencies, and libraries as a reference for all the transit opportunities available in the region. He noted the report is also available online at <http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/srtp.htm>.

- #171-04: Mr. Hoffman motioned to endorse the report for approval. Mr. Hoffer seconded, motion passed unanimously.

6. FFY 2005-2008 TIP

Mr. Panko explained that SAFETEA-LU requires the states to provide obligation authority to urbanized areas with a population over 200,000 for federal STP-Earmarked Urban (STU) funds for FFYs 2004, 2005, and 2006 at the same rate as all other funds. The amount of obligation authority the region receives is based upon the total obligation authority received by the state relative to its programmed funding for FFYs 2004, 2005, and 2006. PennDOT estimates the obligation authority level for the 3 years was about 87% of the programmed funds. STU funds have not been obligated at the same rate as other funds, so more STU funds need to be obligated. Approximately \$7.9 million of STU funds are still available, meaning roughly \$6.9 million of STU funds must be obligated by the end of FFY 2006 (September 30, 2006). The TIP amendments made to ensure the STU funds are obligated are shown below.

Mr. Panko provided an overview of the latest Amendments and Administrative Actions (see *HATS MPO FFY 2005-2008 TIP Modifications from 12/2/05 to 1/13/06 for more details*).

a. Highway Amendments

- The Linglestown Square (ROW), Derry Street (CON), PA 114 (York St. and Hogestown Rd.) (CON), and Grantham Road Connection (CON) projects all had their funds converted from STP to STU. The Derry Street and Grantham Road Connection projects also were allocated additional funding. Mr. Adams noted the bid for the Derry Street project was moved back to March.
- The PA 39 (Linglestown Rd. Bridges) (CON) project had its funding converted from federal bridge funds to STU.
- The Campbelltown Connector (CON) project received additional STU funds. Mr. Panko noted the Technical Committee recommended the funds be applied to the intersection improvements only.
- STU funds from both the US 15/PA 581 improvements (CON) and the Harrisburg 7th Street Widening (FD) were removed from the 2005 TIP but will be restored on the 2007 TIP.
- The PA 174 (Walnut Bottom Road) (CON) project was split-funded between FFY 2006 and FFY 2007 to balance the TIP while allowing the project to start construction this year.
- Mr. Panko noted the design of the bridge on I-70 in Washington County that collapsed in late December was similar in design to many bridges in the state and those bridges with a similar design will be put on the fast track for replacement. The SR2011/Bachmanville Road Bridge in Derry Township has a similar design. State funding for all pre-construct phases (PE, FD, ROW,

and utilities) will be added to the TIP in FFY 2006; the funding came from HATS' 2005 TIP bridge reserve. The project is expected to go to construction and be replaced in FFY 2007.

- #171-05: Mr. Hoffman motioned the amendments be adopted, Commissioner Haste seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Administrative Actions

- Mr. Panko stated there was only one administrative action; PennDOT recently received additional state funds for smooth roads (Appropriation 818). Some funds from this appropriation, \$3,640,000, would be applied to US 22/322 between the Clarks' Ferry Bridge and the Perry County Line (near the US 22/322 interchange). The funds are additional funds on the TIP and do not impact the base allocation.

Other Comments

- Representative Marsico asked when the Union Deposit Road Bridge over Beaver Creek would go to construction and be replaced. Mr. Adams replied the project had already been bid and will start construction in the spring.

c. Governor's Transportation Funding and Reform Commission (see packet for a copy of the Governor's formal order creating the Commission)

- Representative Marsico asked various questions about the flexing of transportation funds to transit within the state relative to the significant bridge needs within the HATS region. Mr. King addressed the various concerns and noted the MPOs approved the flexing of funds before any action took place.
- On a related note, Mr. King explained three statewide transportation budgets would be increased, the Smoother Roads line item (increased from \$50 million to \$150 million), the Safer Bridges line item (increased from \$28 million to \$48 million), and the Emergency line item (increased from \$5 million to \$15 million). The additional \$130 million in funding came from two sources, cost savings from reduced tort liability funds and cost savings from more streamlined PennDOT operations.
- Mr. King then discussed the formation and purpose of the Transportation Funding and Reform Commission. He stated the group was made up of nine members, chaired by Secretary Biehler and including three members of the General Assembly, and it would examine both highway and transit funding issues.
- The Commission would hold various public hearings throughout the state, including two in Harrisburg in the first half of 2006, to gather input about what the underlying needs are to be able to better address funding issues. Written testimony can also be submitted to the Commission.
- Representative Keller noted the Commission's bylaws require that at least one member each is from Philadelphia and Allegheny County.
- Commissioner Haste objected to a clause in the bylaws stating there were low levels of transportation support from local government. He pointed out many transportation issue cross municipal or county lines, making the issues regional in nature and beyond the jurisdiction of local governments and also mentioned oftentimes cutbacks at higher levels of government trickle down and impact local governments, forcing them to make difficult decisions. Mr. King indicated the Commissioner's input would be considered.

7. FFY 2007 TIP Update – draft

a. Highway TIP

A preliminary draft TIP must be submitted to PennDOT by February 1, 2006, therefore the HATS Coordinating Committee must take action on a preliminary TIP at its January Meeting.

- Mr. Panko explained how the draft TIP was constructed.

- Funds cannot be carried over from the 2005 TIP to the 2007 TIP.
- Candidate projects that were obligated in 2005 or are expected to be obligated in 2006 (which were identified by District 8-0) were removed from the draft TIP.
- After meeting with District 8-0 staff, project costs were adjusted where necessary.
- Line-items (TE, STU, bridge reserves, etc.) were added to the TIP listed.
- Mr. Panko discussed the Technical Committee's recommendations and the new projects added to the TIP
 - Jednota, Phase I – local funds will cover the pre-construct phases and an earmark and STU funds will cover the construction phase. Nearly \$3.3 million in STU funds was allocated to the project.
 - Walnut Street Bridge – with the exception of a federal earmark (\$769,000) and possibly Transportation Enhancements funds (\$400,000), all other funds for the project are coming from non-transportation sources.
 - Ned Smith Center Pedestrian Trail – special federal funds outside the base allocation are funding this project (\$500,000)
 - St. John's Church Road Interchange – project was removed from the TIP, but a West Shore planning study will be conducted and consider the US 15/PA 581 improvements which are currently being implemented to define the circulation concerns in the area and generate alternative solutions (which may or may not include an interchange at St John's Church Road). The Technical Committee recommended whatever recommendations result from the study be funded out of the HATS reserves.
 - A total of \$28 million in spike funding was requested; the amount is consistent with the amount of spike funding already allocated to projects
- Mr. Panko reviewed the draft 2007 TIP Summary Sheet (see yellow sheet in packet)
 - I-81 Exit 44 – approximately \$40 million is apportioned to the project. Of this amount, about \$25 million will be covered by statewide IM funds, meaning HATS will need to cover \$15 million of the project out of its base allocation.
- Mr. Panko briefly explained the IM funds spreadsheet, noting \$24 million will be added to the HATS TIP in FFY 2007-08 and more funds may be set aside for the region in FFY 2009-10. A formal decision on the FFY 2009-10 IM funds has not been made yet. Funds for the Exit 44 project would be cash flowed to allow the project to begin construction.
- The draft TIP is approximately \$22 million over budget
 - Mr. Link suggested the Coordinating Committee request \$22 million in spike funds to cover the shortfall; the funds would be used on the US 15/PA 581 project.
- #171-06: Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the FFY 2007-10 draft Highway TIP and forward it to PennDOT, with the request that \$22 million in spike funds be used towards the US 15/PA 581 project. Commissioner Barclay seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Transit TIP

Mr. Hoffer stated the draft 2007 HATS Transit TIP would be submitted to HATS and PennDOT staff the next week for their review. Official action on the transit TIP will take place in April.

c. Financial Guidance

Interstate Management Program

Ms. Myers-Krug noted a letter had been drafted, signed, and sent to Secretary Biehler noting HATS' concerns about the funding revisions to the IM Program.

Transportation Enhancements

Mr. Millard explained some discussion about the TE Program guidance took place at the January 19th Interstate Maintenance Guidance meeting

- As is the case with other funding sources, TE/HTS/SRTS funds cannot be carried over from the 2005 TIP to the 2007 TIP.
- Projects that are already obligated or will be obligated in FFY 2006 are not subject to the carryover issue.
- HATS must cover the costs of all existing TE/HTS/SRTS projects that do not get obligated in FFY 2006 using its local allocation in FFY 2007 and FFY 2008 (\$2,105,000 total).
- If more HATS area projects and their associated funding are obligated in either FFY 2007 or FFY 2008 than HATS has in its local allocation for that year, PennDOT will use line item funds to cover the cost of those “extra” projects.
- Mr. Millard stated the region will probably benefit if the existing TE/HTS/SRTS projects can be obligated and start construction in FFY 2006, FFY 2007, or FFY 2008.
- Mr. Millard said HATS will need to take official action and select its candidate projects at its February meetings, however at this point it is acceptable to approve the 2007 TIP TE funding as a line item (done earlier in the meeting).
- Mr. Millard also noted the region can still recommend projects to PennDOT to be considered for statewide TE funding. He mentioned at its January meeting the Dauphin County Planning Commission made a recommendation that will be forwarded to HATS that the Walnut Street Bridge project be submitted to PennDOT for statewide consideration.

8. Status Reports

- PennDOT (Mr. Hoffman)
 - District 8-0 will evaluate the locally-owned bridges that have the same design as the I-70 bridge that recently collapsed in Washington County. A total of 22 local bridges within the HATS area (8 in Cumberland, 13 in Dauphin, and 1 in Perry) have this design. The bridges are eligible for 80% federal funding from the bridge inspection line item.
 - Representative Marsico asked about the status of the US 22 SAMI study in eastern Dauphin County. Mr. Hoffman replied construction on the project should start in the spring and take about one year to complete.
 - Representative Marsico also inquired about the I-83 Master Plan improvements, particularly the South Bridge. Mr. Hoffman responded Phase I (between I-81 and the Eisenhower Interchange) improvements and some early action projects will soon be in the PE phase.
 - Representative Keller asked about the progress on the PA 34 bridge over Shermans Creek. Mr. Adams replied there were 10 minor right-of-way acquisitions that needed to take place before the project could start. Representative Keller noted many people who use the bridge have concerns about the bridge due to its appearance. Mr. Adams reassured him the bridge is regularly checked, appears to still be sound, and is not currently posted.
- CAT (Mr. Hoffer)
 - CAT ridership continues to increase and was up 12% in December 2005 compared to December 2004.
 - On January 3rd CAT was able to use its CMAQ funds to start a Shippensburg to Harrisburg express route. The bus makes stops in Shippensburg and at the I-81 Exit 37 park-and-ride near Newville before coming to Harrisburg. The total trip length is 1 hour, 10 minutes.
- SARAA (Mr. Spaulding)
 - After some negotiations, low cost carrier AirTran recently decided to not come to HIA due to competitive market factors.

- SARAA is continuing to work with various low cost carriers and carriers already serving the airport to reduce costs.
- USAirways recently reduced the standard advance fare between HIA and Charlotte by 60% and also reinstated Saturday service between HIA and Orlando.
- City of Harrisburg (Mr. Link)
 - Work has been completed on the Mulberry Street Bridge ramp.
 - The Market Street Bridge City Island underpass work is approximately halfway done. Work was recently completed on the south side of the underpass.
 - All but one bid on the Harrisburg Transportation Center restoration were rejected, those portions of the project will be rebid.
 - An open house public meeting about the Walnut Street Corridor study will be held in Penbrook on February 16th.
- Cumberland County
 - Commissioner Barclay asked if there was any way to encourage Norfolk Southern to provide more funding for the Stella Street underpass project. Mr. King answered PennDOT was trying to facilitate reasonable discussion among all parties involved in the project.
- TCRPC
 - Regional Goods Movement Study (Mr. Millard)
 - The consultant team project manager has met with all but one of the counties in the study to verify the existing conditions and projected future conditions data generated for the study.
 - Next regular regional GMS meeting scheduled for February 7th, will focus on county meeting review and in-depth discussion about the formation of the a regional freight forum or goods movement task force
 - Three public meetings for the study will be held in the HATS area and tentatively one of the meetings is scheduled to take place at the April HATS Technical Committee meeting

9. Other Business

Pre-qualification of contractors (Mr. Reardon)

- Representatives from PennDOT District 8-0 met with the Technical Committee and explained contract regulations
- There are two types of contractors for most projects, prime and subcontractors
- All contractors who work on state-bid projects must be pre-qualified, though the regulations do not require an financial audit for subcontractors as they do for prime contractors
- Pre-qualified subcontractors can conduct bids for contracts if A) the project is bid locally by the municipality or another entity and B) if the project is located outside a PennDOT right-of-way
- PennDOT staff is willing to meet with contractors to provide guidance
- Commissioner Haste stated he would like to begin the educational process for contractors and particularly reach out to economically-challenged firms
- Mr. Adams suggested HATS staff could cover contractor pre-qualification information at its future TE and/or HTS/SRTS workshops. Mr. Link said he could assist in the instruction.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM

ATTENDANCE

**Harrisburg Area Transportation Study
Coordinating Committee Meeting
December 16, 2005**

Affiliation		Member Name	Attending?
Voting Members:			
<u>PennDOT</u>			
PennDOT Office of Planning:		Larry King	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		Jim Ritzman	
Alternate:		Larry Shifflet	
Staff: (non-voting member)		Walt Panko	<u>X</u>
District 8-0 Office:		Barry Hoffman	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		Mike Gillespie	
Staff: (non-voting member)		Terry Adams	<u>X</u>
<u>Cumberland County</u>			
Commissioner:	Secretary	Bruce Barclay	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		Gary Eichelberger	
Voting Member:		Don Mowery	
<u>Dauphin County</u>			
Commissioner:	Vice-Chairman	Jeff Haste	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		Skip Memmi	<u>X</u>
PA House of Representatives:		Ron Marsico	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		Eric Bugaile	<u>X</u>
<u>Perry County</u>			
PA House of Representatives:	Chairman	Mark Keller	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		John Amsler	
Planning Commission:		Jim Turner	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		Bob Shaffer	
<u>Harrisburg City</u>			
Mayor:		Stephen Reed	
Alternate:		Jim Close	<u>X</u>
City Engineer:		Joe Link	<u>X</u>
Alternates:		Dan Leppo	
		Terri Martini	
<u>Capital Area Transit</u>			
Member:		Dick Miller	
Alternate:		Jim Hoffer	<u>X</u>
		Bill Simpson	
Advisory Members:			
<u>TCRPC</u>			
		Jim Szyborski	
		Tim Reardon	<u>X</u>
		Diane Myers-Krug	<u>X</u>
		Chip Millard	<u>X</u>
		Al Sundara	<u>X</u>
		Brian Dickson	<u>X</u>
Other Persons Attending (Guests):			
<u>Federal Reps:</u>			
FWHA – PA Division		Spencer Stevens	<u>X</u>
FWHA – PA Division		Pat Garber	<u>X</u>
<u>Congressional Reps:</u>			
U.S. Congressman Todd Platt’s Office		Bob Reilly	<u>X</u>
State Senator Pat Vance’s Office		Mark Ryan	<u>X</u>
State Representative Ron Marsico’s Office		Pat Herigan	
State Representative John Payne’s Office		Todd Pagliarulo	

Planning Partners

Amtrak (National Passenger Railroad Corporation)	Rich Esposito	
Norfolk Southern Railroad Corporation	Mike Fesen	
Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association (PMTA)	Jim Runk	
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC)	Tim Smith	
Susquehanna Regional Airport Authority (SARAA)	Dave Spaulding	X

Municipality Reps:

Lower Allen Township	Daniel Flint	X
Marysville Borough	Ann Simonetti	X
South Londonderry Township	Scott Galbraith	X
South Londonderry Township	Tom Ernharth	X
Wormleysburg Borough	Thomas Kanganis	X

Other Organizations:

PennDOT Office of Planning	Mike Schultz	X
Center for Community Building	Bill Peterson	X
Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority	Chris Gulotta	X
Harrisburg Bicycle Club	Tom Helm	X
Harrisburg Regional Chamber	Jim Willshier	X
Sierra Club	Larry Joyce	X
Benetec Associates	William Scott	X
HARSCO	Ken Julian	X
Delta Development Group	Scott Tochterman	X

Other Guests

Carlisle Sentinel	Karla Browne	X
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