

H A T S
Coordinating Committee Meeting
Capital Area Transit
CAT Board Room, 2nd Floor
Meeting # 178
February 23, 2007
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 introduced the current officers of the HATS Coordinating Committee and opened the floor for nominations of Officers for 2007

a. Chairman

- #178-01 Commissioner Barclay motioned to nominate Representative Keller as HATS Chairman, Commissioner Haste seconded, motion passed unanimously
- #178-02 Commissioner Haste motioned to close nominations, Commissioner Barclay seconded, motion passed unanimously
- Representative Keller thanked everyone for his nomination.

b. Vice-Chairman

- #178-03 Commissioner Barclay motioned to nominate Commissioner Haste as HATS Vice-Chairman, Representative Keller seconded, motion passed unanimously
- #178-04 Mr. Turner motioned to close nominations, Mr. Link seconded, motion passed unanimously

c. Secretary

- #178-05 Representative Keller motioned to nominate Commissioner Barclay as HATS Secretary, Commissioner Haste seconded, motion passed unanimously
- #178-06 Mr. Turner motioned to close nominations, Mr. Hoffman seconded, motion passed unanimously

3. SRTP Board of Directors – HATS Representative and Alternate

- #178-07 Commissioner Haste motioned to retain Mr. Szymborski as the HATS Representative on the SRTP Board and Mr. Reardon as his alternate, Commissioner Barclay seconded, motion passed unanimously.

4. Minutes of the December 2006 Coordinating Committee and February 2007 Technical Committee meetings

Representative Keller asked if anyone had any comments about the December 15th HATS Coordinating Committee minutes, there were none.

- #178-08 Commissioner Barclay motioned for the minutes to be accepted, Commissioner Haste seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Representative Keller noted the February 9th Technical Committee minutes had been included in the agenda packets for informational purposes.

5. Draft Annual Report

Mr. Sundara gave an overview of the 2006 HATS Annual Report (*included in packet*) and requested any comments on the report should be submitted to him before March 2, 2007.

- #178-09 Commissioner Hasted motioned to approve the HATS Annual Report with any comments submitted being addressed, Commissioner Barclay seconded, motion passed unanimously.

6. Draft UPWP

Ms. Myers-Krug provided an overview of the proposed UPWP program for 2007-2008 (*see Draft Unified Planning Work Program FY 2007-2008 for details*) and an overview of what was done for the UPWP over the past year (*see Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Progress Report 2006 Summary for details*). Some of the highlights of the program include the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), continued follow-up on the Regional Goods Movement Study, update of the Congestion Management Process, and the St. Johns Church Road Study (since renamed the Camp Hill/Lower Allen/Shiremanstown/Hampden Circulation Study or CLASH Circulation Study).

- #178-10 Commissioner Haste motioned to adopt the UPWP program, Commissioner Barclay seconded.
- Mr. Panko commented that there are additional funds available for LTAP that the MPO could use.
- #178-10a Commissioner Haste motioned to add the inclusion of the additional LTAP funds into the UPWP, Commissioner Barclay seconded, motion passed unanimously.

7. FFY 2007-2010 TIP Modifications

a. Amendments

Mr. Panko provided an overview of the TIP Amendments (*see HATS MPO FFY 2007-2010 TIP Modifications from 12/1/06 to 2/9/07 Revision #1 for details*)

- Mr. Panko noted there was a large cost increase in the Steelton Streetscape Project (#8), but Steelton was paying for the cost increases.
- Mr. Adams noted that Project 3, I-81 Br. PM Group 2, was using additional state funds to move the project forward.
- Mr. Adams noted that Project 12, Shermansdale Bridge replacement, will be let on March 29. Representative Keller noted his thanks on moving this project forward.
- #178-11 Commissioner Haste motioned to approve the TIP Amendments, Mr. Barclay seconded, motion passed unanimously.

b. Administrative Actions

Mr. Panko provided an overview of the TIP Administrative Actions (*see HATS MPO FFY 2007-2010 TIP Modifications from 12/1/06 to 2/9/07 Revision #1 for details*)

- Mr. Adams noted the HATS area is out of Reserve Line Item funds.
- Mr. Adams noted there has been a 36% inflation rate on bids and fewer contractors are bidding on projects. It was also noted much of the cost increases are due to the increased price of asphalt, which generally follows the price of gasoline.
- Mr. Panko noted he would try to prepare a chart that shows which projects have had cost increases and which projects have had cost decreases.
- Representative Keller noted on the Shermansdale Bridge project that the local Fire Company requested to him a dry hydrant be provided as part of the project. Mr. Hoffman said he would contact the project engineer to see if this issue is being addressed.
- When asked why there has been a decrease in the number of bidders on projects, Mr. Hoffman noted a number of reasons that could be driving this trend. They include many smaller contractors being absorbed into larger firms, more contractors at the national level sending their resources to the south for the Hurricane Katrina projects, fewer young people

- entering into the construction field, and an increase in projects being done at night to lessen the traffic impact that do not have attractive hours to many workers.
- Ms. Myers-Krug noted a Shippensburg Signalization project is currently going through an air quality conformity review and the Technical Committee recommended the earmarked project be added to the TIP upon conformity determination by EPA. The earmark is matched with local funds and will have no impact on other TIP projects, as it does not involve any other HATS funds.
- #178-12 Commissioner Barclay motioned to add the project, contingent upon approval of the project, Commissioner Haste seconded, motion passed unanimously.

c. Transportation Enhancements

Mr. Millard has contacted all administrators of the approved TE projects and provided a status report on their activity (*see HATS MPO TE/HTS/SRS Projects 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Project as of Feb. 23, 2007 for details*)

- Mr. Millard commented that upon reviewing the York MPO meeting minutes he found identified a project in York, which was approved for discretionary statewide TE funding, was experiencing cost increases. PennDOT told the York MPO any cost increases on that project would be the responsibility of the local project sponsor and the MPO, even though the project was funded out of statewide, discretionary TE funds. He contacted PennDOT personnel prior to the Technical Committee meeting to get further clarification on the regulations. From the responses received, it appeared this policy would apply to all discretionary funded TE projects. The HATS Technical Committee discussed the issue at length and expressed concern that the MPO should not be responsible for cost increases on any projects not funded from the local HATS TE allocation. There was particular concern about possibly providing funding to three TE projects in the HATS area that were selected to receive statewide, discretionary TE funds but had not been formally endorsed by the MPO. At the request of the Technical Committee a letter was drafted stating HATS position, that it would not fund cost increases on any project funded through statewide TE funds (*see copy of draft letter to Mr. Jim Ritzman*). The Coordinating Committee then discussed these issues at further length.
 - Mr. Adams noted the York project should have never been submitted for funding originally, as the project sponsor had not submitted the full scope of the project when originally submitted.
 - Committee members generally agreed HATS should not cover cost increases on projects receiving statewide TE funds. Some Committee members felt there was a distinction between statewide TE projects depending on whether the project was endorsed by HATS. Projects not specifically endorsed by HATS should not be eligible for cost increase funding from HATS, while cost increases on projects receiving statewide TE funding but were endorsed by HATS could be considered for cost increase funding.
 - Mr. Adams suggested a limit be put on the amount of funds available for cost increases on MPO approved projects as one large increase on one project could wipe out any reserve funds available once normal funding of TE projects is reinstated and reserve funds are again available.
- #178-13 Representative Marsico motioned to send the letter, as is, to PennDOT, Commissioner Haste seconded, motion passed unanimously.

8. FFY 2009-2012 TIP Update

Ms. Myers-Krug provided an overview for the creation of the FFY 2009-2012 TIP (*see yellow sheet HATS FFY 2009-2012 Program Update Draft Schedule*)

- Staff is working with state and federal officials on ways to link MPO planning and NEPA requirements. These SAFETEA-LU regulations generate the need for HATS to update its

process to be in compliance.

- Staff is asking for volunteers to be members of the HATS Planning Process Committee. It is proposed to begin with members of the TIP Steering Committee.

9. Status Reports

- PennDOT (Mr. Hoffman)
 - The US-15/PA-581 construction project will go out to bid March 9.
- City of Harrisburg (Mr. Link)
 - The Harrisburg Transportation Center refurbishing project is expected to be completed in March.
 - Contract was awarded for the traffic signal projects along 6th, 13th, and 17th Streets.
 - Mr. Adams inquired as to the status of the Southern Gateway project. Mr. Leppo noted the city is seeking additional funding for the project and working on coordinating the land uses in the area with the transportation and utilities infrastructure.
 - Mr. Leppo noted the Walnut Street Corridor Study has been completed and work on the report has started.
- HIA / Amtrak Station
 - Representative Marsico inquired about the status of the HIA / Amtrak Station
 - Mr. Adams noted the 30% Plan has been sent to Amtrak but they have not responded yet.
 - Mr. Adams noted there is a shortage of funds at the current moment and does not know the status of funding for the project.
 - Mr. Hoffer noted Amtrak plans to shut down the Middletown Station once the HIA station opens. CORRIDORone has been working with Middletown, looking into relocating the current station so it can be used by CORRIDORone trains.
- CAT (Mr. Hoffer)
 - January 2007 saw the third continuous year of fixed route ridership increases from the same month the year before. He noted with all the bad weather in February, this month may be the exception to this rule.
 - CAT is encouraged by the funds allocated for transit in the proposed Pennsylvania budget, but is working on contingency plans, should the proposed funds not appear.
 - Mr. Hoffer noted CAT has printed a new system map, which is the first system map available in many years. He thanked the TCRPC staff for all their work in creating the new system map.
 - PennDOT has approved an increase in the CAT Paratransit fares, and these new fares will become effective in March.
- SARAA – no report this month.
- Amtrak – no report this month.
- Norfolk Southern
 - There were some inquires into the status of the Lemoyne Connector project. It was noted some archeological artifacts had been found at that a full environmental study is currently being done. Commissioner Haste requested staff to contact Norfolk Southern and ask them to attend the April meeting to provide an update.
- PA Motor Truck Association – no report this month.
- PA Turnpike Commission – no report this month.
- TCRPC (Mr. Szymborski)
 - St. John's Church Rd. Study (Mr. Millard)
 - The name for the study has been changed to the Camp Hill, Lower Allen, Shiremanstown, Hampden (CLASH) Circulation Study.
 - McCormick Taylor was selected as the consultant to do the study.

- The contract with McCormick Taylor is currently under review.
- Regional Goods Movement Study (Mr. Millard)
 - Last meeting on January 16, extensive discussion took place about finding various funding sources to publish truckers guide and collect updated data.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for March 6th.
- ITS Regional Operations Forum (Mr. Millard)
 - Four separate regional stakeholder meetings were held on February 13.
 - The topics discussed in the four stakeholder meetings were incident management, traffic signals, traveler information, and goods movement needs.
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force (Mr. Dickson)
 - The B/P Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, focusing on reviewing and overseeing projects on the TIP to ensure bicycle and/or pedestrian needs are incorporated into the design.
 - The committee is also looking at other regional Bike / Pedestrian Plans and has invited the Lancaster MPO Bike / Ped coordinator to attend the next meeting.
- Commuter Services Program/Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (Mr. Reardon)
 - The Highway signage project to install “Try Carpooling” and “Try Transit” with the Commuter Services phone number is moving forward. URS is working with PennDOT to identify exact positions for the signs when the contractors install them.
 - The SRTP Board at their last meeting had discussed the idea of using the variable ITS message signs to promote transit, but PennDOT policy is to use these signs only in emergencies, as if the boards are always in use people will tend not to read them during real emergencies.
 - Mr. Reardon noted the SRTP Board would suggest to PennDOT to install fixed signs prior to construction of 15/581 and other major projects in the region to promote the use of transit during construction periods.
 - Mr. Hoffer noted the Winding Hill Park & Ride was started during construction on US-15 and that has remained as a successful Park & Ride location.

10. Other Business

Handouts were provided to members about important transportation issues.

- A summary of the proposals offered by Governor Rendell to address the Transportation Funding Crises in Pennsylvania was provided (*see yellow sheet Governor Rendell Offers Solution to Pennsylvania’s Transportation funding Crises and Transportation in Crisis 2007-08 Executive Budget*)
- It was noted that President Bush has signed a \$3.471 billion Rescission Order, which could cut funding for many major transportation program funds including CMAQ, TE, and STP funds.
- Commissioner Haste requested Norfolk-Southern be present at the next meeting to give the Committee an update on the Lemoyne Connector project. It is staff’s understanding the project is proceeding with a full environmental/archeological review, which should take about a year to complete.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

ATTENDANCE
Harrisburg Area Transportation Study
 Coordinating Committee Meeting
 February 23, 2007

Affiliation		Member Name	Attending
Voting Members:			
<u>PennDOT</u>			
PennDOT Office of Planning:		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>
Staff: (non-voting member)		Jonathan Ranck	<u>X</u>
<u>Cumberland County</u>			
Commissioner:	Secretary	Bruce Barclay	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		Gary Eichelberger	
Voting Member:		Don Mowery	<u>X</u>
<u>Dauphin County</u>			
Commissioner:	Vice-Chairman	Jeff Haste	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		Skip Memmi	
PA House of Representatives:		Ron Marsico	<u>X</u>
Alternate:		Eric Bugaile	
<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	
City Engineer:		Joe Link	<u>X</u>
Alternates:		Dan Leppo	<u>X</u>
		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>Planning Partners</u>			
Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority (SARAA)		Dave Spaulding	
<u>Congressional/Legislative Reps:</u>			
PA House of Representatives		Scott Perry	<u>X</u>
PA Senator Pat Vance's Office		Tracy Polonick	<u>X</u>
PA Representative Ron Marsico's Office		Pat Herigan	<u>X</u>
<u>Municipality Reps:</u>			
Lower Paxton Township		George Wolfe	<u>X</u>

Other Organizations:

Center for Community Building	Bill Peterson	<u>X</u>
Clean Air Board	Charles Breslin	<u>X</u>
Harrisburg Bicycle Club	Tom Helm	<u>X</u>
Sierra Club	Larry Joyce	<u>X</u>
Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC	Jim Willshier	<u>X</u>