

Erie MPO Coordinating Committee
November 14, 2007 Minutes

A meeting of the Erie MPO Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, November 14th, 2007 at 10:00 AM at the Erie Intermodal Transportation Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 208 East Bayfront Parkway, Erie, PA.

Those in attendance were:

Organization	Representative	Alternate
PennDOT Central	Bob Hannigan	Kristin Egresits
PennDOT D 1-0		Don Hall
Erie County		Jake Welsh
City of Erie		Edward Kissell
City of Erie	Dick Gebhardt	
City of Erie		
City of Erie		
City of Erie		
City of Erie		
City of Corry		Gerry Dahl
Fairview Township		
Harborcreek Township	David Bossart	
Lawrence Park Township	Tom Renshaw	
Millcreek Township	Thomas Hoffman	Richard Morris
Summit Township	Marlin Coon	Dave Sterrett
Wesleyville Borough		
Association of Boroughs	Richard McGuire	
Association of Townships	Mark Corey	
EWPPA		Julia Eagles
EMTA		Lorene McGuire
EMAA		Don Button

Coordinating Committee Voting Members represented – 15 of 21; quorum present

Guests	Organization
Mariah Hanson	PennDOT Dist 1-0
Erin Wiley	PennDOT Dist 1-0
Tom Alcorn	PennDOT Dist 1-0
Bob Cronmiller	Erie Resident
Chris Gerhart	EMTA/LIFT
Adam Grimes	PennDOT Central
Charity Stover	Urban Engineers
Ron Desser	Erie County Convention Center Authority
Ed Lesser	Erie Area COG
Janet Anderson	Sen. Earll's Office

Randy Brink	PennDOT Dist 1-0
John Morgan	ECDP

1. Call to Order / Introductions

Chairman Tom Hoffman called the meeting to order at 10:15am

2. Hearing of the Public

None

3. Approval of August 15th, 2007 Minutes

Tom Hoffman asked for the membership to review the minutes. Erin Wiley requested the minutes be amended to reflect that Harborcreek Township was requested to send a written request to PennDOT to approve a change in scope for the Harborcreek Streetscape Project. Being no other comments, Dick Gebardht motioned to approve the minutes, as amended. Marlin Coon seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Regional Operations Plan (ROP)

Keith Mullins from Jacobs, Edwards, and Kelcey delivered a PowerPoint presentation to inform the committee on the history, development, and project proposals of the ROP for the Northwest Region. Though its recommendations are not binding, MPOs are encouraged to include them on TIP and TYP and adopt the ROP as part of the Comprehensive Plan

Discussion: Randy Brink, Tom Hoffman, Marlin Coon, and Dave Bossart engaged in a discussion regarding possible traffic signal systems in relation to project proposals in the ROP.

A motion was made by Jake Welsh to adopt the ROP as an element to the Erie County 2030 Transportation Plan. Bob Hannigan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. 2007 TIP Revisions

Section 5310 Transit Projects

Kristin Egresits provided an overview of a Fiscal Constraint Chart handed out to the committee that outlined 2 changes to the Transit TIP. The first required an amendment to add a project for the purchase of 1 vehicle (MPMS 82819). Dave Bossart motioned to approve the addition. Dick Gebardht seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The second item was an administrative action to adjust funding levels of an existing vehicle purchase project (MPMS 70971).

Highway/Bridge Modifications

Kristin Egresits provided an overview of a Fiscal Constraint Chart handed out to the committee that outlined 5 changes to the 2007 Highway/Bridge TIP: 2 amendments, 3 administrative actions.

The first amendment was to confirm the shifting \$75,000 from the Econ Dev Line Item into the Bayfront Parkway Study (MPMS 82699), an action that was approved by the MPO on October 29, 2007 via phone ballot.

The second amendment was for the addition of new Act 44 funds to the TIP.

Gerry Dahl motioned to approve both amendments. Jake Welsh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The 3 administrative actions were to reflect adjustments to funding for the Convention Center Public Access project (MPMS 82699: \$235,000 shifted from County and State TE Line Items), the Peach St. & I-90 Interchange project (MPMS 786: \$100,000 shifted from ROW phase to PE phase), and the EMTA Transit flex (MPMS 82822: \$96,000 shifted from Transit Flex Reserve).

Discussion: Marlin Coon requested an explanation of why funds from the Peach St. & I-90 project were being shifted. Mariah Hanson explained that the shift was necessary to cover the costs of the PE phase and that the ROW funding will be restored in the 2009 TIP. Marlin Coon asked if the project is still on schedule for completion. Don Hall responded that the construction phase of the project would not be funded until the 2011 TIP. Marlin Coon asked how PennDOT determines its funding priorities. Don Hall explained that currently the highway projects related to the airport runway extension (referred to as the 4 Corners Projects) are taking priority over all other projects. Also, the costs of the Peach St. & I-90 project have escalated, making it difficult to place on the 2009 TIP. Thomas Hoffman suggested that Summit Township contact their local legislator (Rep. Florindo Fabrizio) to assist in finding additional funding. Marlin Coon suggested that the MPO as a whole contact the legislator.

2007 TIP YOY Modifications

Kristin Egresits provided an overview of a Fiscal Constraint Chart handed out to the committee that outlined changes to the 2007 TIP based on recent Year of Expenditure inflation adjustments: 2 amendments, numerous administrative actions.

The first amendment called for shifting the Franklin Center Rd Bridge Project (MPMS 1138) into the out years of the Twelve Year Plan (TYP) to add a total of \$500,000 back into the Highway Bridge Line Item Reserve to cover the cost of inflation adjustments.

The second amendment called for the shifting the Asbury Rd Widening project (MPMS 68274) into the out years of the TYP to add an excess of \$8,000,000 back into the Highway Bridge Line Item Reserve to cover the cost of inflation adjustments.

Bob Hannigan motioned to approve both amendments. Dick McGuire seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. 2009 Draft TIP

Don Hall presented the latest draft of the 2009 TIP. He explained that due to fiscal constraints, no new projects were added to the TIP.

Discussion: Marlin Coon resumed discussion on the progress of the Peach St. & I-90 project.

Marlin Coon motioned to shift funding for the Asbury Rd Widening Project to the Peach St. & I-90 project and delay the Asbury Rd Widening Project to the out years of the TYP. Dick Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mariah Hanson informed the committee that \$7,000,000 of the Asbury Rd Project is Federally earmarked specifically for that project and can not be shifted. The result of approving the motion would only move \$2,000,000 and effectively delay both projects. Don Hall motioned that the question be postponed until the next Coordinating Committee Meeting on February 13, 2008. At which time he will provide a number of possible funding options to resolve the conflict. Marlin Coon requested that Don Hall also provide the rationale used by PennDOT to determine the prioritization of projects on the TIP.

The motion to postpone Mr. Coon's question until February 13, 2008, passed.

7. Other Business

LRTP YOE

John Morgan informed the committee that the ECDP is currently making Year of Expenditure adjustments to the Long Range Transportation Plan. Once completed, the changes will be e-mailed to the committee and a phone ballot will be taken to approve the changes prior to the December 11, 2007 deadline.

Seaway Trail Kiosk

John Morgan updated the committee on the progress of the Seaway Trail Kiosk project. Currently the ECDP is waiting for environmental clearance before the construction of the kiosks can begin. Jake Welsh explained that kiosks would be placed at four sites along the Seaway Trail in Erie County. Each kiosk will consist of three display panels displaying maps, visitor information, and historical information for each site.

Upcoming Technical Committee Meeting

John Morgan and Jake Welsh informed the committee that the ECDP is currently updating the 08-09 UPWP and MPO Bylaws, and will present drafts of both to the Technical Committee.

8. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next Technical Committee meeting was noted for January 16, 2008 and the next Coordinating Committee meeting for February 13th, 2008.

A motion was made for the meeting to be adjourned; motion was seconded; meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.