

Erie MPO Coordinating Committee
February 13, 2008 Minutes

A meeting of the Erie MPO Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 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	
PennDOT D 1-0	William Petit	Don Hall
Erie County		Jake Welsh
City of Erie	Jon Tushak	
City of Erie	Brenda Sandberg	
City of Erie	Daniel Harmon	
City of Erie	Dick Gebhardt	
City of Erie		Kim Green
City of Erie		Edward Kissell
City of Corry		Gerry Dahl
Fairview Township		
Harborcreek Township	David Bossart	Joseph Peck
Lawrence Park Township		
Millcreek Township	Thomas Hoffman	Richard Morris
Summit Township	Marlin Coon	
Wesleyville Borough		
Association of Boroughs	Richard McGuire	
Association of Townships	Mark Corey	
EWPPA		Julia Eagles
EMTA		Lorene McGuire
EMAA		

Coordinating Committee Voting Members represented – 17 of 21; quorum present

Guests	Organization
Chuck Giambrone	CRI
Dan Harmon	Erie
Janet Anderson	Sen. Earl's Office
Bob Cronmiller	Erie Resident
Chris Gerhart	EMTA/LIFT
Deborah Casadei	PennDOT
Charity Stover	Urban Engineers
Deborah Gabriel	PennDOT
Ed Lesser	Erie Area COG
Michael Dutko	PennDOT

Deborah Gallagher	Rep. Sonney's Office
Corey Harris	CHS Service Provider
John Morgan	ECDP

1. Call to Order / Introductions

Chairman Tom Hoffman called the meeting to order.

Brenda Sandberg was introduced as a new Representative for the City of Erie. Joseph Peck was introduced as the new Alternate for Harborcreek Township.

2. Hearing of the Public

Mr. Corey Harris of CHS Service Provider addressed the Committee regarding his transportation business. Mr. Harris stated he is seeking non-profit status for his business, and also requested assistance from the MPO to be recognized as a transportation provider. After further discussion, Mr. Hoffman suggested Mr. Harris coordinate with the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA) and the Erie County Dept. of Planning (ECDP) to determine what additional steps he would need to take.

3. Approval of November 14, 2007 Minutes

The Chairman asked for the membership to review the minutes. Being no comments, Marlin Coon moved to approve the minutes. Dick Gebhardt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. 2009 Draft TIP

Bill Petit briefed the Committee on recent developments of the 2009 Transportation Improvement Program.

Bridge projects will be the focus of the 2009 TIP. Gov. Rendell passed an Economic Stimulus Package that will invest \$200M into Structurally Deficient Bridges in 2008-09. Erie County will receive approximately \$2M. Currently 27 bridges in the County are on the Bridge Delivery Program. 22 new bridges will be added through Act 44 funding.

Don Hall added that the new funding provided by the Economic Stimulus Package must be programmed into the 2009 Draft TIP and submitted to PennDOT Program Center by March 7, 2008. These additional funds and guidelines may "reshuffle" projects currently on the 2009 Draft TIP. The District intends to meet with the MPOs to discuss these changes.

The Chairman asked whether the 27 bridges currently on the Bridge Delivery Program are ready to be let, and whether funding will be diverted from highway projects.

Mr. Petit responded that the 27 bridges are new projects, and re-iterated that Act 44 funds will be used to add an additional 22 bridge projects. Act 44 funds will not be used for any highway projects. Also, Spike funding will be reserved only for bridge projects. Mr. Petit and Mr. Hall assured the Committee that funding for the I-90 & Peach St Project, the Asbury Rd. Project, and the 12th St. Project would not be affected.

Mr. Hall informed the Committee that a special meeting would be needed to approve the 2009 TIP in order to meet the April 11, 2008 deadline.

5. McCormick Taylor Act 44/I-80 Toll Presentation

Barry Schoch (via conference call) and Leanne Doran from McCormick Taylor gave a presentation and took questions regarding Act 44 and I-80 Tolling.

Leanne Doran provided the Committee with a printed copy of their power point presentation.

The Chairman asked how much potential there would be for development around the tollbooth plazas.

Mr. Schoch responded that the preferred plan would be to install open road toll stations that would not require any right of way (ROW) acquisition.

Jake Welsh asked how much traffic would be diverted from I-80 to I-90 due to tolling.

Mr. Schoch responded that McCormick Taylor is currently working on a regional analysis of the effects of the I-80 tolling and I-90 is included in that analysis. The results will be presented at the project's next public meeting.

Ed Lesser asked what plans Ohio has for I-80.

Mr. Schoch responded that McCormick Taylor will be meeting with ODOT and that currently there is no indication that Ohio will toll I-80.

6. Resolution 1-2008

At this time a motion that was postponed at the November 14, 2007 meeting was reintroduced to the Committee. The Chairman read the motion: "Moved and seconded, that the funding allocated to the Asbury Rd. Project for the 2009 Transportation Improvement Program be re-allocated to the Peach St. & I-90 Project."

Marlin Coon moved that the motion be amended to read:

WHEREAS, The Coordinating Committee of the Erie Area Transportation Study (EATS) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the Erie MPO has prioritized the following transportation projects as the three most critical to the Erie region: SR 19 Section A07 (MPMS 786) Peach Street and I-90 Interchange; SR 5 Section A02 (MPMS 57836) West 12th Street, Pittsburgh Ave. to Asbury Rd.; and SR 4009 Section A02 (MPMS 68274) Asbury Road; and

WHEREAS, the Erie MPO seeks to clarify its position on funding for these critical projects, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that no funding will be transferred or diverted from these three projects; and be it further

RESOLVED, that no new projects will be prioritized ahead of these three projects until they are fully funded and completed, with the following exceptions:

- i. Projects that are declared emergencies and receive the full support of PennDOT and the MPO Coordinating Committee
- ii. Projects that are funded with special or restricted funds that cannot be utilized on the above critical projects, i.e., local bridge program funds, Highway Safety Improvement Funds (HSIP), Spike funds, Discretionary funds, etc.
- iii. Projects that are funded with 100% State funds that are required to be passed thru the TIP process, i.e. Act 44 funded bridge and highway projects

Mr. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

The Chairman put the amended motion to a vote. The motion passed with a majority of the quorum and was named Erie MPO Resolution 1-2008.

Kim Green requested that the opposition vote be noted. The opposition was not opposed to supporting the three projects noted in the Resolution, but was opposed on the principle that such a resolution was unprecedented and unnecessary.

7. 2007 TIP Modifications

Don Hall provided an overview of the Fiscal Constraint Chart presented to the Committee that outlined changes to the 2007 TIP. All changes were administrative actions that did not require MPO approval.

8. Status Update for Scenic-By-Ways and Transportation Enhancement Programs

Robert Hannigan provided an update on the Scenic-By-Ways and Transportation Enhancement Programs.

The funding for the Seaway Trail 1812 panels has yet to be released by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), but is anticipated to be released soon.

In 2008, \$40M will be available for Scenic-By-Projects through FHWA.

The next round for proposing Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects has been delayed due to over-programming. The Dept. will not be accepting new project proposals until 2009 or early 2010.

The Chairman asked about the status of the Peach St. Improvement Project between Chestnut St. and W. 26th St.

Mr. Hall responded that the project was put on hold because of an impasse with the City of Erie over on-street parking.

Jon Tushak added that the City of Erie has not received complaints about the corridor and is not interested in pursuing the project.

9. Vote to Approve 2008-09 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

John Morgan presented the 2008-09 UPWP to the Committee for a vote of approval.

Richard McGuire moved to approve the 2008-09 UPWP. Gerry Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10. Vote to Approve 2008 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

John Morgan presented the 2008 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan to the Committee for a vote of approval.

Dave Bossart moved to approve the 2008 CPTHSTP. Jon Tushak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11. Other Business

John Morgan reported that the Bylaws Subcommittee had met before the Coordinating Committee meeting and had made significant progress in preparing the Erie MPO

Bylaws. He anticipated that a final draft of the Bylaws will be presented for a vote at the May 14, 2008 Coordinating Committee meeting.

12. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting was noted for April 16, 2008 and the next Coordinating Committee meeting for May 14, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.