

**Erie MPO Coordinating Committee**  
**November 12, 2008 Minutes**

A meeting of the Erie MPO Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 10:30 AM at the Erie Intermodal Transportation Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 208 East Bayfront Parkway, Erie, PA.

Those in attendance were:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
PennDOT Central	Bob Hannigan	
PennDOT D 1-0	William Petit	Don Hall
Erie County		Jake Welsh
City of Erie	Dick Gebhardt	
City of Erie	Brenda Sandberg	
City of Erie	Jon Tushak	
City of Erie	Daniel Harmon	
City of Erie	John Elliot	
City of Erie		Kim Green
City of Corry		Gerry Dahl
Fairview Township		
Harborcreek Township	Dave Bossart	
Lawrence Park Township		
Millcreek Township	Thomas Hoffman	
Millcreek Township	Rick Morris	
Summit Township	Marlin Coon	Dave Sterrett
Wesleyville Borough		
ECABO		
ECATO	Mark Corey	
ECATO	Sparky Warner	
EWPPA	Ray Shreckengost	Julia Eagles
EMTA		Lorene McGuire
ERAA		Richard Robie

Coordinating Committee Voting Members represented – 19 of 23; quorum present

<b>Guests</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Deborah Gabriel	PennDOT
Sue Moyer	Best
Janet Anderson	Sen. Earll's Office
Emily Beck	Visit Erie
Phil Scrimenti	DCED
Mike Pistone	Erie Chamber
Erin Wiley-Moyers	PennDOT D-1
Mariah Hanson	PennDOT D-1
Mary Bula	Growth Partnership

Ed Lesser	Erie Area COG
Rhonda Smith	PA State Rep. Hornaman
Howard Brush	Gov. Rendell's Office
Jim Carrol	Erie Times News
Adam Grimes	PennDOT Program Center
John Morgan	ECDP

## **1. Call to Order / Introductions**

Chairman Tom Hoffman called the meeting to order at 10:35am.

Rick Morris, Millcreek Twp Engineer, was introduced as Millcreek Twp's new voting member on the Coordinating Committee.

Richard "Sparky" Warner, Wayne Twp Supervisor, was introduced as the Erie County Association of Township Officials' (ECATO) East County voting member on the Coordinating Committee.

## **2. Hearing of the Public**

None

## **3. Approval of May 14, 2008 Minutes**

The Chairman asked for the membership to review the minutes.

Marlin Coon moved to approve the minutes. Dick Gebhardt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **4. 2009 TIP Modifications**

Adam Grimes, via conference call, provided an overview of the Fiscal Constraint Chart presented to the Committee that outlined changes to the 2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). There were five administrative actions. No approval from the Committee was necessary.

Bill Petit informed the Committee that 2010 is the final year that Act 44 (PA Transportation Funding Legislation) is guaranteed. After June 2010 the TIP will have limited funding flexibility.

The Chair requested a status update for SAFETEA-LU (Federal Transportation Funding Legislation).

Mr. Petit informed the Committee that SAFETEA-LU will expire this year, and it is uncertain when Congress will reauthorize it.

## **5. EMTA Status Report & Facility Update**

Dennis Solensky invited the Committee to attend EMTA's Transit Facility Presentation on Wednesday November 19, 2008 at 10:00am in the Intermodal Center.

## **6. UPWP Special Study Proposals**

Jake Welsh provided the Committee an update on the status of the 2009-2010 UPWP. PennDOT has not yet provided guidance.

MPO staff will develop the 2011 12-Year Plan to present to the State Transportation Commission in the fall of 2009.

Mr. Welsh also requested that the Committee consider projects that could possibly be eligible for supplemental funds through the UPWP. Past projects that have received these funds include the US 19 Corridor Study and the US 6N Land Use & Transportation Corridor Study.

## **7. PA Community and Transportation Initiative**

Mr. Petit informed the Committee of Secretary Biehler's new Smart Transportation Program, the PA Community and Transportation Initiative. The Initiative provides \$60M over the next two years to fund projects that adhere to the principles of Smart Transportation. The maximum fund available per capital project is \$5M. The maximum fund available per planning study is \$300K.

Currently, the Erie-Western PA Port Authority and the Erie Redevelopment Authority have each submitted an application.

Applications and guidance for the program are available by contacting the Erie County Department of Planning.

The application deadline is December 15, 2008.

## 8. Transportation Enhancements Program

Mr. Welsh provided a report of the October 15, 2008 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting.

At that meeting The Erie Redevelopment Authority requested an additional \$300,000 to cover cost over-runs for the Parade Street Revitalization Project (MPMS 72726).

The Northwest PA Trail Association requested an additional \$170,000 in order to match grants from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) awarded to Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Corry Rail Trail Project (MPMS 65822 & 71029).

PennDOT staff informed the TAC that to accommodate these requests other projects in the Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program would need to have their funding authorization deferred.

The TAC voted to have the MPO Staff request status reports from all of the TE sponsors and provide a recommendation for deferment to the Coordinating Committee at the November 12, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Welsh presented the Committee with the MPO Staff's findings. Only one sponsor, Wattsburg Twp., had tentatively agreed to defer their funding authorization. All of the other sponsors have indicated that they anticipate their projects will be let by the summer of 2009.

Mr. Petit advised the Committee that previously TE projects that have been deferred have had their funding restored in the following funding round. However, PennDOT cannot guarantee that another TE funding round will occur, due to the expiration of SAFETEA-LU. Hence, the deferment of a current TE project may result in the elimination of the project.

Following discussion, Mark Corey moved that:

***The MPO shall not defer the funding authorization of any sponsor currently under a Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT without the approval of the sponsor.***

Gerry Dahl seconded the motion.

### Comments:

Mr. Corey stated that all of the TE sponsors have signed agreements with PennDOT, ensuring that the Construction phase (CON) of their projects will be funded up to the originally requested amount and these sponsors have spent their own money on the pre-CON phases of these projects.

Mr. Petit stated that such a motion would be too restrictive and would prevent projects that have moved forward and are ready to be let from being completed.

The Chair called for a vote by show of hands.

**6 Votes for; 12 votes against.**

**The motion did not pass.**

Following further discussion, John Elliot moved that:

***The MPO shall defer the funding authorization of \$208,001.00 awarded to Wattsburg Borough for the Wattsburg Hometown Streets Project (MPMS 72861)***

***And***

***Defer the funding authorization of \$404, 531.00 awarded to Millcreek Township for the Asbury Road Bike Lanes Project (MPMS 72860)***

***And***

***Allocate \$170,000.00 of the deferred funds to The Northwest PA Trail Association's Corry Rail Trail Project (MPMS 65822 & MPMS 71029)***

***And***

***Allocate \$300,000.00 of the deferred funds to the Erie Redevelopment Authority's Parade Street Revitalization Project (MPMS 72726)***

***And***

***Provide the deferred projects with first priority in the next Transportation Enhancements (TE) funding round.***

Ray Shreckengost seconded the motion.

Comments:

Mr. Petit moved to amend the motion to include the following statement:

**If necessary, the MPO shall allocate available TIP Highway Planning funds to restore funding to eligible deferred projects when they are ready to be let.**

Mr. Elliot agreed to the amendment.

Dave Bossart stated that such a motion sends the wrong message that a project that comes in over budget can trump all other projects.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion, as amended.

**12 votes for; 6 votes against.**

**The motion passed.**

## **9. Other Business**

### 2009 TIP Bridge Amendments

Mariah Hanson requested two amendments to add two new bridge projects to the 2009 TIP.

The first amendment would draw \$125,000 from the 2009 Local Bridge Line Item to add a Preliminary Engineering phase (PE) for the State Line Bridge in Conneaut Twp (MPMS 905).

The second amendment would draw \$150,000 from the 2009 Local Bridge Line Item to add a Preliminary Engineering phase (PE) for the North Main Street Bridge in Northeast Twp (MPMS 880).

Marlin Coon moved to approve both amendments. Gerry Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Federal Safe Routes to School Program

John Morgan reported to the Committee that the TAC reviewed and ranked the 8 projects in Erie County that applied for FSRTS funds. The ranking was then submitted to PennDOT. Approved projects will be notified in the next few weeks. The ranking is as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>Edinboro Elementary School Sidewalk Project</b>	Washington Twp & Edinboro Boro	1
<b>Freeport Multi-Use Trail</b>	Northeast Twp	2
<b>Ridgefield Safe Routes</b>	Millcreek School District	3
<b>Vernondale Safe Routes</b>	Millcreek School District	4
<b>Belle Valley Safe Routes</b>	Millcreek School District	5
<b>Westlake Safe Routes</b>	Millcreek School District	6
<b>Tracy Safe Routes</b>	Millcreek School District	7
<b>North Coast Safe Routes</b>	Millcreek School District	8



### Transportation Funding Constraints

Bill Petit informed the Committee that the Commonwealth anticipates transportation funding constraints in the near future that will likely affect the ability of PennDOT to deliver the three major capital projects in Erie County with their current budgets and schedules.

Mr. Petit requested that the Committee consider developing alternative funding methods and timetables for these three projects:

- Peach Street and I-90 Interchange (MPMS 786)
- West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Pittsburgh Ave. to Asbury Rd. (MPMS 57836)
- Asbury Road (MPMS 68274)

Mr. Coon requested for the MPO Staff to review MPO Resolution 1-2008 before any action is taken.

### **10. Next Meeting / Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2009

The next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2009.

**From:** Morgan, John  
**Sent:** Friday, November 14, 2008 3:52 PM  
**To:** Mariah Hanson (E-mail); Welsh, Jake; Cheryl Capela (Union City Boro) (E-mail); Dana Beck (E-mail); David Sterrett (E-mail); Don Hall ADE Design (E-mail) (E-mail); Doug Pomorski (E-mail) (E-mail); Ed Kissell (E-mail) (E-mail); Edward Hess (E-mail); Gerald Olson (E-mail); Gerry Dahl (City of Corry) (E-mail); James Cardman (E-mail) (E-mail); Joseph D. Peck (E-mail); Julia Eagles (E-mail); Kevin McCullough (E-mail) (E-mail); Kim Green (E-mail) (E-mail); Kristin A. Egresits (E-mail); Lorene McGuire (E-mail) (E-mail); Richard Morris (Millcreek Twp) (E-mail); Richard Robie (E-mail); Terry St. Denny (E-mail); Thomas Sanders (E-mail); Bill Petit (E-mail) (E-mail); Bob Hannigan (E-mail) (E-mail); Brenda Sandberg (E-mail); Chris Rodgers (E-mail); Dan Harmon (E-mail) (E-mail); David Bossart (E-mail) (E-mail); Dennis Solensky (E-mail) (E-mail); Dick Gebhardt (E-mail) (E-mail); John Elliot (E-mail); Jon Tushak (E-mail); Mark DiVecchio County Executive (E-mail) (E-mail); Marlin K Coon (Summit Twp) (E-mail); Mayor Joseph E Sinnott (City of Erie) (E-mail); Peter Kraus (E-mail) (E-mail); Peter Nye (E-mail); Ray Schreckengost (E-mail) (E-mail); Richard McGuire (Waterford Boro) (E-mail); Richard Warner (E-mail); Thomas Hoffman (E-mail); Tom Renshaw (Lawrence Park Twp) (E-mail)  
**Subject:** ERIE MPO:E-MAIL BALLOT

**Importance:** High  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you all for attending the Nov. 12 meeting and providing input on the status of the TE program.

The discussion concluded with the following motion being passed:

**The MPO shall defer the funding authorization of \$208,001.00 awarded to Wattsburg Borough for the Wattsburg Hometown Streets Project (MPMS 72861)**

**And**

**Defer the funding authorization of \$404, 531.00 awarded to Millcreek Township for the Asbury Road Bike Lanes Project (MPMS 72860)**

**And**

**Allocate \$170,000.00 of the deferred funds to The Northwest PA Trail Association's Corry Rail Trail Project (MPMS 65822 & MPMS 71029)**

**And**

**Allocate \$300,000.00 of the deferred funds to the Erie Redevelopment Authority's Parade Street Revitalization Project (MPMS 72726)**

**And**

**Provide the deferred projects with first priority in the next Transportation Enhancements (TE) funding round.**

**And**

**If necessary, the MPO shall allocate available TIP Highway Planning funds to restore funding to eligible deferred projects when they are ready to be let.**

Today we found that the deferment of Millcreek Twp's Asbury Rd Bike Lanes Project is unnecessary.

PennDOT staff has identified \$300,000.00 in the 2009 TIP Highway Line Item that can be used to cover the additional funds requested for the Redevelopment Authority's Parade Street Revitalization Project. This funding can be shifted from the Line Item into the project as an Administrative Action without action being taken by the MPO.

However, a vote is necessary to undo the deferment of Millcreek's funding authority. Wattsburg Boro's funding will remain deferred to fund the Corry Rail Trail Project.

The County moves that:

**The MPO shall restore the original funding authorization of \$404, 531.00 awarded to Millcreek Township for the Asbury Road Bike Lanes Project (MPMS 72860).**

Please respond with a 'yes' or 'no' vote as soon as possible.

Keep in mind that this action will allow all three projects to move forward with only Wattsburg (that tentatively agreed to deferment) being deferred.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Thank you,

*John E. Morgan  
ECDP Transportation Planner  
Erie County Department of Planning  
140 West Sixth Street, RM 119  
Erie, PA 16501  
(814) 451-6012*

**From:** Morgan, John  
**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2008 10:17 AM  
**To:** Cheryl Capela (Union City Boro) (E-mail); Dana Beck (E-mail); David Sterrett (E-mail); Don Hall ADE Design (E-mail) (E-mail); Doug Pomorski (E-mail) (E-mail); Ed Kissell (E-mail) (E-mail); Edward Hess (E-mail); Gerald Olson (E-mail); Gerry Dahl (City of Corry) (E-mail); James Cardman (E-mail) (E-mail); Joseph D. Peck (E-mail); Julia Eagles (E-mail); Kevin McCullough (E-mail) (E-mail); Kim Green (E-mail) (E-mail); Kristin A. Egresits (E-mail); Lorene McGuire (E-mail) (E-mail); Richard Morris (Millcreek Twp) (E-mail); Richard Robie (E-mail); Terry St. Denny (E-mail); Thomas Sanders (E-mail); Bill Petit (E-mail) (E-mail); Bob Hannigan (E-mail) (E-mail); Brenda Sandberg (E-mail); Chris Rodgers (E-mail); Dan Harmon (E-mail) (E-mail); David Bossart (E-mail) (E-mail); Dennis Solensky (E-mail) (E-mail); Dick Gebhardt (E-mail) (E-mail); John Elliot (E-mail); Jon Tushak (E-mail); Mark DiVecchio County Executive (E-mail) (E-mail); Marlin K Coon (Summit Twp) (E-mail); Mayor Joseph E Sinnott (City of Erie) (E-mail); Peter Kraus (E-mail) (E-mail); Peter Nye (E-mail); Ray Schreckengost (E-mail) (E-mail); Richard McGuire (Waterford Boro) (E-mail); Richard Warner (E-mail); Thomas Hoffman (E-mail); Tom Renshaw (Lawrence Park Twp) (E-mail); Cheryle Campbell (E-mail); Christopher Dan Walston (E-mail); Dennis Puko (E-mail); Gail McFadden-Roberts (E-mail); Kathy Dimpsey (E-mail); Kelly Burch (E-mail)  
**Cc:** Welsh, Jake  
**Subject:** ERIE MPO: E-MAIL BALLOT RESULTS  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have recorded the number of votes necessary (13 to 0) to restore the original funding authorization of \$404, 531.00 awarded to Millcreek Township for the Asbury Road Bike Lanes Project (MPMS 72860).

Thank you again to the folks at PennDOT who helped solve this dilemma.

*John E. Morgan  
ECDP Transportation Planner  
Erie County Department of Planning  
140 West Sixth Street, RM 119  
Erie, PA 16501  
(814) 451-6012*