

Erie MPO Coordinating Committee
May 13, 2009 Minutes

A meeting of the Erie MPO Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 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		Michael Schultz (phone)
PennDOT D 1-0		Don Hall (phone)
Erie County		Jake Welsh
City of Erie		Kim Green
City of Erie		
City of Erie	Jon Tushak	Ed Kissell
City of Erie	Dick Gebhardt	Daniel Harmon
City of Erie		
City of Erie		
City of Corry	Gerry Dahl	
Fairview Township	Peter Kraus	
Harborcreek Township	Dave Bossart	
Lawrence Park Township		
Millcreek Township	Thomas Hoffman	
Millcreek Township	Rick Morris	
Summit Township	Marlin Coon	
Wesleyville Borough		
ECABO	Richard McGuire	
ECATO		
ECATO		
EWPPA		
EMTA	Dennis Solensky	Lorene McGuire
ERAA	Chris Rodgers	

Coordinating Committee Voting Members represented – 15 of 23; quorum present

Guests	Organization
Deborah Gabriel	PennDOT
Teresa Koon	Rep. John Evan's Office
Dave Sterrett	HRG
Mariah Hanson	PennDOT D-1
Amy Cuzzola-Kern	Congresswoman Dahlkemper's Office
Robin Metz	PennDOT Program Center (Phone)
Deborah Casadei	PennDOT
Darrell Chapman	PennDOT Erie
Bob Cronmiller	Erie Resident

Dan Walston	FHWA (Phone)
Charity Stover	Urban Engineers
John Morgan	ECDP

1. Call to Order / Introductions

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

The Chair introduced Amy Cuzzola-Kern, representing Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper's office.

2. Hearing of the Public

None

3. Approval of February 11, 2009 Minutes

The Chairman asked for the membership to review the minutes.

Ed Kissell requested that the minutes be amended to reflect his attendance at the February 11, 2009 meeting. Marlin Coon moved to approve the minutes, as amended. Dick Gebhardt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. 2009 TIP Modifications

Michael Schultz, 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 four (4) administrative actions. No approval from the Committee was necessary.

6. ARRA (Economic Stimulus) Savings Re-Allocation

Jake Welsh informed the committee that due to lower than anticipated bids on Economic Stimulus projects, the MPO has \$1M of stimulus that must be reallocated by June 30, 2009.

Don Hall added that the figure could possibly increase to \$2M as more projects are let. PennDOT will provide the MPO with a revised project list for approval in June. The MPO would be required to take an e-mail ballot to approve any new projects.

The Chair also requested PennDOT to consider Transportation Enhancement projects as recipients of the funds as moved by the MPO at the February 11, 2009 meeting.

7. Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill

Mr. Welsh informed the Committee that Rep. Dahlkemper gave notice that the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill is being developed and that her office was accepting project applications for funding in the bill.

MPO Staff submitted three (3) highway priorities and one (1) transit priority for consideration:

- The Peach Street & I-90 Interchange
- The US 6N Corridor
- The Erie County Intelligent Transportation System
- The EMTA Transit Facility

Robin Metz added that the Bill would likely appropriate \$450B to transportation, compared to the \$287B allocated in 2005 under SAFETEA-LU. One debate is how to pay for this increase. Currently, the highway trust fund is down, and is likely to have insufficient funds by September 2009. Options to replenish the fund include raising the gas tax, transferring from the general fund again, or to allow funding to slip and reduce transportation projects.

Also, the proposed Bill would reduce the number of transportation funding categories from one hundred eight (108) to four (4), and may amend the funding formula. Currently, the highway trust fund operates under a donor-donee system in which some states receive more funding than they invest into the fund. It has been suggested in Congress that states be permitted to opt out of the fund and keep their own revenues. This proposed arrangement would not be beneficial to Pennsylvania. It is uncertain how any proposed changes would specifically affect the Erie MPO.

Mr. Hall took the opportunity to inform the Committee that the State Transportation Commission (STC) will hold it's hearing for the 2011 Twelve Year Program Update at the Bayfront Convention Center on August 5, 2009. Guidance for how projects should be presented will be released to Planning Partners soon.

Ms. Metz added that the financial guidance work group met to discuss the 2011 TIP update. The group raised concerns about future funding levels and the possibility that there will not be a TIP update in 2011.

8. NWPA Greenways Plan

John Morgan informed the Committee that MPO Staff have received a final draft of the Erie County Greenways Plan from Pashek Associates. The Plan is available on the Erie County Department of Planning's web-site (www.eriecountyplanning.org). Mr. Morgan distributed the Executive Summary of the plan, and requested that the MPO endorse the plan.

Rick Morris moved to endorse the Erie County Greenways Plan. Chris Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Morgan stated that the next step in the process is to present the Plan to the Erie County Planning Commission for approval on Thursday, May 14, 2009. Pending approval, the Plan will then be opened for a 45-Day public comment period and presented to County Council for adoption.

10. Other Business

Mr. Welsh asked Chris Rodgers if there was anything to report on the runway extension project. Mr. Rodgers reported that the acquisition of property and the relocation of residents and businesses will be completed by September and that the design phase is underway.

11. Next Meeting / Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2009

The next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2009.