

Erie MPO Coordinating Committee
November 16, 2009 Minutes

A meeting of the Erie MPO Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, November 16, 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 | Bill Petit | Don Hall |
| Erie County | | Jake Welsh |
| City of Erie | | |
| City of Erie | | |
| City of Erie | Jon Tushak | Ed Kissell |
| City of Erie | Dick Gebhardt | |
| City of Erie | John Elliot | |
| City of Erie | Brenda Sandberg | |
| City of Corry | Gerry Dahl | |
| Fairview Township | Peter Kraus | |
| Harborcreek Township | Dave Bossart | |
| Lawrence Park Township | Allen Ogden | |
| Millcreek Township | | |
| Millcreek Township | | |
| Summit Township | Marlin Coon | |
| Wesleyville Borough | Peter Nye | |
| ECABO | Richard McGuire | |
| ECATO | | |
| ECATO | | |
| EWPPA | | |
| EMTA | | Lorene McGuire |
| ERAA | Chris Rodgers | |

Coordinating Committee Voting Members represented – 16 of 23; quorum present

| Guests | Organization |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Mark Kukla | CZOP/Specter, Inc. |
| David Mitchell | Erie County Council |
| Erin Wiley Moyers | PennDOT D-1 |
| Mariah Hanson | PennDOT D-1 |
| Regina Smith | Sen. Earll's Office |
| Tom Minnich | PennDOT |
| Charity Stover | Urban Engineers |
| Michael McMullen | PennDOT |
| Rebecca Cornish | Rep. Dahlkemper's Office |

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| Bob Cronmiller | Erie RRS |
| Lisa Baumgardner | Erie County Resident |
| Scott Young | PennDOT |
| John Morgan | ECDP |
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1. Call to Order / Introductions

Vice-Chairman David Bossart called the meeting to order at 10:10am.

2. Hearing of the Public

None

3. Approval of August 12, 2009 Minutes

The Chairman asked for the membership to review the minutes.

Dick Gebhardt moved to approve the minutes. Marlin Coon 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 two (2) administrative actions. No action was required.

5. 2011 TIP Development Update

Bill Petit and Don Hall presented the committee with the draft 2011 Highway & Bridge Transportation Improvement Program (2011 TIP).

Mr. Hall explained the process by which the 2011 TIP was developed. PennDOT staff first programmed all current projects into the projected years. The projects totaled tens of millions over budget. Projects were then selected to be cash flowed to the outer years to balance the funding gap. Due to the limited funds, no new highway projects were added to the 2011 TIP. However a tentative Act 44 line item has been included that will be used for highway projects if the funds become available.

Mr. Petit added that the total funding available for the 2011 TIP Update is 24.7% less than the 2009 TIP. This is due to reduced Federal and State transportation revenues.

Mr. Petit then addressed the two major highway projects on the 2011 TIP: The US 19 & I-90 Interchange Project and the Asbury Road Widening Project. The US 19 & I-90 project is progressing as planned. The Asbury Road Project has reached an apparent impasse with the rail carriers regarding the railroad bridges over the corridor. Issues related to the railroad bridges alone are estimated to cost in excess of \$22M. As an alternative, PennDOT is looking into constructing a grade separated crossing on Millfair Road, which would travel over the railroad tracks, to satisfy the purpose of the project: four grade separated traffic lanes. Planned intersection improvements along the corridor at 12th St. and 26th St. will remain. This alternative has not yet been presented to the rail carriers or the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

John Elliot moved to formally request PennDOT to further investigate the proposed alternative. Peter Krauss seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Petit added that any improvements to Millfair Rd. would be programmed in the new TIP and require re-allocation of TIP funds.

Jake Welsh informed the committee that draft 2011 TIP presented was only a preliminary draft. The final draft of the 2011 TIP would not be presented until February 2010, followed by an Air Quality Conformity Analysis, with final approval of the TIP not occurring until July 2010.

Mr. Welsh requested clarification on the funding amounts for the Local Bridge Line Item. Annual allocation to the line item was reduced by \$250K.

Mr. Petit explained that the line item was reduced due to funding constraints, but restoring those funds could be considered.

Mr. Welsh also questioned why the Mill Village Underpass Project and Waterford Improvement Project were pushed back to the out years of the 2011 TIP.

Mr. Petit explained that due to funding constraints, several projects needed to be cash flowed to the out years. Since the two roadways were determined to be in good condition, they were selected.

Dave Mitchell asked for an approximate completion date for the Mill Village project.

Mr. Petit responded that the project would be completed in the next four years.

Councilman Mitchell asked if improvements to Fry Road, recommended in the US 6N Study, could be included in the TIP.

Mr. Petit stressed the recommendations of the study needed to start being addressed and would look into possible preliminary funds in the TIP.

Marlin Coon moved to approve the preliminary draft of the 2011 TIP. Dick McGuire seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. Other Business

LRTP and NEPA

Bill Petit informed the committee that his staff has identified a potential funding source to place the early phases of a Fry Rd. Project on the TIP. Details will be e-mailed to the MPO.

Mr. Petit also informed the committee that new procedures for linking Planning & NEPA would likely impact the development of 2011 Long Range Plan Update. PennDOT would like time on the next meeting agenda to discuss these issues.

City of Erie TE Projects

Jon Tushak informed the committee that the State Street Improvement Project has \$50K in bid savings, The Parade Street Revitalization Project Phase II has \$250K in bid savings, and The Parade Street Revitalization Project Phase I requires an additional \$100K.

PennDOT will determine if any funds are available in the current TIP and make a recommendation to the MPO.

7. Next Meeting / Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2010.

The next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2010.