

**LANCASTER MPO
TRANSPORTATION IMPLEMENTATION AND ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE (TIES)
MINUTES**

DATE: February 3, 2022
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: 150 N. Queen St., Conference Room 102, Lancaster, PA 17603

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ray D’Agostino	Lancaster County Commissioner
Bonnie Glover (virtual)	South Central Transit Authority Board Member
Ralph Hutchison	Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC)
Leo Lutz	Mayor of Columbia Borough
Rebecca Denlinger (virtual)	Elizabethtown Borough Manager
Scott Russell (virtual)	East Hempfield Township Supervisor
Tom Kifolo	Rohrer’s Quarry
Cindy McCormick	Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC)
John Yoder (virtual)	West Donegal Township Manager
Dan Zimmerman (virtual)	At-Large
Mark Hansen	At-Large

GUESTS:

Will Clark	York County MPO
Lauren Finn (virtual)	Active Transportation Advisory Committee
Bill Hoffman (virtual)	Active Transportation Advisory Committee
Dave Hogleund	Rettew
Ray Marvin (virtual)	Lancaster County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Jeff Puher (virtual)	PennDOT District 8-0
Beth Raves (virtual)	PennDOT Central Office
Cindy Schweitzer (virtual)	East Hempfield Township Manager
Nathan Walker (virtual)	PennDOT District 8-0

STAFF:

Scott Standish	Executive Director
Lauri Ahlskog	Senior Land Use and Transportation Planner
Kristiana Barr	Senior Land Use and Transportation Planner
Faith Gaddie (virtual)	Senior Administrative Secretary

Order of Business:

- 1. Call to Order** – Commissioner D’Agostino called the meeting to order at 1:31pm.
- 2. LCPD Executive Director Update** – Mr. Standish noted that Will Clark would be starting as the new Director for Land Use and Transportation, and that Mr. Clark was sitting in online.
- 3. Local Project Delivery Update** – Ms. Ahlskog noted the meeting packet contains the December report on the local project delivery process. Rettew is acting as the local project manager to assist with moving mainly Smart Growth Transportation projects through the pre-construction process; Dave Hogleund was present at the meeting to answer any questions about the submitted report.

Commissioner D'Agostino remarked on the role of TIES and noted that it had taken on the oversight of projects previously carried out by the former Lancaster County Transportation Authority (LCTA). Commissioner D'Agostino also noted that this local project program, while not unique to Pennsylvania, is unusual in the country, in that it allows local entities to move forward projects that PennDOT does not have the capacity to act upon. He mentioned the relational nature of work done in Lancaster County and offered that if assistance from anyone in the group would be helpful in moving projects along, that it could be given.

- a. **December 2021 Progress Report** – Mr. Hogle remarked that things are working well and noted that PennDOT appreciates the help of the committee, acting as “District 8 East” in Lancaster County. In reviewing the report, Mr. Hogle first cited SR230-TAP bike and pedestrian connectivity in Elizabethtown Borough, which should start construction this summer. He also mentioned the Complete Streets implementation in Mount Joy Borough, the deliverable for which was a study. All other projects continue to move forward.

Commissioner D'Agostino asked for any other questions on the December progress report. Mr. Lutz asked whether the award date could be listed for the projects, in addition to the let date, to allow the committee to understand how long projects have been ongoing. Ms. Ahlskog agreed to make that addition to the report in future.

4. **Minutes of the January 6, 2022 Meeting (Action)** – Mr. Hutchison moved to approve, and Mr. Kifolo seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **Draft 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** – Ms. Ahlskog mentioned that this is the first time presenting the updated 2023 TIP. An earlier draft was presented but has been updated to reflect additional funds allocated by the federal infrastructure bill. It will also be presented to TTAC and MPO at this month's meetings. Included in the packet is the summary, which Mr. Walker will go over, and the 11X17 version; also included in printed copies is the draft transit TIP, which was not included in the mail out, but will be sent to virtual participants after the meeting.
 - a. **TIP Summary** – Mr. Walker mentioned that his summary was initially developed prior to the passage of the infrastructure bill, when the TIP was essentially a flat-line program based upon funding levels. It has been revised to include the addition of \$85 million in federal funding over four years. He noted that the summary compares 2023 – 2026 on the current TIP with those same years on the draft TIP. The draft includes 78 projects, with funding broken down as \$335 million in the construction program, with a total of about \$359 million overall. Does not include local match dollars or spike funding allocated to the MPO. Mr. Walker remarked that 25 new projects have been added; that number will likely increase after October 1, when the TIP is adopted, because PennDOT is in conversation with Lancaster County Planning (LCP) about additional projects, using Highway Safety Improvement Program dollars. Highway Safety Improvement Project funding is dedicated to safety improvement projects using a data-driven process. Mr. Walker noted that they are working to identify additional

projects in the Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) allocation, as well. Mr. Walker mentioned that there are 44 carryover projects – projects already in design that are expected to continue through design and begin construction in this program – on the draft TIP. Mr. Walker noted that the project list he provided includes only amounts for projects in construction in the first four years of the draft TIP, projects with other notations will enter construction in the second four years of the program. PennDOT is walking through the document, making necessary adjustments; if anyone notices anything that needs to be changed, please let them know. Mr. Walker then went over various breakdowns of TIP funding and noted that the infrastructure bill allowed PennDOT to truncate the funding for the Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge from six years to three years, which allows for planning for additional projects in years four through six in the twelve-year plan.

Commissioner D’Agostino noted that the draft TIP is a recommended draft by PennDOT and staff, but that it is ultimately the job of TIES to recommend the draft TIP to TTAC and the MPO for approval, which is why it important to have a method for vetting projects.

Ms. Ahlskog noted that there is also a transit component to the draft TIP and that Mr. Glisson from SCTA, who was unable to attend, wanted to note that there is the opportunity for shared-ride facilities in the transit TIP. Commissioner D’Agostino mentioned that there is a new understanding about funding counties are to provide as a match for transit, so there will be a need for more funding from the County Commissioners operations budget as well as the MPO going to the major capital projects on the transit TIP; potentially an additional \$750,000. It will be a topic of discussion at the next MPO meeting.

- b. TIP timeline** – Ms. Ahlskog noted that the timeline was included in the packet. Timeline has not been affected by the infrastructure bill. Adoption at June meetings, environmental justice analysis in March, as well as air quality analysis. Draft documents presented at April meeting for approval to begin public review and comment period during the month of May, with a public meeting May 11.

Mr. Walker mentioned that there is an additional \$35 million dollars for bridges in Lancaster County, due to a new emphasis on bridge repair at the federal level.

Mr. Hutchison asked whether the new funding was distributed using the same guidance as previous funding. Mr. Walker confirmed that it was.

Ms. McCormick asked about the Highway Safety Patrol project on the draft TIP. Ms. Ahlskog noted that it came out of the regional operations plan, updated last year. It is a program that will be alerting assistance on the highway if there is an accident to move vehicles out of lanes and keep traffic flowing. Ms. Ahlskog noted that there is a similar program in the Harrisburg region, so it is something Lancaster County was interested in implementing due to the number of incidents on County highways. Ms. McCormick asked whether it was intended to alleviate major back-ups; Ms. Ahlskog confirmed that this is the case. Mr. Lutz asked what the timeline for implementation was for this project;

Ms. Ahlskog replied that she believed that it could be implemented rather quickly. Mr. Walker added that it would go out to bid for Lancaster at the same time as Harrisburg and York contracts, but that funds will not be available until October 1, when the TIP takes effect. Mr. Walker also noted that this program can use federal funds for three years; if it is to continue, it would need to use state funds, or be absorbed into the Lancaster County maintenance budget, which is currently the case in Harrisburg. Mr. Lutz replied that he asked about the timeline because of the necessity of coordination with local police departments, so that officers who patrol are aware of who may be coming to move vehicles and why. Mr. Walker clarified that the members of the highway safety patrol are in contact with local law enforcement before they try to move any vehicle, as well as contacting PennDOT, who is also in contact with local law enforcement. Commissioner D'Agostino asked the committee whether they believed this was a good use of funding off the TIP. Ms. Ahlskog noted that the funds allocated for this project belonged to a specific line item that couldn't carry over to just any project and were often difficult to spend.

Ms. Ahlskog noted that the March and April TIES meetings were missing from the timeline and that correction would be made to the document.

Commissioner D'Agostino wondered about the process of choosing the projects to go on the draft TIP and questioned why these particular projects rose to the top. Ms. Ahlskog replied that most of these projects were asset management system projects that came from the second and third and fourth years of the TIP, as mentioned in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Commissioner D'Agostino asked if PennDOT had documentation on how projects were ranked. Mr. Walker replied that they did and explained the ranking system. Mr. Walker also noted that projects chosen had to fit into funding types available. Mr. Walker offered to share this list of bridges the projects were chosen from and Commissioner D'Agostino said that would be helpful. Mr. Walker mentioned local bridges added to the TIP and Ms. Ahlskog confirmed that there were some local bridges added and that discussions are still underway as to whether more off-system bridges – from a list of municipal needs in the MTP – may be able to be added. Commissioner D'Agostino requested the list of off-system bridges and asked about available funding, Mr. Walker replied that the remaining funding available in the line item is listed in the draft TIP, but most of the funds would not be available until the next cycle, although projects can be discussed and vetted in advance of being added to the TIP. Ms. Ahlskog reviewed future funding amounts and Commissioner D'Agostino clarified that discussions could begin on projects for the 2025-2026 funding cycles.

Ms. McCormick asked for clarification about safety funding and how and when it would be allocated. Mr. Walker replied that locations are determined through a Highway Safety Improvement Program process and using network screening data before discussions with municipalities regarding particular locations. In the past, there was not a process beyond picking from a top 25 list; this is a much cleaner approach. Ms. Ahlskog added that PennDOT has limited capacity to analyze additional safety projects, so the County is exploring the possibility of have our contracted consultant do some further analysis so that other projects can be added in the future. Commissioner D'Agostino asked where the top 25 list could be found and Mr. Walker reiterated that there is no longer a top 25 list and that PennDOT now uses network screening data. Ms. McCormick asked whether the network screening scoring was being shared with municipalities; Ms. Ahlskog and Mr. Walker cited confidentiality concerns, but Mr. Walker offered the possibility of sharing information in a non-public meeting setting. Commissioner D'Agostino

questioned why the data was confidential; explanations were offered by Ms. Ahlskog, Mr. Hutchison and Ms. McCormick. It was decided that County staff would coordinate with Mr. Walker on a non-public meeting to review the confidential information.

Mr. Hansen asked what was covered by bicycle facilities and services on the draft TIP; Ms. Ahlskog offered an explanation, citing specific projects including Water Street Bicycle Boulevard and Enola Low Grade Trail. Mainly Smart Growth transportation projects with bicycle facilities or transportation alternatives.

Commissioner D'Agostino mentioned congestion management and corridor system upgrades, specifically relating to upgrading signal systems. Mr. Hansen agreed that signal improvements are needed; citing his drive to the TIES meeting and the difference in spending on bicycling and signal improvements. Ms. Ahlskog and Mr. Walker noted that there may be congestion management built into projects that are not specifically coded as such, and that there will be the opportunity going forward, to add more congestion management projects as more funding guidance around the infrastructure bill is received.

- 6. Draft MTP Implementation Program** – Ms. Barr presented an updated draft and timeline for the MTP Implementation program guidelines, noting that the packet included the previous guidelines as well as the updated draft. She requested feedback by February 11, in order to incorporate any suggestions into an updated draft for approval at the March 3 TIES meeting. Commissioner D'Agostino asked for clarification on what was contained in the guidelines, and Ms. Barr provided a brief overview. Commissioner D'Agostino briefly reviewed the timeline and Ms. Barr confirmed information. Commissioner D'Agostino asked for questions and reminded committee members to review the draft and get any comments to County staff by February 11.
 - a. Guidelines**
 - b. Timeline**

Commissioner D'Agostino asked for an update on the project prioritization matrix. Staff responded that there was no update at this time, as they had been focused on the draft TIP and the SGT/MTP implementation guidelines. They also noted that they were unclear about what specific changes the committee was looking for. It was agreed that it would be revisited at a later time.

- 7. Other Business & Public Participation** – None.
- 8. Next Meeting:** March 3, 2022 @ 1:30pm
- 9. Adjournment** – Chairman D'Agostino adjourned the meeting at 2:32pm. Moved by Mr. Lutz; seconded by Mr. Kifolo.