

Draft Erie MPO Coordinating Committee
March 10th, 2021 Minutes

A meeting of the Erie MPO Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, March 10th at 10:00am 2021. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually.

For a recording of the meeting, please use the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVOIqPwtbz4>

Those in attendance were:

Voting Members		Non-Voting Members	
Organization	Representative	Organization	Name
City of Corry	David Mitchell	DEP	Staci Gustafson
City of Erie	Jon Tushak	FHWA	Gene Porochniak
	Kathy Wyrosdick	FTA	None
	Jason Sayers (alternate)	HUD	None
	Charles Scalise (alternate)	DCED	None
	Joseph Schember	Guests	
	Renee Lamis	NW RPO	Travis Siegel
County of Erie	Honey Stempka (alternate)	PennDOT Program Center	Matthew Crea
ECAB	Bill Kuhn	Chamber	Amy Murdock
ECATO East	Gus Neff	Senator Toomey	Sheila Sterrett
ECATO West	Bob Soltis (alternate)	Erie County Maintenance	Jim Shaut
EMTA	Dani Duran (alternate)	TranSystems	Brian Krul
ERAA	Derek Martin	Urban Engineers	Charity Stover
EWPPA	None	Elderly and Disabled	Passel Helminski
Fairview Twp	None	PennDOT Program Center	Dan Keane
Harborcreek Twp	Tim May (chair)	Edinboro	Kevin Opple
Lawrence Park Twp	None		Chris Motter
Millcreek Twp.	None		J Kaufer
PennDOT Program Center	Kevin McCullough Brandon Leach (alternate)	Parking Authority	Christopher Friday
PennDOT 1-0	Brian McNulty Tom McClelland (alternate)	Council of Governments	Jessica Horan-Kunco
Summit Twp	Mark Welka	PennDOT 1-0	Jill Harry
	Matt Jonas (alternate)		Lyndsie DeVito
Wesleyville Boro.	None		Courtney Lyle
			Ron Johnson

Twelve (12) voting representatives were in attendance plus five (5) voting alternates. A quorum was reached. An additional three (3) alternative voting members were in attendance.

1. Call to Order / Introductions

- Chairman T. May calls the meeting to order at 10:07am.

2. Hearing of the Public

- None

3. Election of 2021 Chair and Vice Chair

A motion was made to nominate Tim May as chair and Gus Neff as vice-chair by H. Stempka. B. Kuhn seconded the motion. D. Mitchell called for nominations to be closed. It was seconded by Mayor Sember. A motion was made to appoint the chair and vice chair by B. Kuhn moved and it was seconded by Mayor Mitchell.

*Tim May was unanimously elected as 2021 CC chairman
Gus Neff was unanimously elected as 2021 vice-chair*

4. Minutes from the December 9th 2020 meeting

- D. Martin makes a motion to approve the minutes. It is seconded by B. Kuhn. There is no discussion.

The minutes are approved unanimously

5. 2021 TIP Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

a. Fiscal Constraint Charts

B. Leach presented one administrative modification. The final design costs increased with funding from the highway bridge line item. C. Lyle said that there was discussion of a vote that would be needed, but changes to letting schedules means the vote is not needed at this time.

b. PennDOT Pathways P3 Initiative

K. McCullough discussed the PennDOT pathways initiative to raise new funds through a P3 bridge toll. None of the candidate toll bridges are in Erie County. B. Leach shared the link <https://www.penndot.gov/about-us/funding/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

6. \$5 Local Use Fee

- T. May gave an update on the Leet Road Bridge Project which is being funded with \$5 Local Use Fee Funds. Harborcreek is working on easement agreements. They will meet on site now that the weather is better. The engineer will complete 2 core borings.
- Secretary Aloiz presented an overview of the program including the current surplus of \$1,252,987 and the ranking process using $ADT \times \text{Detour Length} + \text{Condition}$.
- J. Tushak discussed the Kahkwa Ave Bridge Project. A description of the project had been sent out with the meeting materials. The bridge requires a feasibility study to evaluate 7 items and the construction of a by-pass road before the bridge repairs/replacement can be addressed. Secretary Aloiz noted that two separate projects must be created—one for the study and one for the road.

A motion was made to assign \$75,000 for a feasibility study of Kahkwa Ave Bridge by D. Mitchell it was seconded by B. Kuhn. There was no additional discussion.

The study funds were assigned to Kahkwa Ave Bridge unanimously.

A motion was made to assign up to \$165,387 for access road construction for Kahkwa Ave Bridge by D. Mitchell it was seconded by B. Kuhn. Matt Jonas asked if these funds will affect the 2 million match. Secretary Aloiz said she confirmed with Larry Shifflet at PennDOT that the 2 million match will not be effected. J. Tushak noted that there the bridge this votes are just for the study and the access road. When the best option for the bridge repair is decided, more money will be requested at that time.

The access road construction funds were assigned to Kahkwa Ave Bridge unanimously.

The second bridge prioritized was the Himrod Road Bridge in Waterford Township. It was the second in condition rank and sixth on ADT and detour rank. The cost estimate was \$539,600. A motion was made to assign the funds to the bridge B. Kuhn It was seconded by J. Schember. There was no additional discussion.

The replacement funds were assigned to Himrod Road Bridge unanimously.

The third bridge on the list is Sherrod Hill Bridge in Elk Creek Township. It was third in condition rank and 9th in ADT and Detour rank. The cost estimate was \$473,000. A motion was made to assign the funds to the bridge B. Kuhn. It was seconded by J. Tushak. There was no additional discussion.

The replacement/rehabilitation funds were assigned to Sherrod Hill Bridge unanimously.

7. Long Range Transportation Plan

Secretary Aloiz presented the Public Engagement Plan for the LRTP. A survey with wikimap will be created. Engagement will be virtual. B. McNulty said that PennDOT doesn't have any feedback other than performance measures will have to be incorporated into the plan.

8. Project Updates

- Erie Airport updates

D. Martin presented updates on the Erie International Airport. The pandemic has caused a decrease in passengers, down 59% from last year mainly due to corporate travel decreasing. However, multiple construction projects are ongoing or are out for bid right now. These include the construction of a car rental canopy, construction of a snow removal equipment building (SRE), creation of a 4th jet bridge, expansion of the airport ramp, reorganization of customs and board facilities, and replacement of the revolving doors with double leaf sliding doors. These projects will bring \$7-8 million dollars of construction work to the area this summer.

Mayor Schember asked about the flight to Washington D.C. D. Martin indicated that like with other routes passenger travel is down. Delta airlines lost \$12 billion last year, but people have been traveling to Erie from New York State because travel restrictions were more severe in New York.

May 3rd 2021 PSA pre-checks will be available at the airport.

- EMTA update

D. Duran presented an EMTA update. EMTA has completed their agency safety plan and will share with the group. They continue to replace old bus stock and donated two paratransit vehicles to the Erie Police department. They are working on mobile ticketing capability. Since the new building and parking garage is open now, Chairman May suggested the MPO could have a meeting there in the future. Mayor Mitchell asked about the CNG fueling station promotion. D. Duran indicated that the station is managed by Trillium, but they will look into more promotion in the future.

- PennDOT Project Newsletter

T. McClelland said the most recent project update newsletter has not been released yet. Due to the pandemic, the state's 2.2 billion letting program has decreased down to 1.9 billion. That means that some projects will be delayed, possibly those that were presented at the previous Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. Candidates for delay include Zuck Road and Route 699 Bridge over 1-90.

Secretary Aloiz asked about the letting of the 8th Street Multimodal Project in the City of Erie. Mayor Schember asked if J. Tushak or J. Sayers had any more information about the 8th street project. City staff indicated they did not know about a delay. L. DeVito from PennDOT indicated that everything was in place to being the project other than the funding.

Secretary Aloiz asked if there will be opportunity for MPO input on which projects are delayed. T. McClelland said yes. B. McNulty said they had a very short turn around to revise their letting schedule and in the future there will be more opportunity of MPO input. He is hopeful that as low bids come in across the state that more projects will be let this year. He will follow up with the City of Erie on the West 8th Street Project. C. Lyle mentioned that PennDOT may be able to Let the 8th Street project because a different deputate oversees those funds.

B. Kuhn asked about the status of SR 215 and SR 18 bridges over 1-90. B. McNulty the demolition was advanced on SR 215 due to a collision. That project has already let and will not be delayed.

7. Other Business

- PennDOT TYP (12 Year Plan)

D. Keane presented the outreach strategy for PennDOT's 2023 twelve year plan and asked others in the group to promote the outreach to a survey and public forum. The forum will be March 23, 2021 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. More information can be found here:

<https://talkpatransportation.com/>

A toolkit can be found here: <https://talkpatransportation.com/toolkit>

Questions can be directed to dkeane@pa.gov

Secretary Aloiz mentioned that there will also be a specific Erie LRTP survey that will be released soon.

- Mayor Mitchell told the group that Corry Development Authority is trying to reestablish a charter for the Corry airport. This requires a business plan. Mayor Mitchell requested help from anyone in the group that could assist in that process.

- B. McNulty confirmed the 8th Street Multimodal project in the City of Erie will be able to be Let in 2021. He also wanted to follow up on a conversation that was held before the start of the meeting about expanding broadband access. PennDOT is happy to partner with those efforts. PennDOT looked into putting conduit along I-90 for fiber optics in the past, but it wasn't funded. They are open to other options. In Venango County, PennDOT has used polls to help spread broadband in rural areas.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by B. McNulty and seconded by Mayor Schember. Meeting adjourns 11:20am

For more information or questions please contact Secretary Emily Aloiz (814)-451-7325 or ealoiz@eriecountypa.gov