

**Draft Erie MPO Coordinating Committee
September 8, 2021 Minutes**

A meeting of the Erie MPO Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, September 8th 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://youtu.be/fUUcjuPyVds>

Those in attendance were:

Voting Members		Non-Voting Members	
Organization	Representative	Organization	Name
City of Corry	David Mitchell	DEP	None
City of Erie	Jon Tushak	FHWA	None
	Kathy Wyrosdick	FTA	None
	Jason Sayers (alternate)	HUD	None
	Charles Scalise (alternate)	DCED	None
	LeAnn Parmenter	Guests	
	Chris Groner	NW RPO	Travis Siegel
	Renee Lamis	PennDOT Municipal Services	Josh Montgomery
County of Erie	Honey Stempka (alternate)	PennDOT Program Center	Matthew Crea
ECAB	Bill Kuhn	Senator Toomey	Sheila Sterrett
ECATO East	None	CT consultants	Jennifer Brown
ECATO West	Richard Allgeier (alternate)	Fairview Township	Jim Cardman
EMTA	Dani Duran (alternate)	TranSystems	Brian Krul
ERAA	Derek Martin	Urban Engineers	Charity Stover
EWPPA	None	E & D rep	Passel Helminski
Fairview Twp	Mark Gennuso	Governor's office	Mike Ferritto
Harborcreek Twp	Tim May (chair)	PennDOT 1-0	Courtney Lyle
Lawrence Park Twp	None		Ron Johnson
Millcreek Twp.	Matt Waldinger John Sebesta (alternate)		
PennDOT Program Center	Kevin McCullough Brandon Leach (alternate)		
PennDOT 1-0	Brian McNulty Tom McClelland (alternate)		
Summit Twp	Mark Welka Matt Jonas (alternate)		
Wesleyville Boro.	Fred Petrini		

Fifteen (15) voting representatives were in attendance plus three (3) voting alternates. A quorum was reached. An additional six (6) alternative voting members were in attendance.

1. Call to Order / Introductions

- Chairman T. May called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2. Hearing of the Public

- None

3. Minutes from the June 9th 2021 meeting

- F. Petrini made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by B. Kuhn. There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved unanimously

4. 2021 TIP Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Fiscal Constraint Charts-Modifications

B. Leach presented administrative modifications. The projects on the I-79 ramps at SR 20 are being deferred until a study is complete and the work on the Main Street Bridge in Mill Village Borough is being deferred due to recommendation from the Bridge Unit using the BAMS software. BAMS and PAMS tools will be increasingly used to select bridge and pavement projects. Also, the entire economic development line item of \$1,000,000 was applied to the Central Bayfront Project. As these are state funds and not federal funds, the MPO cannot request a vote on this matter.

Secretary Aloiz asked a question about the study that will take place to look at the realignment of I-79 and 26th Street. T. McClelland said that PennDOT is at the very being of the study and still will need to select a consultant to complete the study.

- Updates on Financial Guidance, PennDOT Pathways, and TROC

K. McCullough discussed financial guidance and what is available for the 2023 TIP. This will be impacted if the Federal 1.2 trillion federal bill called IIJA passes. The federal House of Representatives is expected to vote on this on September 27th. The money states receive from the federal gas tax in the Highway Trust Fund could run out by the end of November. If the IIJA passes, the Highway Trust Fund would receive 90 billion. If it does not pass, payments to the states would slow temporarily.

K. McCullough said the PEL study should be finalized by the end of September. It will include the bridges that are in consideration of tolling. Also, The 2045 statewide Long Range Transportation Plan and Freight Movement Plan will be out for public comment September 20th-October 19th.

B. Kuhn asked the effect the federal funding issues will have on the bridge that was hit on I-90.

K. McCullough said that it shouldn't impact programing at a local level, especially on emergency projects. B. McNulty said that since the bridge hit was within the boundaries of an existing I-90 reconstruction project, the funds are already programed and in place. This happen to the bridge over I-90 on SR 215 and will happen with the bridge on SR 18.

- 2023 Transportation Improvement Program Financial guidance

C. Lyle announced that the bids for the 12th Street Corridor in the City of Erie can in 2.3 million dollars high. PennDOT Central Office was able to fund the entire project with HSIP.

For the 2023 TIP C. Lyle went through the carry over and new paving projects.

M. Welka asked if the paving on SR 19 will involve ADA. B. McNulty said yes.

Secretary Aloiz asked if there is any funding left for the MPO to program projects after all of the new paving projects and carry over projects are considered. C. Lyle said that the project list has not been finalized. Using the BAMS software, bridge projects will likely be moved around. Some of the paving projects may be moved as well. MPO members should bring forward any projects that the MPO might have, especially if it is in the Long Range Transportation Plan. If there are paving projects in a municipality, PennDOT will work with the municipality to help incorporate additional items into the project.

B. Kuhn asked about putting in a turning lane in the Girard project from SR 20 onto Rice Ave now that the Girard Hotel was demolished. C. Lyle said she did not know the details but would follow up.

J. Cardman asked if Jennifer Brown from C.T. consulting could present their work in Fairview at the end of the meeting. Chairman May said yes.

- Bayfront funding

B. McNulty presented updates on Bayfront project and funding. PennDOT has secured \$61 million in funding to date. The \$21 million BUILD grant must be in construction by September 2022. There is a funding gap of \$15 to \$25 million. Unless the project is fully funded, the \$21 million cannot be released. So far the MPO base funding has not been used on the project. B. McNulty proposed a strategy of showing the project fully funded using TIP funds to cover the gap while PennDOT continues to apply for other sources of funding.

D. Mitchell asked if there is room to absorb the gap. B. McNulty said that the TIP projects would be deferred two to three years. D. Mitchell said that it would be better to fund the gap on the TIP now to show the local commitment. That would make it easier to get other sources of funding to replace the funding from the TIP.

D. Mitchell made a motion that the MPO fills the gap with the TIP funds with the understanding the PennDOT will search for other funding.

J. Tushak asked if that strategy may backfire because it eliminates the project need. B. McNulty said that could be an issue. The district doesn't want to see all the TIP funds go to this one project when there are other assets that need funding. B. McNulty suggested funding part of the gap on the TIP to leave some proof of need but also show the local commitment.

Chairman May asked if Courtney could create a 2023 TIP showing what would be impacted if \$15 million in funding is directed to the Bayfront.

D. Mitchell said he was believed that the new federal infrastructure bill will be able to backfill the deferments caused by the Bayfront allocation.

Chairman May asked if there could be an MOU between the MPO and PennDOT that the MPO would be willing to fund the gap if other sources couldn't be secured.

B. McNulty agreed. He said that the committee could vote today on a commitment to the project contingent upon how it effects the TIP.

K. Wyrosdick asked if the \$15 million gap included both pedestrian bridges. B. McNulty said that it only includes the Holland pedestrian bridge. The \$25 million gap includes the Sassafras Street pedestrian bridge. K. Wyrosdick responded that the Holland street pedestrian bridge is the more important of the two bridges, providing essential access to the Bayfront for pedestrians and bicyclists from the lower east side. The city wants to make sure it is included in the first phase of construction.

D. Mitchell changed his motion to the creation of an MOU to grantee the MPO would fill the funding gap. The timing is critical.

Chairman May asked if an email ballot could be used to vote on a motion. Secretary Aloiz said that sounds like a good strategy, especially if PennDOT could revise the TIP by then to show what could potentially be deferred and define the criteria of deferment. C. Lyle said that she will do that.

D. Mitchell amended his motion to vote by email. J. Tushak seconded that strategy. There was no other discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Local Federal Aid Routes

E. Aloiz presented the ranking of Local Federal Aid Routes that was approved at the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. The \$500,000 in State funding on the TIP line item 106874 was voted to be distributed to:

- \$250,000.00 to Arbuckle Rd in Millcreek Township
- \$90,115.67 Cherry Street from W 15th to W18th in the City of Erie
- \$159,884.33 West 32nd Street in Millcreek Township

A motion to assign funds to the projects recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee was made by J. Tushak. It was seconded by B. Kuhn. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) funding application

E. Aloiz presented the TSMO grant application for Type A dynamic message boards. The top six locations were presented. C. Lyle believes there will be enough matching funds in the Erie MPO TIP for matching funds to apply for the top two locations—Interchange Road at the I-79 interchange and SR-19 (Peach Street) at the I-90 intersection.

A motion was made to approve the application by M. Welka and seconded by H. Stempka. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. \$5 Local Use Fee

Subcommittee chairman, J. Tushak presented the summary of the \$5 Local Use Fee Meeting that was discussed at the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. A motion was made by J. Tushak to approve the allocation of \$5 Local Use Fee funds that was recommended by the TAC, specifically

- Sherrod Hill Road Bridge—increase funding from \$473,000 to \$650,000 (+\$177,000) for a change in scope to replacement.
- Kahkwa Ave Bridge -- return study funds (-\$75,000)
- Kahkwa Ave Bridge -- allocate funds cover the low bid of the bridge demolition (+\$35,000)
- Kahkwa Ave Bridge --allocate funds for the preliminary and final engineering of replacement bridge (+\$402,350)

The motion was seconded by B. Kuhn. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) July 2022-June 2024

Secretary Aloiz presented the draft document. There was no discussion. Secretary Aloiz opened the floor for applications for study funding by the MPO. Discussion for funding will be discussed at the Technical Advisory Committee in November.

- City of Erie Parking Study

LeAnn Parmenter presented the study request. The total request was \$180,000 with a \$20,000 match.

- Traffic study at the intersection of SR 20 Buffalo Road and SR 430 Station Road

Fred Petrini presented a study request from Wesleyville Borough to study a problematic intersection. The request was \$28,000 with no match.

- 12th Street Reimagined Planning Study

Kathy Wyrosdick presented a request for a corridor study in the City of Erie. The total request was \$125,000 with a \$25,000 match.

- PA 98 Corridor Relief Study

Jim Cardman and Charity Stover of Urban Engineers presented a study request in Fairview Township. The total request was \$80,000 with a \$20,000 match.

9. Long Range Transportation Plan

Secretary Aloiz reference the presentation WRA gave at the Technical Advisory Committee. It showed the responses from the outreach and the funding challenges, especially with the loss of CMAQ funds from the County. Lists of potential projects will be sent to municipalities for review very soon for feedback.

10. Project Updates

- a. EMTA updates

Dani Duran had to leave the meeting.

- b. PennDOT Project Newsletter

R. Johnson from PennDOT District pointed out that the Edinboro 699 safety improvement project has a new let date of April 28th 2022. There were no questions.

c. Bayfront Parkway Public Meeting

T. McClelland shared that there will be a public meeting for the Bayfront Central Corridor Project on September 14th. There will be a virtual meeting 12-1:30 and a separate in person open house from 3pm-7pm at the Port Authority Building. B. Kuhn asked about the winter maintenance and snow removal on the pedestrian bridges. T. McClelland said that they are planning the bridges with that in mind.

11. Other Business

J. Brown of CT consultants presented updates on the Fairview Township Master Downtown Plan with the goal of getting the later phases of the project in the Long Range Transportation Plan. The four-step planning process was described; master plan, financial plan, implementation plan and engineering documents for construction. The presentation highlighted public input, existing condition report, concept plan and funding plan. J. Cardman described the need to integrate zoning changes to create a traditional neighborhood district with the infrastructure improvements on US 20 and PA 98.

9. Adjournment—next meeting is a TAC meeting on November 10th at 10:00am. With the increase in coronavirus cases, the meeting will continue to be online. A motion to adjourn was made by B. Kuhn. It was seconded by J. Cardman. The meeting adjourned at 11:49.

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