

Timothy May
Chairperson



Mark Welka
Vice-Chairperson

Draft Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held on June 26th at 10:00am at Summit Township Municipal Building at 1230 Townhall Road West, Erie, PA 16509 in person and virtually.

In attendance:

Coordinating Committee Voting Members		Non-Voting Members	
Organization	Representative	Organization	Name
City of Corry	Michael Baker Thomas Blair (alternate)	DEP	None
City of Erie	Jason Sayers	FHWA	None
	LeAnn Parmenter	FTA	None
	Chuck Scalise (alternate)	HUD	None
	Mayor Joseph Schember	DCED	Joy Fronzoli
	Renee Lamis	Chairman Emeritus	David Mitchell
	Jake Welsh (alternate)		
	William Heiden (alternate)		
County of Erie	Jessica Horan (alternate)	Guests	
Boroughs	Bill Kuhn	Urban Engineers	Charity Stover
Townships	Robert Soltis	South Shore	Roger Richards
	Ron Bole	Larson Design	David Worst
EMTA	Dave Robinson		Freda Tepfer
Airport	None	Transystems	Brian Krul
Port	Julie Slomski	PennDOT 1-0	Mark Nicolson
Fairview Twp	None		Lyndsie DeVito
Harborcreek Twp	Tim May (chair)		Josh Montgomery
Lawrence Park	Dale Williams		Jill Harry
Millcreek Twp.	Matt Waldinger		Sara Tassone
	Chad McConnell (alternate)	Nate Nunez	
PennDOT CPDM	Matt Crea (alternate)	Fairview Township	Brandon Pratt
PennDOT D 1-0	Brian McNulty	PennDOT CPDM	Brandon Leach
	Tom McClelland (alternate)	EC Planning Dept.	Audrey Knight
Summit Twp	Mark Welka		Nancy Blimmel
	Matt Jonas (alternate)		Emily Aloiz
Wesleyville Boro.	Paul Johnson	Northwest PA	Aaron Ritsig

There were 16 voting members and an additional 4 voting alternates. A quorum was reached.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Chairperson Tim May.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

- Mr. Richards spoke in favor of the Kahkwa Bridge request for additional money from the Local Use Fee Fund. He stated that he has found a private donor willing to contribute \$300,000 of the \$675,571 additional money needed to complete the bridge and that the connection is very important to the local community.
- Ms. Tepfer discussed the planned vegetation for the Bayfront Highway. Many of the proposed plants are non-native to the region and should not be planted. She also noted that the Kahkwa Bridge is being replaced, but the McBride Viaduct, in a low-income and minority area was not.
- PennDOT District 1 Executive, Brian McNulty, introduced Sara Tassone who will be filling in for Courtney Lyle.
- Chairman May commented that the MPO is a non-political organization and was shocked and saddened to have someone calling voting members to influence their votes prior to the meeting.

2. Minutes from February 14t and April 18 meetings

A motion to approve the minutes was made by R. Bole and seconded by B. McNulty.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Matt Crea from PennDOT reviewed the 2023-2026 Financial modifications and Informational Items. There were 10 Highway/Bridge Administrative Actions, 1 Transit TIP Modification and 1 Informational Item:

- Administrative action to change to fund with additional BRIP funding instead of STP. \$2,000,000 in Federal BRIP funds were added to the CON phase of MPMS# 613 (US Route 20 Bridge over Twenty Mile Creek in NE) in FFY 2024. Source was the CON Phase of MPMS# 47501.
- Administrative action to change to fund with additional BRIP funding instead of STP. \$2,000,000 in Federal BRIP funds were removed from the CON phase of MPMS# 613 (US Route 20 Bridge over Twenty Mile Creek in NE) in FFY 2025 and 2026. Funds were returned to NW Highway/Bridge Line Item.
- This was a PMC Item. Administrative action to increase to cover the Low Bid + Inspection results. \$296,686, \$613,313, and \$3,226,121 in State 581 funds were added to the CON phase of MPMS# 102468 (Depot Road in Harborcreek) in FFY 2025, 2026, and the outer years. Sources were Erie Highway/Bridge Line Item, Erie Safety Line Item, MPMS# 98308 and MPMS# 99750.
- Administrative action to cash flow to add additional CON funding. \$1,060,800 and \$2,354,310 in Federal BRIP funds were added to the CON phase of MPMS# 47501 (Jordan Road Bridge over I90 in Harborcreek) in FFY 2024 and 2025. The rest of the funds removed from MPMS# 613 were returned to the Erie Highway/Bridge Line Item.
- Administrative action to add Act 13 and Local funds to local bridge. \$25,000 in Act 13 funds and \$7,500 in local funds were added to the PE phase of MPMS# 121640 (Miller Road Bridger over Brandy Run in Girard). \$125,000 in Act 13 Funds and \$37,500 in Local funds were added to the CON phase of the same project.
- Administrative action to increase to cover estimate to advertise. \$103,234 in Federal BRIP funds were added to the CON phase of MPMS# 47501 (Jorand Road Bridge over I90) in FFY 2025. Source was Erie Highway/Bridge Line Item.

- Administrative action to move phase to 2025 based on project progress. \$427,500 in Federal BOF funds and \$22,500 in Local funds were added to the ROW, UTL, and FD phases of MPMS# 1036 (Bridge on Union-LeBoeuf Rd over French Creek in Union Township) in FFY 2025. Source was CON phase of the same project.
- Administrative action to increase to cover CON estimate. \$10,541 in Federal sSTP funds and \$50,000 in Federal sSTP funds were added to the ROW and FD phases of MPMS# 78443 (Old Rt 99 Bridge over Lamson Run in McKean) in FFY 2024. Source was MPMS# 78444.
- Administrative action to increase to cover CON estimate. \$197,928 in Federal BOF funds were added to the CON phase of MPMS# 78443 (Old Rt 99 bridge over Lamson Run Tributary in McKean) in FFY 2024. \$197,928 in Federal BOF funds were added to the CON phase of MPMS# 78444 (Old Rt 99 bridge over Lamson Run #2 in McKean). \$31,644 in Federal BOF funds were added to the CON phase of MPMS# 78451 in FFY 2024. Source was FD, UTL, and ROW phases of MPMS# 1036.
- Administrative action to increase to cover CON estimate for several projects. Increased CON for all projects. MPMS# 78443 (Old Rt 99 bridge over Lamson Run Tributary in McKean): \$372,704 (BOF & FFY 2025), \$206,460 (BOF & FFY 2026) \$194,273 (LOC & FFY 2026). MPMS# 78444 (Old Rt 99 bridge over Lamson Run #2 in McKean): \$387,529 (BOF & FFY 2025), \$267,001 (BOF & FFY 2026) \$188,083 (LOC & FFY 2026). MPMS# 78451 (Old Rt 99 bridge over Lamson Run #3 in McKean): \$166,284 (BOF & FFY 2024) \$398,267 (BOF & FFY 2025) \$209,461 (BOF & FFY 2026) \$191,518 (LOC & FFY 2026). Sources were Erie Highway/Bridge Line Item, Erie Local Bridge Line Item, and MPMS# 1036.
- Administrative action to increase to assist EMTA purchase new Paratransit buses to replace the antiquated ones that have reached their useful life. \$430,316 in Federal 5310 funds and \$121,079 in State 341 funds were added to the CON phase of MPMS# 77129. \$13,500 in Local Funds were removed. \$6,624 in Federal 5307 funds were removed from MPMS# 114968.
- Informational Item: Federal Carryover Reserve funds are being utilized as a funding source to maintain fiscal constraint for the Twenty Mile Creek Bridge

B.McNulty thanked PennDOT central office for the infusion of \$10 million extra funds for the Twenty Mile Creek Bridge project. The poor condition of the bridge was unexpected and would have caused significant delays for projects on the Erie TIP if the repairs would need to be funded from the MPO's base funds.

Matt Crea also mentioned the United Way of Erie County is receiving \$230,000 from the federal Safe Routes to School fund in 2024 as a result of a successful Transportation Alternatives Set Aside application.

4. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Secretary Aloiz reviewed and briefed the Committee on the Air Quality Conformity Report and Resolution. Matt Crea asked that two separate votes be held—one for the Report and another for the Resolution.

A motion to approve the Air Quality Conformity Report was made by Matt Waldinger with a second from Mark Welka.

The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the Air Quality Conformity Resolution was made by Mark Welka with a second from Brian McNulty.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Secretary Aloiz reviewed and briefed the committee on the TIP including the public comments received during the public comment period. A motion to approve the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program was made by Brian McNulty with a second by Mayor Schember.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Secretary Aloiz explained that another vote to adopt the self-certification resolution in order to fully adopt the draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. A motion to accept the Self-Certification Resolution was made by M. Waldinger with a second by Mayor Schember.

The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Local Use Fee Funds (Matt Jonas)

Sub-committee chairman, Matt Jonas, explained that the Local Use Fee subcommittee met on May 15, 2024. Two recommendations were made. The first was to increase engineering funds for Waterford Township's Himrod Road Bridge.

A motion to increase the engineering fees in the amount of \$26,115 was made by Jason Sayers and was seconded by Mark Welka.

The motion passed unanimously.

The second recommendation was to increase the construction funding for the Kahkwa Bridge project by \$375,511 in response to a bid that was received \$675,511 over the funding assigned to the project. However, at the May 10, 2023 MPO meeting, the committee voted not to fund the construction of Ravine Drive. He asked that the City to respond.

Jason Sayers thanked the MPO for their support of the project. He acknowledged that that work underneath the bridge on Ravine Drive is included in the Chivers Construction Company bid and is part of the needed cost increase. He countered that the work is essential to the project. Everything that could be eliminated or reduced from the scope of the project was. The City believes that the single Chivers bid is reasonable and that going out to rebid will result in a higher cost estimate. Chivers did give the City additional time to accept their bid.

Brian Krul of Transystems, the engineering firm on the project, added more detail about the approximate breakdown of bid costs:

Kahkwa Bridge items: \$1,526,702

Kahkwa Roadway items: \$279,371

Ravine Drive and ravine embankments: \$672,184

Ravine Drive Breakdown:

Excavation: \$126K

Pavement: \$87K

Drainage: \$72K

Traffic Control: \$73K

Geotech Rock: 129K

Others: \$185K

Brian McNulty added that when PennDOT replaces a bridge over another road, the road work underneath the bridge is considered part of the project.

Jessica Horan noted that the County/MPO have already contributed \$2,336,597 into the project and that the funds are designated for bridges, not roads. Julie Slomski, the new director of the Port Authority, acknowledged that the road is the responsibility of the Port Authority and that they are working in coordination with the City. Once the bridge is complete, the Port plans to rehabilitate the rest of Ravine Drive including the installation of a new water line to the Yacht Club. Matt Waldinger asked if the Port's water line work will require the road beneath the bridge to be excavated again. Jason Sayers said no, that the water line will branch off just north of the Kahkwa Bridge.

Tim May asked about the City's contribution to the project. Jason Sayers said the City has contributed \$143,520 of storm water fees to the project to improve drainage. \$300,000 is being donated by a private citizen.

Brian Krul said the square yards of Ravine Drive to be realigned are 941SY. Secretary Aloiz noted that when the MPO voted not to fund Ravine Drive, the area was much larger, at 1,882SY, with a cost estimate of \$307,088.40. Jessica Horan asked the equivalent bid price of the Ravine Drive road work. Brian Krul said he did not have that cost broken out, but Renee Lamis said that the \$300,000 donation can go towards any part of the project such as the road.

Bill Kuhn asked if all the environmental factors had been checked. Matt Jonas said that the project had to go through the necessary PNDI process and received all the necessary permits.

Ron Bole asked what the detour time would be for emergency services if the bridge would not be replaced. Rodger Richards spoke about personal experience with emergency services. Ron Bole pressed that the bridges over I-90 that were removed by PennDOT had a significant impact on emergency services that cannot compare to the delays around Kahkwa and that having a bridge there is a luxury, not a necessity. Brian McNulty noted that what is a luxury varies considerably from person to person. He also said that the bridge removals over I-90 happened at a different time and should not be considered a precedent for other work. Beckman Road Bridge over I-90 is now being replaced instead of removed due to community input.

Bob Soltis asked when the Kahkwa Bridge was identified on the list of bridges for the Local Use Fee. Secretary Aloiz said the Kahkwa Bridge has been in consideration of funds since the beginning of the program in 2018 because it was a locally owned, structurally deficient bridge. It was ranked for funding with other bridges was based on condition, average daily traffic count and detour length. The average daily traffic was over 700 cars. It was the 10th bridge assigned funding. He asked how adding more funds to Kahkwa would affect the other local use fee bridges. Secretary Aloiz said it would not affect the bridges that were awarded funding before Kahkwa, specifically

Himrod and Sherrod. Delays are expected on other bridges such as Donation Road Bridge, Francis Road Bridge, Wellington Street Bridge, and Beason Road Bridge due to cost increases effecting all projects.

Paul Johnson added that the MPO approves millions of dollars in cost increases for other projects such as the Bayfront Parkway. Why should this project be any different?

Tim May noted that for a bridge in Harborcreek Township that is being replaced, the residents are asking for amenities to be added to the bridge that would increase the cost. Is that going on with Kahkwa? Jason Sayers said no, that all unnecessary elements have been eliminated. Multiple options were presented to the public, but the least expensive option was selected. Jason noted that the new design with the realigned road will allow of the required vertical clearance (this will be much better for boats than the previous bridge) without having to raise Kahkwa or lower Ravine Drive.

Brian McNulty suggested that the MPO adopt a different model for allocating funds so that projects don't have to keep coming back for more funding. He suggested giving a project a maximum amount and that anything over that amount would be the responsibility of the municipality to pay.

Tim May thanked everyone for the discussion and reiterated his frustration that he was being pressured to vote a certain way prior to the meeting. Dave Mitchell agreed that the MPO should not be about politics. Everyone needs to work together and make decisions that benefit the entire county.

A motion to add an additional \$375,511 to the project using the Local Use Fee Fund was made by Mark Welka with a second from Joseph Schember. Since there were both votes in favor and opposed, Chairman May requested a roll call vote.

ORGANIZATION	Member Present	Vote
City of Corry	Thomas J. Blair	Yes
City of Erie	Joseph Schember	Yes
	LeAnn Parmenter	Yes
	Jason Sayers	Yes
	Charles Scalise	Yes
	Renee Lamis	Yes
	Jake Welsh	Yes
County of Erie	Jessica Horan	Yes
Erie County Association of Boroughs	William Kuhn	No
Erie County Association of Township Officials	Robert Soltis	No
	Ronald Bole	No
Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority	Dave Robinson	Yes
Erie Western PA Port Authority	Julie Slomski	Yes

Harborcreek Township	Timothy May	Yes
Lawrence Park Township	Dale Williams	Yes
Millcreek Township	Matthew Waldinger	Yes
PennDOT District 1-0	Brian McNulty	Yes
PennDOT Program Center	Matthew Crea	Yes
Summit Township	Mark Welka	Yes
Wesleyville Borough	Paul Johnson	Yes

The result was 17 votes in favor and 3 votes against. The motion passed.

6. Local Federal Aid Route: Emily Aloiz updated the committee on the Local Federal Aid Route Funds. The submitted segment list was submitted to PennDOT for their review. PennDOT has ranked the roads according worst condition and provided their recommendations. The committee voted to approve the ranking as recommended. A motion to approve the ranking was made by Matt Waldinger with a second by Mark Welka.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. UPWP study funds: Two applications and presentations were made at the Technical Advisory Committee in May to utilize the UPWP study funds. These were included in the meeting materials.
- A motion to approve School Crossing Feasibility Study for the amount of \$11,187 was made by Dave Robinson with a second from Bill Kuhn. *The motion passed unanimously.*
 - A motion to approve the Complete Streets Study for the amount of \$40,070 was made by Ron Bole with a second by Mark Welka. *The motion passed unanimously.*
8. Bayfront Central Corridor Project Updates (PennDOT): PennDOT provided an update on the Bayfront Project. The Sassafras Street roundabout is slightly behind schedule but should still be finished some time in September. There has also been an issue moving the utility lines but they believe they have it figured out.

9. Agency Updates

- Mark Nicholson from PennDOT District 1-0 provided the following updates:
 - Nagle Road and Route 20 project will both be let July 11, 2024.
 - Jordan Road, Old Rt 99, and the local bridge waterproofing projects will all be let July 25, 2024.
 - TASA project on Route 6 in Edinboro is in the final design stage and will be let in October, 2024.
- PennDOT Central Office Updates: Brandon Leach provided the following updates:
 - The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) invites the public to comment on the draft 2025 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which includes the Erie MPO TIP as well as TIPs from across the state. The comment period will remain open until July 3, 2024. The draft, including an infographic providing an overview of the STIP process can be viewed at <https://talkpatransportation.com/how-it-works/stip>. Comments can be submitted by filling out the online comment form at [TalkPATransportation.com](https://talkpatransportation.com) or emailing a fillable form to RA-PennDOTSTIC@pa.gov. The public may also call PennDOT to share their comments at 717-783-2262. If you have other questions or challenges,

contact PennDOT's Bureau of Equal Opportunity to request help by emailing beodot@pa.gov or calling 717-787-5891; TTY (711).

- PennDOT's Round 1B NEVI Funding Opportunity is now available! Round 1B began accepting online proposals on May 13, 2024 and close on July 10, 2024 at precisely 5:00 PM EST. Please see below for important links and see the [Apply for NEVI Funds](#) webpage for more information.

[PennDOT NEVI Round 1B Funding Opportunity](#)

- Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Update (will be provided on July 1, 2024)
- [PennDOT NEVI Round 1B Technical Questions and Responses \(will be updated on May 13, 2024\)](#)

[PennDOT NEVI Round 1B Important Considerations for Prospective Contractors](#)

[PennDOT NEVI Round 1B Eligible Locations Map Opens In A New Window](#)

PennDOT NEVI Round 1B Informational Webinar

- [Recording Opens In A New Window](#) (YouTube video)
- [Presentation slides](#)

10. Other Business:

Tim May commended PennDOT and Lindy Paving on the Depot Road Project.

11. Hearing of the Public: None

12. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mark Welka at 11:45.

The Erie MPO is committed to compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of applicable civil rights statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies. With 10 day advance notification, accommodations may be provided for those with special needs related to language, sight, or hearing. If you speak another language, language assistance is available to you free of charge. If you have a request for a special accommodation, wish to file a Title VI complaint, or desire additional information, contact Emily Aloiz, 814-451-7325 (TTY: 814-451-6237) or email ealoiz@eriecountypa.gov. meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you wish to file an ADA complaint or request an accommodation, contact Kelly Ryan, 914-451-7064 (TTY: 814-451-6237) or email KRyan@eriecountypa.gov.