

Minutes
for the
August 24, 2022 Meeting
of the
Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization
2nd Floor Conference Room,
Danville Municipal Building
And Virtual
at 5:30 p.m.

Attendees

Lee Vogler, Chair, City of Danville
Brian Dunevant, City of Danville
Vic Ingram, Pittsylvania County
Daryl Dalton, Pittsylvania County
Rick Youngblood, VDOT
David Cook, VDOT
Chris Winstead, VDOT
Tiffany Dubinsky, DRPT
Michael Armbrister, Danville MPO Administrator
Joseph Bonanno, Danville MPO Staff

1. Call to Order

Mr. Vogler called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from the June 23, 2022 Meeting

Upon a call for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2022 MPO Policy Board meeting, Mr. Ingram made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Dunevant. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

3. Approval of FY 2021 – 24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments to incorporate new statewide/districtwide maintenance project funding

Mr. Armbrister stated that the MPO received a request from VDOT to amend the FY 2021 – 24 TIP with administrative updates not requiring public review. He stated that the amendments included increased maintenance funds of \$1,100,029 for preventative maintenance and system preservation, \$1,239,676 for traffic and safety operations, and \$14,648,159 for preventative maintenance for bridges; he added that a portion of the latter would be allocated to the Lynchburg District, so it was included in the TIP. Mr. Ingram made a motion to approve the amendments, which was seconded by Mr. Dunevant. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

4. Adoption of the Piney Forest Road Corridor Study

Mr. Armbrister stated that a final draft of the Piney Forest Road Corridor Study had been received from EPR, that a few minor edits were recommended during MPO staff review of the document, and that EPR incorporated the recommended edits into the final document. Mr. Armbrister added that the MPO wanted to adopt the study via the resolution. Mr. Dunevant made a motion to adopt the study, which was seconded by Mr. Ingram. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

5. Consideration of a Resolution of Support for Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Application

Mr. Armbrister stated that the MPO had been made aware of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant opportunity about one month prior to this meeting, and he added that the program would be funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) with \$5 billion over a five-year period. He stated that to be eligible to implement safety improvements, the MPO would need to first develop a safety action plan. He added that he had a conversation with the City of Danville and would be reaching out to Pittsylvania County to discuss the possibility of a match for a \$160,000 grant, which would total \$40,000; he noted that the match would be provided during summer of 2023. Mr. Armbrister stated that the MPO and PDC would be able to apply for implementation funds once the safety action plan was developed. He added that the PDC would be putting forth the same resolution the following evening, at the WPPDC Board Meeting. Mr. Ingram made a motion to approve the Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Dunevant. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously. Mr. Armbrister concluded by stating that the intent of the SS4A program was to reduce and eliminate crashes that resulted in serious injuries and fatalities.

6. Consideration of New Transportation Study Projects

Mr. Armbrister stated that the MPO Technical Committee met on August 9th to discuss the next MPO study. He stated that, prior to the Piney Forest Road study, other studies which were in the Work Program were discussed, and that two of those were discussed during that August meeting. The first of the two, he added, was a transportation study near a luxury Recreational Vehicle

(RV) park proposed along U.S. Route 58 Business near the border of the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County, between Berry Hill Road and Westover Drive. According to Mr. Armbrister, the development would be capable of accommodating at least 500 RVs, and this would require a traffic study, as the ability for RVs to turn around was an apparent issue, and the entrance would be in the City, though the development itself would be located in the County. He added that this would be a short-term study, which would need to be completed by November. He further added that if the Board wanted to pursue this study, a motion would have to be made to initiate the development of a scope of work and a contract. Mr. Armbrister stated that the second project idea was a study relating to extending Ridge Street in Danville to connect with Industrial Avenue. He added that once the study along U.S. Route 58 Business near the proposed RV park was completed, the MPO would conduct the Ridge Street extension study. Mr. Ingram made a motion for the MPO to pursue a study of U.S. Route 58 Business in anticipation of a luxury RV park. Ms. Dubinsky raised a question about another priority on the list, which pertained to a railroad crossing along West Main Street, particularly that Mr. Armbrister had reached out to her regarding the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program; she added that the grant intake period was open until October 15th. Ms. Dubinsky briefly described this program. She then stated that, with regard to the multimodal planning item on the list of potential projects, Danville Transit was in the process of updating its transit development plan, and the agency had been exploring additional transit connections in anticipation of the new casino. Following Mr. Ingram's motion for the MPO to initiate a study on U.S. Route 58 Business in association with the proposed RV park, Mr. Dalton provided a second. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.

7. Comments/Updates from VDOT/DRPT/FHWA

Mr. Youngblood stated that VDOT was currently in the process of validating Smart Scale applications, which, he said, Mr. Cook had taken charge of. It was mentioned that email concurrence was going out to move that process forward. Mr. Youngblood added that VDOT would continue to assist the MPO as necessary. After Mr. Youngblood noted that eleven studies were taking place throughout the Lynchburg District, Mr. Cook added that the Piedmont Drive Project Pipeline Study was the only one taking place in the Danville MPO. He noted that many good recommendations were coming out of that study, which, he added, was anticipated to be complete by the end of the month. He further added that District Validation should be completed by the end of the month as well.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that September would be Rediscover Transit month, which was a campaign to promote all transit options throughout the state. She added that a pledge to ride transit would enable riders to qualify to win tickets for Amtrak or the Virginia Breeze. She stated that DRPT recently hosted a transit grant workshop, and its recording was available online. Lastly, she noted that DRPT planned to present to the CTB the Transit Modernization and Equity Study in September or October.

8. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.



Michael Armbrister
Danville MPO Administrator