

CENTRE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CCMPO) PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Minutes

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

(please refer to the COG audio/video meeting file website when referring to timestamps)

Commissioner Concepcion called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Members Present: Amber Concepcion; Centre County, Daryl Schafer; Outlying Planning Region Municipalities, David Rishel; CATA, Ray Forziat; Centre Region Municipalities, Mark Schultz; PennDOT District 2-0.

Others Present: Marcella Hoffman; Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA) Transportation Grant Specialist, Reagan Mann; CRPA Office Manager, Mike Tylka; CRPA Director, Anne Messner; CRPA Senior Planner, Jim Saylor; CRPA Principal Planner; Greg Kausch, CRPA Senior Planner; Jamie Bibleheimer, PennDOT District 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (00:01:40)

No public comments.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS (00:01:45)

No new agenda items were requested.

ACTION ITEMS (00:01:34)

Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2024, Project Committee meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Forziat and seconded by Mr. Schultz to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANT APPLICATIONS UPDATE (00:02:04)

Ms. Hoffman presented a brief update on the three grant applications.

Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

On September 5, the CCMO staff was notified that the May 16 SS4A application submission was successful. The CCMPO was awarded \$192,000 (total project cost \$240,000) to expand the current action plan, Centre County Active Transportation Plan. On September 30, staff attended the U.S. DOT Webinar for information related to SS4A Grant Agreements. The U.S. DOT and FHWA will contact staff soon to begin negotiations for the agreement.

Bridge Investment Program (BIP)

Staff executed a work agreement with Michael Baker to assist with developing the BIP application for the 4005 Bridge over I-80 in Snow Shoe Township. Snow Shoe took official action at its September meeting to support the BIP application as the sponsor. During the Centre County Commissioners' informational meeting, it was determined that it would be beneficial to conduct the benefit-cost analysis for the bridge application prior to official action from the Commissioners. This allows the consultant and staff to determine if the application is competitive enough to complete and submit. The application is due November 1.

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation PROTECT Program

The Notice of Funding Opportunity for PROTECT is set to be released in October. Applications will be due late 2024 or early 2025. Staff are continuing to build the narrative for the application. Once the work order for the consultant is carried out, staff will work with both consultants to determine if a resilience Improvement Plan application is viable.

Ms. Hoffman also presented the discretionary funding programs for which the CCMPO would be eligible in next year's applications. They are as follows: Corridor Charging, RAISE, LCTM, Community Charging, ATTAIN, SS4A, ATIIP, PROTECT and Wildlife Crossings. Please refer back to the agenda for more detailed descriptions.

CCMPO PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS LIST FOR PRIORITIZATION (00:17:00)

A. Criteria for Project Prioritization

Ms. Hoffman presented the first draft of the Project Prioritization Matrix (criteria) for each project, broken into six categories depending on the project type. This process will determine what projects should be pursued under Federal Discretionary Grant Funding and make project lists on the LRTP. The scoring mechanism in each category has been chosen based on its alignment with federal performance measures required for project development. Scoring mechanisms are qualitative and quantitative measures that provide a balance of data.

The purpose of the following discussions in the Projects Committee is to provide a ranking of each criterion in terms of importance and then assign a point value to each criterion depending on importance. It is also important to note that each matrix has five general criteria: Economic Impact, Environmental Impact, Project Sponsor, Readiness of Project, and Equity.

Each matrix provides Criteria Name, Criteria Description, Scoring Mechanism, and More Information. Please refer to the corresponding Matrix provided in the meeting agenda. The following are the discussions that ensued regarding ranking each criterion and other decisions made for each matrix.

Safety – Congestion Projects Screening (00:20:00)

The criteria ranking order for Safety will be determined at a later date. Mr. Schultz will ask PennDOT District 2-0 about the data used in the network screening and compare it to the Pennsylvania Crash Information Tool (PCIT).

Ms. Hoffman will run example projects through the matrix and provide the committee with examples to help them better understand how the process might look. Specialized criteria should have a higher rating/scoring than General criteria.

Technology Projects Screening - Criteria ranking:

1. Integration & Connectivity
2. Cost Effectiveness/ Scalability
3. Economic Impact
4. Safety Crash Data
5. Project Readiness
6. Project Sponsor
7. Environmental Impact
8. Equity

Active Transportation Projects Screening – Criteria ranking:

1. Accessibility & Connectivity
2. Health/Wellness Impact
3. Safety Crash Data
4. Project Readiness (add row)
5. Project Sponsor
6. Economic Impact
7. Equity
8. Environmental Impact

Major Highway – Capacity Adding Projects Screening – Criteria ranking:

The Committee did not have strong feelings about ranking criteria 1-3. The Committee ranked criteria 6 and 7 the same.

1. Safety and Crash Info
2. State of Good Repair
3. Available Development & Capacity
4. Project Readiness
5. Project Sponsor
6. Economic Impact
7. Environmental impact
8. Equity

Resiliency Projects Screening – Criteria ranking:

The Committee was not prepared to rank the specialized criteria as they felt they were closely related. They would like to see how the example projects score to ensure the criteria are scored as intended. The general criteria were ranked as follows:

1. Project Readiness
2. Project Sponsor
3. Economic Impact
4. Environmental Impact
5. Equity

Under the Criticality to Community criterion, the Committee suggested separating the facilities. One scoring mechanism would include hospitals, medical centers, emergency services, etc.; the other would consist of homes, businesses, manufacturing centers, intermodal facilities, gov't facilities, etc.

Transit - Rail - Aviation Projects Screening – Criteria ranking:

1. Ridership Demand
2. Intermodal Access and Connectivity
3. Service Reliability
4. Asset Management/ State of Good Repair (of equipment)
5. Safety and Security
6. Project Sponsor
7. Project Readiness
8. Environmental Impact
9. Economic Impact
10. Equity

B. Criteria for Bridge Projects (02:47:21)

Ms. Hoffman and staff met with PennDOT on October 1 to review the Bridge Prioritization Criteria. A matrix for the criteria isn't yet available, but the following is what is currently being proposed.

Local Bridge Prioritization Criteria

- NBI – Is the bridge a National Bridge Inventory?
- Bridge Condition – Is the bridge ranked four or less for deck, superstructure, substructure, or culvert condition?
- Dead-End – Is the bridge a dead-end bridge that serves residents or businesses?
- Design Phase – Has the design phase for the bridge been completed or started?
- Local Commitment – Is there a local commitment (local finding match) for the bridge?

State Bridge Prioritization Criteria

- Bridge Condition – Is the bridge ranked four or less for deck, superstructure, substructure, or culvert condition?
- Cost – Is the total project cost over \$3 million total? (BIP awards no less than \$3.125 million)
- Tip Funding – Is the bridge funded with mixed (non-bridge) funds on the tip?
- Infrastructure- Does the bridge serve critical infrastructure?
- Design – Has the design phase for the bridge been completed or started?

Ms. Hoffman will work on getting these into a matrix format by the next meeting.

C. CCMPO Project Request Form (02:58:17)

Ms. Hoffman indicated that she developed the Project Consideration Application because there is no formal process for requesting projects. Since the last Projects Committee meeting, she has updated the Application with the recommendations made. The discussion surrounding this application and the filtering process will occur at the next meeting.

MEMBER REPORTS (03:05:16)

No member reports were made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (03:05:16)

There were no additional announcements outside of what was provided in the agenda.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, the October 9, 2024, CCMPO Projects Committee Meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reagan Mann

Recording Secretary