

Meeting Minutes

Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee

Friday, June 30, 2023

The Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee was called to order by Vice-Chairman George Conrad at 9:30 A.M. The meeting was in the Huntingdon Borough Municipal Building-Borough Council Chambers, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Attending:

James Lettiere, Chris Stevens, George Conrad, Barb Hauge (UpStreet Architects), Mark Lazzari (EADS Group), Zach Lee, John Turack (Penn State Extension), Laura White, Debra Clark-Loner, Vince Greenland and Alisha Grove.

Not in attendance:

Judy Scott, Matt Price, Brian Wiser, Jen Bellis, Jayme Reck, Charles Harper and Neal Fogle (Penn State Extension).

Minutes

George Conrad called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. The first item up for review and action were the meeting minutes from May 26, 2023. Laura wanted to note that the Huntingdon County Human Services Council did not disseminate the active transportation plan information as she had hoped. She's not sure what happened, but she just wanted to make the committee aware. George asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Chris made the motion and Laura seconded it. The motion carried.

The next item up for discussion was Kirby Lockard's April 27, 2023 surveying estimate for Segment 13 of the Main Line Canal Greenway (a segment of the 9/11 National Memorial Trail). Mr. Lockard found the parcel adjacent to the tracks which most likely was the right-of-way for Old SR-33 is owned by Scott Fetzer T.P. George mentioned he's not sure how this will affect moving forward with the project. Matt got approval from the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau board to contribute \$1,700.00 towards the survey. Debra (with HCBI) said she missed her board meeting, but they did discuss it in her absence, but they did not have a quorum that day, so it wasn't able to be voted on. It will be brought up again when they meet in July. Chris said that the Borough will pay whatever the remaining balance is after the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau and HCBI announce what they're going to contribute. This survey will help determine the metes and bounds of the right-of-way, however, the surveying is not meant to ascertain ownership.

Chris mentioned the Borough was contacted by Norfolk Southern about needing a fire hydrant along the railroad tracks because of a required mandate. He told them they need to have a meeting because there are some things the Borough and the ATC need to discuss with Norfolk Southern. As soon as the Borough gets a meeting set up with Norfolk Southern, Chris will contact Jim. The Borough needs to bore under their tracks for a water supply to the river and segment 13 of the 9/11 Memorial Trail will be the items up for discussion. Chris feels this meeting will take place within the next couple of weeks.

Mark Lazzari with The EADS Group gave an update regarding the on-line survey and draft of the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Plan. He said the public outreach meeting on June 8, 2023 was a very successful event. There was a good mix of people that attended and Mark and the group were able to get more points on the interactive map. On June 12, 2023 the EADS Group hosted a charrette planning session which was attended by members of the ATC, the EADS Group and the team. The purpose of this meeting was to talk about what was learned at the public meeting/survey/interactive map and prioritize all the important information that was gathered. He mentioned that as of June 28, 2023, 115 responses were received on the survey and that the online map is a legacy project, so it will remain active. Mark and the group came up with 10 top priorities that are listed below:

1. Main Line Canal Greenway Trail / September 11th National Memorial Trail-Segment 1
2. Main Line Canal Greenway Trail / September 11th National Memorial Trail-Segment 13
3. Main Line Canal Greenway Trail / September 11th National Memorial Trail-Segment 19
4. Improve Connections within Priority Corridors
5. Establish Lifeway Corridors
6. Collaboration among Trail Groups / Organizations
7. Local Promotion of Walking, Biking (mountain, on-road, gravel) and Paddling Resources
8. Connections to Centre, Bedford, Blair and Mifflin Counties
9. Paddling – Provide Logical Public Access Points
10. Communication Approach

EADS took the information and did an outline summary of the top points, and then took the points and distributed them among the planning regions. They want the ATC to review the summary and make sure nothing is missed or if they feel there are any additions to be made. Jim asked how maps and graphics will be added to this. Mark would like to at least have one overall map similar to the map at the public meeting. Just a snapshot showing where the corridors are at and then expand on each of them with the possibility of adding pictures of different areas. Zach asked if Mark and the group were going to add a 1-2 page executive summary to the plan.

Barb said sometimes what they do with the key stakeholder interviews is do a compilation of what they've learned and that helps build the framework. Jim feels an executive summary would be helpful along with the key stakeholder interviews.

Mark says their next steps between now and our July meeting is to start putting together the draft document and the outline allowing enough time for Sam Pearson (WalkWorks) to review it. Barb mentioned during one of her key stakeholder interviews that public transit was brought up in discussion. This person feels we need to find out how many people need public transit (like a Park & Ride) because he feels there's a need in the northern tier of the County for those communities that are bedroom communities to State College. Laura mentioned that a few years ago, CATA was facilitating/creating van pools for individuals with similar schedules who were commuting to State College from Huntingdon County. She said it might be helpful to touch base with CATA to see if this is still happening and what municipalities have residents that are taking advantage of that.

The next item up for discussion is PennDOT's 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program for segment 19 of the Main Line Canal Greenway (a segment of the 9/11 National Memorial Trail). Matt and some of the committee members talked about potentially applying for segment 19 and the information provided by Brian may be enough to put something together. Jim asked Vince if there is a draft/letter of intent deadline of July 13, 2023. Vince confirmed yes, it is a draft application and he believes that is the deadline. He mentioned it's pretty much the same as what's required for the full application process. PennDOT would also meet with the applicant beforehand to provide a guide and answer any questions the applicant may have.

Jim feels the issue is finding an entity to be the sponsor for segment 19. Vince confirmed that yes, a sponsor is needed. One of the key parts is establishing who's going to be the sponsor, especially when going after funding. The sponsor/entity would have to secure the pre-construction design, assume responsibility of the project moving forward and ultimately the responsibility of maintenance. The sponsor doesn't necessarily have to be the entity that does all that, but they do have to have a plan in place for all those items to be addressed. George asked if the logical sponsor would be Mount Union Borough, and Jim felt that made the most sense if they would be willing to commit to it. Vince said it could be any kind of government or non-profit entity, the County, HCBI, just to name a few. Jim asked Vince if there is a match for the program. Vince said no, not for the Transportation Set-Aside Program, but normally what happens is that those projects only ask for construction funding, and then there's essentially a match where someone is paying for the pre-construction to get the project to be shovel ready. Jim mentioned he will talk with the Commissioners to see if the ATC could get the go-ahead to pursue it. Matt also sent out some information on another grant, but Jim feels at this time he

couldn't commit to both. He feels the best option is the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program with a County sponsor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 28, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. at the Huntingdon Borough Municipal Building-Borough Council Chambers, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Reck
Assistant Community Development Administrator