

Meeting Minutes
Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee
Friday, April 28, 2023

The Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee was called to order by Chairman Matt Price at 9:34 A.M. The meeting was in the Huntingdon Borough Municipal Building-Borough Council Chambers, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Attending:

Chris Stevens, Judy Scott, Alisha Grove (attending for Wendy Melius), Charles Harper, Matt Price, James Lettiere, Andrew Sharp, Jayme Reck, Zach Lee, George Conrad, John Turack (Penn State Extension), Barb Hauge (UpStreet Architects), Laura White, Mark Lazzari (The EADS Group), Brian Wisner and Neal Fogle (Penn State Extension).

Not in attendance:

Vince Greenland, Debra Clark-Loner, Jen Bellis and Stacy Kauffman

Minutes

Matt Price called the meeting to order at 9:34 A.M. The first item up for review and action were the meeting minutes from March 31, 2023. Matt asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Chris made the motion and Judy seconded it. All were in favor.

The next item up for discussion was a report from the public survey subcommittee. This subcommittee includes Mark, Barb, John, Neal, George and Matt. They took the survey draft and ATC member's comments from the last meeting and refined the survey down to three parts. There will be 4 or 5 initial questions at the beginning of the survey asking where the respondents live, work, etc. Per Matt's suggestion, there is a question asking how the respondent gets food/groceries for their household (mom/pop stores, supercenters, food banks, meals on wheels, farmers market, etc.) Laura asked if that question could be changed to be able to select more than one option. Mark suggested wording it as "choose your top three", that way relevant data is received. More specific questions will be asked based upon which mode of transportation is selected, with options including: (1) walker/runner/hiker, (2) bicyclist/boater and (3) wheelchair/mobility scooter. The last page of the survey will ask respondents to list any barriers to transportation they face and to identify any projects they're aware of that are happening in their area. It will contain questions asking about the respondent's income range, level of education, age group and if they have school-age children and how they get to and from school. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete and Jim suggested mentioning that at the beginning of the survey and on any posters or promotional material discussing the survey.

The EADS Group also shared with the ATC a promotional poster they designed to advertise the survey and asked for input/ideas/changes. Matt suggested changing the picture at the top to one that includes kayakers (he can provide a picture) and Barb suggested a picture of the bike route signage with the fish on it (Matt can provide this picture as well.) It was mentioned that a picture showing wheelchair use should be included, as well as changing the word "boating" to "paddling." Jim suggested adding some health component verbiage to the poster as well. These posters should be distributed throughout the County and it was suggested to add it to the County website and

various social media outlets. Once the poster is approved, Mark will send the pdf file to Jim. Jim will send it to all 48 municipalities and encourage them to display it or post it on their website. Matt suggested that ATC members ask to post at healthcare offices and grocery stores.

Next, Andrew presented an interactive map of the County that will be connected with the survey. Respondents will be able to add their location and comments, view other respondent's comments, attachments and include why their particular location is important to them. The respondent's contact information is recorded, but it does not show on the actual map. This map and the information recorded on it can stay online for as long as it's needed. John asked Andrew to pull up the introduction screen that's associated with the map. He suggested adding sidewalks/intersections, local trails/footpaths, with the possibility of adding a sidewalk/intersection challenges section to the map. Laura suggested adding roadways more broadly and Matt suggested adding wheelchair accessibility. The thought being the more information the ATC has available the better. Mark asked how the map will be monitored in the future. Matt suggested making the map a part of the work plan for the ATC by re-visiting it yearly to review and update the information.

Mark and Barb provided a map within the meeting packet that focused on priority areas within Huntingdon County. One of the focuses on the map is socio-economic barriers within the County. These barriers include health care access; unmet health-related needs of neighborhoods, income, cultural/language, educational, insurance and housing. The three zip codes that scored highest were 17066 (Mount Union), 16652 (Huntingdon) and 16674 (Robertsdale.) Another focus of the map was environmental justice areas. These are areas where 20% or more individuals live in poverty and/or 30% or more of the population identifies as minority. Huntingdon County municipalities with these areas include Mount Union Borough, Logan Township, Petersburg Borough, Alexandria Borough, Porter Township, Huntingdon Borough and Smithfield Township. The last focus was DCNR-Recreation Priority Communities. These areas are above average in certain metrics that make them priorities for additional outdoor recreation opportunities. These municipalities include Brady Township, Logan Township, Mill Creek Borough, Petersburg Borough, Porter Township and Wood Township. They also included the most recent Community Health Needs Assessment done by Penn Highlands Healthcare (2021). This assessment shows diabetes and high blood pressure, as examples of chronic diseases/conditions within the County, as well as a lack of physical activity. Inactive lifestyle's and improper diet are prevalent factors leading to high levels of obesity in the County. The consensus of the ATC and the EADS Group is to have the survey go live on May 3, 2023 and responses received by June 1, 2023.

Barb discussed her regional health system in Indiana having a "Walk with a Doc" program where doctors and staff along with whoever wants to participate, can do a mile walk around the hospital at 12:15 p.m. daily. She mentioned they got a Walkworks program grant in 2015 and they were encouraged to have a sustainability program plan in place because the funding would only be available for a short time and they needed to do something that would help sustain the program. Her group came up with the Indiana County Decathlon. Participants had to complete 10 events over a period of time from January-June to earn a prize. She said the program is now in their 7th year. Some of the events are the same and others are throughout the County and focus on different age groups. Barb will share her program's event calendar and website information with the ATC.

The public outreach meeting on June 8, 2023 is tentatively still going to be held at the Bailey Building from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Jim still needs to check on the availability of the ballroom. This meeting will be an open house where the public can come and talk about their ideas and share locations. There will be maps with stickers available to mark locations and laptops available so that the public can participate in the survey and interactive map. A location still needs to be selected for the planning charrette on June 12, 2023.

Barb requested names of people she could contact for key person interviews. These can be individuals that were invited to be on the committee but couldn't, or people with additional information that could be important for the plan. Barb would interview around 10-15 people and ask around 8 questions. Their responses would be presented in the plan as an executive summary. Jim is going to get a list of names together and get them to Barb so that she can start scheduling the interviews ASAP. The Committee will also have an opportunity to add to the list.

Next up for discussion is a cost proposal from Kirby Lockard, P.L.S., Africa Engineers and Land Surveyors Inc. to create metes and bounds for PennDOT right-of-way Old SR 33 parallel to Norfolk Southern's railroad. (Segment 13 of the 9/11 National Memorial Trail.) The estimate is \$4,928.00. Jim was able to look at the deed and it states the public utility commission vacated the roadway. He suggested meeting with property owners along this property before engaging Kirby. He feels with this access issue, the ATC needs to consult a lawyer as to whether they need to contact Norfolk Southern to have access under the bridge. The ATC may be able to get an easement from the current property owner. Matt feels an understanding is needed as to the public utility commission vacating the roadway. If this means they no longer have a claim to ownership to it that might make it a moot point dealing with Norfolk Southern because they would deal with PennDOT, but not so much with a trail organization. The question being who it was vacated to. Jim suggested the next step should be to meet with a legal representative from PennDOT, Vince Greenland, Kirby Lockard, ATC's legal representative, Matt and Judy.

Charles (Moose) mentioned that Clay Township, Saltillo Borough and Three Springs Borough will be meeting on a monthly basis about the EBT Trail (map provided to the ATC) that is proposed between Three Spring Borough and Saltillo Borough. It would be a one mile (or longer) trail on the right side of the rail. He said a gentleman from a local excavating company bought a 24 acre piece of land in Clay Township and is planning on putting in rental cabins. This man is already in the process of clearing the land. A possible bicycle lane could also be included in the trail as well. The group will be applying for grants to help with the project and are hoping to restore the stations back to original working order in Three Springs Borough and Saltillo Borough, with the possibility of restoring a water station and turn-table in Saltillo Borough as well.

Matt mentioned the PennDOT public meeting held on April 17, 2023 outlining projects for this year. He said that they're about wrapped up with the 522 corridor study. With information from this study, PennDOT is planning work on the Shade Gap triangle (3 different intersections) dead-ending at Route 35 with a cul-de-sac, making it just two intersections. He said the Route 641 intersection didn't include any pedestrian accommodations, at least in the initial drawings. Matt questioned this considering it is right by an elementary school. He feels the ATC needs to advocate for pedestrian accommodations in this area. PennDOT will be making accommodations for the Standing Stone Trail as a result of the study. Matt mentioned they will be conducting a safety

study of the Route 453 corridor. He feels there needs to be a parking area for the anglers that park on the shoulder of this corridor.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 26, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. at the Huntingdon Borough Municipal Building-Borough Council Chambers.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayme Reck
Assistant Community Development Administrator