

Minutes
Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee
February 11, 2022

The kick-off meeting of the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee was called to order by Jim Lettiere at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Annex I Building Conference Room, at 205 Penn Street, Huntingdon PA, 16652.

Attending:

George Conrad; Stacia-Fe Gillen; Charles Harper; Zack Lee; James Lettiere; Matt Price; Judy Scott; Laura White and Brian Wisner

Not in attendance:

Wendy Melius
Debra Clark-Loner

Visitors

Haldan Kirsch, The Daily News

Minutes

The group introduced themselves and there was a brief discussion regarding nominations for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Matt Price was unanimously appointed, Chairman George Conrad, was unanimously appointed Vice-Chairman and Jayann Leibley was named Secretary.

James Lettiere kicked off the meeting with a power point presentation noting the mission of the Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee (HCATC) is to raise awareness and assist with meeting the needs of non-motorized transportation, including walking, biking, handicapped accessibility and connections to public transportation. He mentioned the County Active Transportation plan will utilize the Southern Alleghenies Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, adopted on December 16, 2021 as the framework to create the plan. Zack Lee, Regional Planner with Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission, was instrumental in its preparation and adoption and is a member of the Committee.

Jim reviewed the key responsibilities of the Committee and emphasized the focus of the committee at this time should be the preparation of an application to the PA-Downtown Center/the PA Department of Health Walkworks. The application would be requesting grant funding for a consultant to prepare an Active Transportation Plan for Huntingdon County. Some advantages of successfully completing the plan include providing a blueprint for needs of walkers, bicyclist, and connections to transit, and access to Human Services transportation needs. It may also serve to leverage funding from state and regional entities to complete projects identified in the plan. He also reviewed a timeline for the application process and noted a webinar will be scheduled in March or April 2022.

George Conrad mentioned the need for berms within the right-of-way of highways and local roads and believes the County is behind in active transportation planning. He also noted there are concerns regarding State Route 22 crossings for trail accessibility. Charles Harper mentioned a fifteen (15') foot walking right-of-way along portions of the East Broad Top rail line. Judy Scott mentioned rails to trails and a seven (7) foot bike lane is a challenge in Alexandria Borough. Matt Price noted river access routes, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), and equestrian modes of transportation are issues that should be evaluated. Brian Wisner said the identification of specific projects within the Active Transportation Plan is very beneficial for funding these projects. He also noted the Bricktown Unity Trail in Mount Union is on the PA-Walk Works plan. Judy Scott briefly discussed the planned improvements to the stormwater management system in the Borough of Alexandria. Matt Price mentioned the 911 memorial trail specifically the Lower Trail in Alexandria Borough and Porter Township.

The group expressed the need for additional committee members and representation from the health care industry, public education, and public safety through the county EMA office. Further consideration must be made as to the frequency of the group's meetings.

The Committee agreed that at the next meeting members can share specific projects or pie in the sky projects for discussion and consideration. The next meeting will be scheduled at the time and date of the PA-Walk Works webinar.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05PM

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Lettiere, AICP/jml
Planning Director