

Meeting Minutes

Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee
Friday, September 29, 2023

The Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee was called to order by Chairman Matt Price at 9:33 A.M. The meeting was in the Huntingdon Borough Municipal Building-Borough Council Chambers, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Attending:

Matt Price, Brian Wiser, Judy Scott, Zach Lee, Jayme Reck, Laurie Nearhood, Laura White and John Turack (Penn State Extension)

Not in attendance:

Chris Stevens, Wendy Melius, George Conrad, Jen Bellis, Debra Clark-Loner, Vince Greenland and Charles Harper

Minutes

Matt Price called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M. The first item up for review and action were the meeting minutes from August 25, 2023. Matt asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Judy made the motion and Zach seconded it. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Approval was given for Kirby Lockard (Africa Engineers) to proceed with a survey for Segment 13 (9/11 National Memorial Trail). Matt inquired as to when payment will be needed, and Laurie said she will follow up with Kirby to find out that information.

The Active Transportation Plan was adopted by the Commissioners on September 12, 2023. The next step in the process is to present it at the Huntingdon County Township Association meeting on October 12, 2023. George and Judy will be representing the ATC at this meeting. Matt prepared an infographic to use at meetings when presenting the Plan and copies will be made to take to the Township meeting.

Beyond the Township Association meeting, the ATC needs to get a plan together to visit individual municipalities. Brian suggested focusing on municipalities where there are project areas – Huntingdon, Mount Union, Orbisonia and Alexandria and some of the bigger Boroughs and those associated Townships around them. Brian said he could speak with some of the areas he represents (Mount Union/Shirley Township). Matt suggested having an interest form/sign-up schedule at the Township Association meeting for municipalities to schedule when the ATC can come and do a presentation about the Plan. Judy said she'll also get contact information from the municipality/township when they

sign up to schedule a meeting. Mark (The EADS Group) will be providing the ATC with a "Final" PDF file of the Plan with the adoption date and resolution number.

Matt wanted to discuss what funding programs are coming up now that the ATC has the plan. Judy mentioned that there's new rounds for Parks and Recreation coming in January 2024. She didn't know if that would be an option for the ATC; Zach said probably, but he can check on that. He also mentioned that the LSA (Local Share Account) Program is currently open, but said it's a very competitive and politically driven program. Matt stated that the LSA Program is the program Sam Pearson (WalkWorks) was pushing for. She said there's more money in it this year than previous years past and they're allowing sidewalk projects, which was why she had mentioned it. Brian feels that the ATC should start coalescing around some of the projects and getting the stakeholders/partners together to build some interest. He also mentioned that the PennDOT MTF (Multi-Modal Transportation) Fund is out as well, but feels the ATC needs to formulate the group/stakeholders that are going to push it through, as well as getting estimates and information ready so that the group is ready for the next round of funding.

Matt asked if the Segment 1 drawings and estimates would be good to submit for this year's round of MTF. Brian agreed that it would be because of the information being provided by PennDOT. Brian said he believes it's open until November 15, 2023. Judy asked if MTF is different from the Set-Aside program. Matt explained that yes, it is. He said there are (2) housed at the state level – one at PennDOT and one at DCED. Zach mentioned there is also ARC (Area Development) funding. They're accepting applications on a rolling basis this year up until December.

Matt stated that it seems like the ATC has enough information to advance an application for the PennDOT MTF for this year for Segment 1. Laurie questioned who would match it. Brian said that the owner would have to be determined and the match (30%), which has to be in cash, not in-kind. The match also has to be designated in the application. Brian suggested talking with the municipalities and asking them if they have any stakeholders in mind. He said the ATC/County can't lead all of those, they have to have local support. Judy said "they-the municipality" have to take ownership of it. Brian said that's a good way to describe it. The ATC is here to help, but it has to be the municipality's effort and the ATC will be there to support it.

Brian mentioned he spoke with Mount Union about Segment 19. It's taken some time to work through the Borough Council, but they're not going after an application at this point because they have a lot of other needs that impact them more right now. It's going to take them acquiring some property and those things take time. The biggest issues are what stakeholders need to work on first.

Matt suggested taking a deeper look at Segment 1 and seeing who the ATC needs to contact as being a stakeholder. Possible stakeholders would include: Porter Township, Rails to Trails of Central PA (Karl King), Acco, Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Municipal Authority, Alexandria Borough, Alexandria Borough Fire Department, Jeff McCauley (9/11 Memorial Trail) and the Booher Family (property behind Acco). Brian said if the ATC wants to submit Segment 1 for 2026, they need to start working on it now. Matt questioned if tying in some parts that have already been done would help towards the 30% match; he will check to see if it's a possibility. Brian thinks Porter Township would have to be the applicant and they would have to provide a match. He says that's why the PennDOT MTF is difficult, because of the match. Laurie also mentioned the PennDOT MTF is a reimbursement, so payment has to be made up front.

Judy asked if Porter Township was to come up with the match, what they would benefit from it. Laurie mentioned tourism, but they wouldn't see that up front. Brian feels it's a conversation with them and see if they are looking at it from a bigger vision. Matt feels the benefit may not be in the first mile of the project, but the next few miles through the Township is where the potential economic benefit would come from because it would eventually connect all the way to the Edgewater Inn.

It was decided that Judy and Matt (possibly) will be attending the Porter Township meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 and ask to schedule a workshop to discuss the Plan and Segment 1 to advance it to the PennDOT MTF application for 2026.

Laurie mentioned that the Commissioners suggested adopting the Active Transportation Plan as part of the County Comprehensive Plan. This requires public meetings, hearings, advertisements, municipal outreach as well as to school districts and surrounding counties. The outreach is to let them know there is a 45 day comment period. Once the comment period has ended, there will be a public hearing and the Planning Commission will forward that information to the Commissioners. The Planning Commission will also pass a resolution. Laurie suggested scheduling a public meeting on October 19, 2023, prior to the Planning Commission monthly meeting. That way it would give that group a chance to hear about the Plan in more detail. Matt said he would be available to attend and present at this public hearing.

Next Meeting

Friday, October 27, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. in the Huntingdon Borough Municipal Building-Borough Council Chambers, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Reck
Assistant Community Development Administrator