

**Meeting Minutes**  
Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee  
Friday, January 6, 2023

The Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee was called to order by Chairman Matt Price at 9:00 A.M. The meeting was in the Annex I Building's Conference Room, at 205 Penn Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

**Attending:**

Matt Price, Alisha Grove (attending for Wendy Melius), Laura White, George Conrad, Charles Harper, James Lettiere and Jayme Reck.

**Not in attendance:**

Debra Clark-Loner, Vince Greenland, Jen Bellis, Judy Scott, Stacy Kauffman, Brian Wiser, Zach Lee, Chris Stevens and Jane Sheffield.

**Minutes**

Matt Price called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. He asked to add to today's agenda the annual reorganization of the ATC. The first item up for review and action were the meeting minutes from December 2, 2022. The minutes were approved as corrected with the following additions: (1) Vince stressed the importance of coordinating with PennDot as soon as possible on projects early in the design phase. (2) Recreational signage/signage trust pilot project in the Laurel Highlands and the Southern Alleghenies region was next in line for signage. Matt said the signage trust hasn't been discontinued, but it was zero funded for a couple of years which is why the Southern Alleghenies project never moved forward. PennDOT has said there is money in that fund if somebody asks for it. The ATC is a part of the 4 county RPO effort which may revitalize the plan for Southern Alleghenies (the plan was laid out about 12 years ago.) (3) At some point, the ATC might want to become involved in policy advocacy at the state level. For example, in respect with shoulder width mandates or DCNR funding for volunteer trail maintenance improvement. Matt asked for a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. George Conrad made the motion and Charles Harper seconded it. All were in favor.

The next item up for discussion and action was the reorganization of the ATC. The Committee wanted to continue as is, with Matt Price as Chair and George Conrad as Vice-Chair, respectively. Matt asked for a motion to approve the reorganization. George made the motion and Charles seconded the motion. All were in favor. George asked if there were term limits on their positions. Jim said he didn't think this ATC group adopted any by-laws, so he thinks they should make it a short/long term goal. That way it would give the group something to go by for the future.

The next topic up for discussion was the review of the proposals. Matt said the goal is to make a recommendation from the ATC today that will be passed on to the Commissioners so that they can act on it Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Jim said (4) proposals were received for the consultant. There is a ranking sheet based on the criteria in the RFP. Since Jim is a non-voting member, he wanted to make a recommendation to the ATC for consideration. His recommendation wasn't totally based on the costs from each consultant, but it was important. One of the proposals, Michael Baker International was \$90,000, Laird was \$30,000, Toole Design was \$52,000 and The EADS Group

was \$25,000. Jim mentioned he'd worked with both Michael Baker International and The EADS Group and he's met Jim Laird. Jim recommended The EADS Group and Jen Bellis also recommended them as well. Jim has had a lot of experience working with them. They have a significant amount of experience working with these types of plans and their budget came in under budget. He feels they are more than capable of doing the job. The one group he was not impressed with was the Toole Design proposal. In his opinion, they did not express any knowledge or history of Huntingdon County and he found that to be a turn off. Jim's scores are as follows: The EADS Group – 143, Laird – 123, Toole Design – 111 and Michael Baker International – 107. Jim suggests the committee members at this meeting take some time to rank the proposals and take the average scores for all and the firm with the highest ranking be forwarded to the County Commissioners for approval.

Matt also read through the proposals in detail and filled out his score sheets. Matt's recommendations are as follows: The EADS Group – 135, Laird – 129, Toole Design – 121 and Michael Baker International – 105.

George reviewed them as well. His rankings are as follows: The EADS Group - 139. He felt they are around the area and familiar with what the ATC is looking for. Laird - 138. He knows they have worked with the 9/11 Trail and he knows they have knowledge of the area, but he was worried they would focus just on that kind of project instead of looking at the County as a whole. Toole - 116. Michael Baker International - 106. He felt they seemed generic and out of touch with our goals.

Laura's recommendations are as follows: The EADS Group - 143. Laird - 142. She said she would go with Jim, Matt and George's expertise and experience as to their opinion on who they felt was the most experienced out of those two. Toole Design - 101. She felt they had little local knowledge. Michael Baker International - 101. She felt they were grossly over budget. She believes Brian Funkhouser does have knowledge of the region, which was in their favor, but the price was sticker shock. Both Matt and Laura felt The EADS Group and Laird did their homework as far as the proposals went. Charles didn't have a chance to review the proposals and nobody from the Committee submitted anything to Jim via email or mail. Matt asked the members to fill out the ranking sheets for each one so that we have a paper trail for our records. George and Laura will email their ranking sheets to Jim.

Matt felt the one weakness in all of the proposals was that they all failed to address the public health component. This project is funded by the Department of Health. Toole Design was the only one that had some expertise in that area. Laura asked if The EADS Group would have good communication with the local constituencies (like the Laird Group). Do they have a sense of what the local population is like and would they be able to connect with them effectively? Jim felt they are familiar with the local community. They've worked with Mifflin County as well. Matt said they've been a long-time partner with the Downtown Center. Matt spoke with Sam Pearson, Walk Works administrator, and said her conclusions were much the same as the ATC. She sent Jim and Matt comments on each proposal. The Committee made the recommendation of The EADS Group based on the discussion at today's meeting. Matt asked for a motion to recommend The EADS Group proposal to the County Commissioners. George made the motion and Laura seconded it. All were in favor.

Matt mentioned outreach with the healthcare community and the education sector for the ATP Steering Committee needed to get completed. Possibly somebody from Juniata College, one of the local school districts and the hospital should be a part of the group. Matt said it might be nice to have somebody from Southern Huntingdon or Juniata Valley school district.

Charles had an update from the southern end of Huntingdon County. He was talking with representatives from the EBT proposing a trail along the railroad. They're going to be applying for grants for beautification along the railroad. He said they talked about a walking path 15' wide and it seemed like they were interested. The length could be variable and that they want the Boroughs to work with them to get something accomplished. George suggested thinking about getting the Standing Stone Trail on there if it's off the road. He said right now it goes through Three Springs. Charles said they're already trimming out a place for cabins (about 24 acres) between Three Springs and Saltillo. He said a gentleman bought the acreage and he's connected to the railroad through his contracting business. George said if people could camp in Three Springs they could re-supply at the gas station. Jim asked Charles about the decision of possibly closing the Three Springs Pool. Charles said it's not going to close. It's a very important part of the community. He said they are going to form a "Friends of the Three Springs Pool" committee to have fundraisers (bake sales, cash parties, etc.) to fund it and keep it intact.

Jim had an update on the acquisition of the right-of-way. He spoke with (2) attorney's, Linus Fenicle (Planning Commission solicitor) and Larry Newton. Both of them feel the title search is not going to be a necessary step. They're biggest concern is the ATC's biggest challenge is to try and define the legal description of the right-of-way. Jim said he knows when they talked to Sam Pearson that if the ATC does go after DCNR funding they will want evidence of ownership. Jim thinks through conveyance of a deed after they get a survey will satisfy this requirement. He says they should get a surveyor. Larry Newton suggested talking with Kirby Lockard to see what a cost would be to do a survey to get a right-of-way description, then work with Vince to convey it with a deed from PennDOT to a yet to be determined entity most likely the Borough and Henderson Township. Matt said the conversation he had with Norfolk Southern's real estate folks is that they needed evidence that PennDOT owns the right-of-way under their rail line. So, if a title search is the way to do that, he still thinks they need to go forward with that. If it's a survey, Vince has said that the land was for Route 33 historically, and was granted to PennDOT through an act of the legislature. So, Matt doesn't know if there would be a deed, per say, for that. Jim said the attorney's said the same thing. He said he could talk to Kirby Lockard to see if he would be interested in providing an estimate. Jim still feels they need to get that worked out as far as who is going to pay for that. Matt and Debra's groups would need some proposals of costs to take to their boards, respectively.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jayme Reck, Assistant Community Development Administrator

