

**Meeting Minutes**  
Huntingdon County Active Transportation Committee  
Friday, March 31, 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:**

Chris Stevens, Judy Scott, Alisha Grove (attending for Wendy Melius), Charles Harper, Matt Price, James Lettiere, Debra Clark-Loner, Andrew Sharp, Jen Bellis, 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, Stacy Kauffman and Jayme Reck

**Minutes**

Matt Price called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. The first item up for review and action were meeting minutes from February 24, 2023. Matt asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. George made the motion and Judy seconded it. All were in favor.

The next item up for discussion was a status update regarding segments 1, 13 and 19 on the Southern Alleghenies Candidate Project listing. Brian stated that he submitted segment 1, which has an initial phase and an ultimate phase. This segment will connect the existing Lower Trail trailhead at Alfarata with Alexandria Borough. He submitted a portion of segment 13. This segment will connect Huntingdon Borough with a new trailhead to be constructed at Numers Hollow Road. He is finalizing segment 19, which will connect Mount Union Borough, Huntingdon County with Kistler Borough, Mifflin County, and plans to submit it today (3/31/23.)

The sidewalk mapping concept was the next item up for review and to discuss if the ATC wanted to take action to pursue applying for grant funds through PA-Walkworks. Because of ongoing projects and current workload, Jim stated that he doesn't have the time to pursue another grant at this time, but suggested putting it on hold and re-visiting it at a later date. The \$5,000 from the County Commissioners would still be available to use. Matt suggested that a municipality apply for this grant as opposed to it being County-wide (possibly Smithfield or Three Springs Borough.) This is something that will need to be discussed with Sam Pearson to see if it is an option and what the timeframe is to apply. Mark mentioned he is still waiting to hear back from his contact from Verona as to their sidewalk mapping. John thought it was a student intern that worked on that project and asked the ATC about universities in the area. Matt stated that he didn't know if Juniata College had GIS capabilities and that the closest university to us would probably be Penn State. The ATC decided to take no action on applying for grant funding from PA Walkworks, but would consider it at a later date.

Next, was the EADS Group with updates and discussion on public outreach meetings. Barb mentioned they had prepared a survey for the active transportation plan, which she handed out to

the group. She wanted to go through the survey as a group to get ideas, input, changes, etc. Some preliminary suggestions were changing “foot paths & trails” to “walking paths & trails”, changing “wheel” to “wheelchair” and changing the question “What types of biking and/or walking improvements would you like to have in your community?” to “in your area.” Jim feels that the survey needs to be shorter. His thoughts are that if it were shorter there would be a better response rate from the public. Matt suggested having (3) separate surveys- one for walking/wheelchair access, one for biking and one for paddle sports. Then, tailor the surveys to those specific modes. He also suggested distributing them through PRIDE. Laura suggested a survey specifically tailored to seniors with it being distributed through the Area Agency on Aging. Jen suggested taking out the public bus services questions as this County doesn’t have public transportation. Matt suggested that questions asking where the person lives/works need to be more specific than what County. Barb asked if there is anybody in the group that wants to be the point person to help work on the survey. That way the group can share comments or ideas with that person(s) and they can filter those to EADS. Matt and George said they would be willing to fill that role. Barb asked if the County would be interested in working with them to create an online GIS opportunity for the public to drop pins on a map as opposed to them doing a one-month capture of information in the GIS program. She mentioned that the information could then be used to do specific sections and John also stated that it can be useful for the County and region as a whole. Laura asked if PennDOT had information like this. Zach mentioned it may have been the SAP&DC bike pin survey which was adopted in December 2021. It was an interactive map that showed where projects were happening and where gaps were located. Matt mentioned PennDOT has done surveys through the RPO for safety improvements and DCNR does them for trail gaps.

There was discussion of how the survey would be distributed, with the primary form of distribution being online through Survey Monkey. A QR code was mentioned and hard copies would also be available. Hard copies could be available at doctor’s offices, libraries, senior centers, post offices, etc. The survey could also be made available on the County website and different social media platforms. Matt mentioned that the Visitor’s Bureau has tablets available that could be used to go to senior centers and have volunteers help senior citizens fill out the survey in-person. Laura suggested the Huntingdon County Human Services Council which includes different agencies and non-profits.

The public meeting to learn about the survey input is scheduled for June 8, 2023 from 3:00-6:00 P.M. Jim is going to check and see if the Bailey Building will be available as this event is open to the public. Chris stated if it wasn’t available the Huntingdon Borough Council Chambers could be used as a backup. The charrette is scheduled for June 12, 2023 from 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. with a lunch. This will be a smaller event which will not be available to the public. Deb is checking on the availability of the WE Gather venue. The public meeting will be published in the paper with EADS doing the press release.

George mentioned that he did attend the 522 Project meeting and there will be lots of interesting things happening with that. He invited the group to the Standing Stone Trail Club annual spring meeting which will be held on April 1, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. at the Rothrock State Forest Headquarters. There will also be a work day at the Thousand Steps on April 22, 2023 and anybody is welcome to come and help. Matt mentioned that the PennDOT Outreach meeting is coming up

on April 17, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. at the National Guard Readiness Center. They will be going over projects that they will be working on.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. at the Huntingdon Borough Building Council Chambers.

**Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jayme Reck  
Assistant Community Development Administrator