

UPPER MERION TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

July 13, 2011

The members of the Upper Merion Transportation Authority met for their regularly scheduled meeting on July 13, 2011 in the Township Building, 175 West Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and commenced with the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Michael Santillo, Chairperson

Louis Zotti, Vice-Chairman

Marvin Meneeley, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Supervisor Greg Waks, Liaison

Ronald G. Wagenmann, Executive Secretary

Edward J. O'Brien, Jr., Director of Public Works

Jack Smyth, Jr., P.E., Consulting Engineers, Boles Smyth Associates, Inc., (BSA)

Joseph Pizonka, Esq., Solicitor, Pizonka, Reilley, Bello & McGrory, P.C

Rita Ann Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Carl Pinto, Secretary

Tad Hershey, Treasurer

Nicholas Hiriak, Director of Finance

MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Zotti, all voting "aye" to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2011, as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

SR 3051 Section C22, Line Change and Time Extension Request

Mr. Smyth explained that this no cost Line Change and Time Extension Request refers to the Multi-Use Trail project and is required for the completion of preliminary engineering.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Zotti, all voting "aye" to approve a six-month time extension of the SR 3051 Section 22 contract and "no cost" line change. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

SR 3051, Section C22, Authorization for Authority to Transmit Final Design Phase Technical & Price Proposal to PennDOT for up to \$450,000

Mr. Wagenmann stated that once the Authority authorizes and approves the transmittal of the Final Design Phase Technical and Price Proposal up to a dollar figure of \$450,000 negotiations can begin with PennDOT to amend the contract. Mr. Smyth commented on the meeting that was held with PennDOT to discuss changes to the project with the ultimate goal of constructing the Trooper Road portion while the Schuylkill River Trail Bridge and Norfolk Southern bridges are being designed. It was pointed out that there is money to get into a Final Design phase which has already been established on the DVRPC T.I.P. with approximately \$955,000. Preliminary engineering has already been taken well beyond what is normally required for a Design-Build project due to design information Valley Forge Park requested as part of their process to accept ownership of the trail, as

well as design for red-bellied turtle mitigation and PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) / US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) permit coordination. Therefore, \$450,000 would be the estimate for the remaining work. Mr. Smyth provided the Authority with a summary of the technical proposal as well as the tasks that are remaining to complete the Final Design Phase necessary for construction. Mr. Smyth noted that a PADEP/USACOE permit would be required for the Schuylkill River Bridge and the piers going into the river. Since Boles, Smyth has already taken this to a high level, in order to maintain momentum they will follow through on obtaining and providing the permits to the contractor.

Mr. Smyth stated that a motion is needed to negotiate with PennDOT for a dollar figure of up to \$450,000.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Zotti, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "Aye" to approve the SR 3051, Section C22 authorization for the Authority to transmit Final Design Phase Technical and Price Proposal to PennDOT for up to \$450,000.

Bids for South Henderson Road Gravity Line – Recommendation and Special Bid Minutes of June 21, 2011

Mr. Wagenmann stated that N. Abbonizio is the low bidder on the South Henderson Road Gravity Line at \$267,239 which is below the Engineer's estimate. Although there were five contractors at the mandatory pre-bid meeting, only two chose to bid. Above and beyond some of the contractual items that N. Abbonizio must provide such as insurance, performance bond, etc, Mr. Smyth explained some of the other requirements that are necessary to get this project underway including a DEP Act 537 letter approving a minor extension module. A Board of Supervisors resolution was approved on June 16, 2011, three different land use questionnaires –one from the township, one from Montgomery County Health Department which has been received back and one from the Montgomery County Planning Commission which is still pending will be submitted to PA DEP in the upcoming period. Time is of the essence in getting this information to DEP so the Authority can provide a Notice to Proceed letter to begin construction. The Highway Occupancy Permit and all the right-of-way have been obtained and Notice to Proceed is anticipated by mid-August. N. Abbonizio has four months to complete the project. The Transportation Authority will issue a Notice of Intent to Award letter tomorrow.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the bidding process and review.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Zotti, all voting "Aye" to award the South Henderson Road Gravity Line contract to N. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$267,239 and approve the June 21, 2011 Special Bid Meeting Minutes as stated. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

Resolution 2011-04 of the Upper Merion Transportation Authority Affirming and Confirming the Authorization of the Acceptance of the Deed of Dedication of Right of Way from PECO Energy Company, in Lieu of Condemnation

Joseph Pizonka, Solicitor, stated that the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue requires this Resolution to accompany the deed so that the transaction is tax exempt. It simply authorizes the

Transportation Authority to accept this property in lieu of foreclosure and the Resolution will formalize this matter.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Zotti, all voting “Aye” to approve Resolution 2011-04 to authorize the Upper Merion Transportation Authority to accept the property in lieu of foreclosure. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

A question was asked if a similar resolution would be needed for other involved properties, and Mr. Wagenmann responded that these would be prepared by counsel for consideration at next month’s meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT:

Multi-Use Trail Bridge over the Schuylkill River

Mr. Wagenmann stated the project is moving ahead. He reported that there were discussions at a recent PennDOT meeting; the project overall is above cost estimates but PennDOT has agreed to come up with the extra money. On July 26 the National Park Service (NPS) will make the presentation to formally approve the agreement whereby the NPS will accept the bridge and the trail after it is built and assume all ongoing responsibility for its maintenance, upkeep and eventual replacement, if needed.

Relocated North Gulph Road

Meeting on the price proposal was held on July 12. Mike Boles will revise the agreement based on comments from the meeting and resubmit back to PennDOT.

Henderson Road Sanitary Sewer Project

Now that the Henderson Sanitary Sewer Project has been awarded, Mr. Wagenmann will make application for the PennDOT loan and it is anticipated that within six months put out the bid for the road project. Mr. Smyth noted that a July 21 pre-application meeting at PennDOT is scheduled for the larger widening project. Mr. Wagenmann stated he will start the process for the PA Infrastructure Bank Loan.

Henderson Road Widening (PA Infrastructure Bank Loan Project)

Montgomery County denied the request for the Henderson Road Widening – South Half Project to be part of the Jump Start 2 Program. An updated request for \$750,000 construction money has been made to have the County include the Church Road Right Turn Lane Project that is designed. Leo Bagley suggested extending the lanes on Henderson along Colonial Electric as far up as possible in order to prepare for the future widening and be that much more ahead when the time comes. The right turn lane would allow more time for the signal on Henderson Road. Mr. Smyth said another element of that was to upgrade into a traffic adaptive signal at that location. A brochure was provided to the county commissioners to provide a quick thumbnail sketch of the proposal.

Ramps Project

Moving along well. Leyland trees replacement is on hold until the fall and then all affected trees will be replaced. A definitive cause of the trees dying has not been determined. A soil test will be done.

Red Light Camera Grant Program

Mr. Wagenmann stated there is a very limited amount of money for the entire state amounting to approximately \$1.6 million for this program. An application will be submitted for traffic responsive equipment for the Crooked Lane and the Gypsy Road intersections with South Gulph Road. Combined with the traffic responsive equipment at the South Gulph/Henderson Road/ I-76 Ramp signal, all three intersections would have traffic responsive type signals. A local match is not required.

There was a brief discussion about traffic responsive equipment that is already installed on the Route 202 corridor at North Gulph Road.

Henderson Church Road Project

William and Betty O'Hara have the appraisal and the Township Solicitor is working to get the Right-of-Way agreement signed. Even if there is a disagreement on the value they would still be willing to sign off on the right-of-way and take care of the appraisal issue later.

Improving the US 422 Corridor

Mr. Wagenmann distributed a brochure, "Improving the US 422 Corridor." He noted that the Economic and Community Development Committee wants to get involved in this issue. DVRPC provided a good presentation and it was well received and overall it went well. The Secretary of Transportation's Fund Commission will be issuing a report with their recommendations within the next two weeks. A study was conducted on a "hot lane" approach, but it was determined that it would not develop sufficient revenues. Mr. Wagenmann emphasized that it is important that people become educated on PennDOT's whole Transportation Improvement Program and how they approve projects and process applications. Significant amounts of money for projects have been cut. As the tolling system is reviewed and reworked as to how it is collected, people need to keep an open mind during discussions. The detailed tolling issues are open to adjustment and programming.

Mr. Waks emphasized that he would like to see members of the Transportation Authority work with ECDC on this matter to share their experience and knowledge on transportation issues. Mr. Wagenmann commented that the ECDC would like to have a special joint meeting set up and they will be in touch with the Authority to make these arrangements. Mr. Wagenmann said he would try to have someone like Leo Bagley attend the meeting as well.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Multi-Use Trail Bridge over the Schuylkill River (SR 3051 Section C22)

Mr. Smyth outlined the main items required for approval:

Categorical Exclusion Evaluation (CEE) Coordination.

- Red-Bellied Turtle Impact Coordination with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
- Section 4(f) Evaluation is going well and is now in the signature process
- Section 106 Historic (Reading Railroad/Norfolk Southern Railroad) awaiting review by cultural resources specialist for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

ROW Coordination

- Design Advisory Board (DAB) – A video conference is scheduled for July 26, 2011 with the DAB to present the request for the NPS to accept the donation of the River Bridge, Railroad Bridge and Trooper Road Right-of-Way designated as part of the Multi-Use Trail.
- Special use permit negotiations are ongoing and positive outcome of meeting is anticipated.

Design/Project Coordination

- PennDOT agreed to waive the Test Level 4 (TL4) criteria for the River Bridge and accept the 48" railing height requested by the National Park Service so as not to interfere with visual aesthetics for those walking across the bridge. Originally the railing was at 54 inches and PennDOT agreed to the 48 inch height because there would be no vehicles on this bridge beyond inspection or emergency. There will be a 15 inch concrete parapet with a mounted railing to bring the height to 48 inches.

Prompted by a question if the railing was high enough for bikes, Mr. Smyth responded that we are within the design criteria established by AASHTO. The weight limit will be 20 tons. A brief discussion ensued regarding the types of vehicles that would be permitted on the bridge.

- Final Structure Plans were submitted for the Trooper Road bridge over the Schuylkill River Trail Bridge. This is an "As-Designed" structure and minor Geotechnical Unit comments were received from PennDOT.
- Design Field View is another major element in getting out of preliminary engineering and it was submitted to PennDOT on June 1, 2011. Boles, Smyth received comments back from PennDOT Central Office today and will review. Does not appear to be anything that would not be able to be addressed.

Mr. Smyth noted that PennDOT programmer also agreed to look into additional funding about cost overruns. There is an existing \$1 million earmark that will be pursued to bridge the funding gap.

Relocated North Gulph Road

Revised Technical and Price Proposal is being completed by Mike Boles for submission early next week.

Henderson Road Widening

Last outstanding element before submittal to PennDOT for review is the drainage design. There is a scheduled Highway Occupancy Permit Pre-Application meeting with PennDOT to be held July 21, 2011 to go through the design, drainage, traffic impact study, pavement report, etc.

SR 0076, Section RMP Construction

It is looking more like mid-September for the off-ramp opening and possibly as early as Labor Day. This is well ahead of schedule from the November 10 time frame. Concrete is now being poured for the I-76 West Off Ramp and will take approximately 2 ½ weeks.

Church Road Bridge

Awaiting the Supplement approval to finish Final Design services. Gannett Fleming is managing the project.

North Gulph Road Trail

Mr. Wagenmann reported that a meeting was held with the PA Turnpike Commission since they are proceeding with design for the PA Turnpike widening going west. It was requested that the turnpike provide a 10 to 12 foot wide area underneath the bridge over North Gulph Road and US 422 to accommodate a future trail extension from the Chester Valley Trail that would link with the Schuylkill River Trail. A discussion ensued prior to adjournment of the meeting during which Mr. Wagenmann pointed out that the turnpike had already planned to move the abutments back and could accommodate a bike lane.

Extension of Renaissance Boulevard

Mr. Wagenmann reported on additional meetings with the residents in the Hughes Park/Philadelphia Avenue area in regard to the extension of Renaissance Boulevard to Crooked Lane and Yerkes. It was agreed to proceed and a meeting with PennDOT will be arranged since staff who originally agreed to the extension are no longer at PennDOT. Mr. Wagenmann will try to have the Renaissance Boulevard subject added to the agenda of the Henderson Road July 21st meeting.

Mr. Smyth commented that one of the major items coming out of the Route 23 Balligomingo detour is “do not detour Church Road” at the same time.

FINANCIAL REPORT

No discussion.

REQUISITIONS – JUNE 8, 2011

THE TIMES HERALD	\$505.85	Invitation to Bid S. Henderson Road Gravity Line (Saturday, May 28 th) Invoice 00213033
BOLES, SMYTH ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$14,207.69	Multi-Use Trail Bridge over the Schuylkill River Project (May 1, 2011 thru May 31, 2011) (Invoice #12)
BOLES SMYTH ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$11,355.47	SR 0076, Section RMP – Construction Phase Services (Invoice #20)
BOLES SMYTH ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$27,326.62	Henderson Road Ramps and Widening Project for work performed for the period (May 1, 2011 thru May 31, 2011 (Invoice # 64)
BOLES SMYTH ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$29,616.38	Professional services relative to transportation engineering consulting activity as performed from December 1, 2010 thru May 31, 2011 (Invoice #73)
TOTAL:	\$83,012.01	

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Zotti, all voting “Aye” to approve the requisitions for July 13, 2011 in the amount of \$83,012.01. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

RONALD G. WAGENMANN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MICHAEL SANTILLO
CHAIRPERSON

RAP

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: