

**UPPER MERION TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**September 14, 2011**

The members of the Upper Merion Transportation Authority met for their regularly scheduled meeting on September 14, 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  
Tad Hershey, Treasurer  
Ronald G. Wagenmann, Executive Secretary  
Nicholas Hiriak, Director of Finance  
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  
Greg Waks, Supervisor Liaison  
Rita Ann Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary

**ABSENT**

Carl Pinto, Secretary

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "aye" to approve the meeting minutes of August 10, 2011 as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2011-06 Granting Signatory Authority for Supplemental Agreement 064024-B, SR 0076, Section RMP Improvement Project**

**Board Action:**

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "aye" to approve Resolution 2011-06 as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

**Resolution 2011-07 Granting Signatory Authority for Amendment A, Agreement # 164046 for the SR 3051 Section C22 Project (Multi-Use Trail Bridge)**

**Board Action:**

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "aye" to approve Resolution 2011-07 as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **Act 209, Highway Assessment Study**

Mr. Wagenmann stated the Transportation Authority projects identified in the original study from which assessments were created are nearing completion and it is necessary to come into full compliance with state law. The first step is to appoint a committee comprised of between five and 15 members. A minimum of 40 percent of the committee must be made up of the development community. A draft request for proposals was provided to the Authority members and it was pointed out that this is a Request For Proposal professional selection and it is not a low bid selection. With the Authority's concurrence, Mr. Wagenmann would solicit proposals from qualified and experienced transportation engineering firms in the conduct of a Roadway Sufficiency Analysis and preparation of a Transportation Capital Improvements Plan for a Pennsylvania municipality in accordance with Act 209 of 1990, as amended, for the adoption of traffic impact fees to be assessed to new development in the Township. Responses are requested by October 10, 2011. Between October 10 and October 12 the subcommittee members of the Authority would rank their preferences for the top three or four firms and email the remainder of the Authority members with their results. The two envelope consultant submission process was explained with one envelope for experience and qualifications and the second envelope with price proposals. The finalists would then be invited to come make their presentations before the full Transportation Authority in early November at which time the whole Authority will have the opportunity to select the highest ranked firm from the Technical Proposal and interview and will then open the final packet containing the Price Proposal. The Authority would then be in a position to name the consultant at the regular November 9 Transportation Authority meeting and then get the paperwork completed. The whole process will take approximately one year and cost somewhere between \$70,000 to \$90,000. Mr. Wagenmann pointed out that the amended law calls for a 7 contiguous square mile district. The entire township comprises 16.8 miles in area. A discussion ensued about the areas that should be excluded (ie. Valley Forge Park) and included in the district.

### **Board Action:**

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "aye" to approve the proposed plan in seeking proposals from qualified and experienced transportation engineering firms in accordance with Act 209 of 1990 and establishment of a Subcommittee consisting of Ron Wagenmann, Executive Secretary; Jack Smyth Jr., PE, Authority Engineer; Michael Santillo, Chairman; Lou Zotti, Vice Chairman, and Tad Hershey, Treasurer, as Alternate.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **Henderson Road Sanitary Sewer Project**

Moving forward. Received verbal notification that PA DEP Act 537 Technical Review has been completed and approval letter is being prepared. Will issue the Notice to Proceed for N. Abbonizio to begin the sewer work. After a Pre-Construction Meeting with PennDOT, Upper Merion Public Works, Upper Merion Municipal Utility Authority, Metz Engineers, Boles, Smyth and N. Abbonizio revised item prices were received for paving where savings were realized. While there was some additional cost to make sure that not only the pipe but also all the fittings have epoxy coating overall there was a net savings of about \$6,800.

### **Multi-Use Trail Bridge over the Schuylkill River**

Mike Caldwell, National Park Service Deputy Regional Director in the Northeast Region, confirmed that he has approval in writing to accept the bridge.

### **Relocated North Gulph Road**

Reimbursement agreement for the design contract has been signed. This is a 100% reimbursement agreement.

### **Henderson Road Widening**

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank Loan information has been provided with revised application and awaiting response from the state. The Allendale Road bridge project was approved at the 1.65% rate and expectations are that this one will be at the same rate. Finishing preparation of Highway Occupancy Permit Plan & Report submission. Meeting to be held with PECO to determine number and cost of poles to be relocated. The question is which entity would be responsible for the 20 poles being relocated. Township Solicitor is looking into this matter.

### **Ramps Project**

Final construction inspection scheduled on Thursday, September 15 at which time punch list will be compiled which will help determine when the ribbon cutting ceremony can be scheduled. Final issue is the right-of-way fence. The contractors had problems getting the supplier to provide a right-of-way fence that passes the tests of PennDOT's quality control.

### **Church Road Bridge over SEPTA Route 100 Project**

Moving ahead and will soon be able to finalize the right-of-way with the O'Hara's for the Church Road project.

### **Renaissance Boulevard Extension**

No word back from the association. Liberty would like to get the extension done; however, they do not want to put up all the money. They are exploring if there might be a way for Liberty to guarantee the debt service on a borrowing so that when O'Neill moved forward with building they would be responsible to pay. Mr. Wagenmann asked if the Authority was open to this idea and, if so, the Township Solicitor would determine what would be a satisfactory guarantee. He said he does not believe there is any way the Authority could borrow the money and give it to a private entity. It would have to be spent as public funds which would increase the cost of the project by 30 to 40% due to the requirement to pay prevailing wage rates. If the Authority was open to the idea Mr. Wagenmann proposed two options: (1) if the Authority wanted to do it so that the debt would be paid off in a 10-year period, he could go back to the Infrastructure Bank and ask if that is a project that could be funded from the State of Pennsylvania infrastructure money at the 1.65% rate. (2) If a longer period such as 25 years were proposed, Mr. Wagenmann would come back before the Board of Supervisors for a discussion. He pointed out that there is one open bond issue that could possibly be refinanced and there is a project that the Board of Supervisors may be considering that might require a borrowing and it would be put all together, but then the Board of Supervisors would have to then be accepting the guarantee from Liberty Properties. Mr. Wagenmann will have a conversation with Liberty to see if they are open to the idea. Mr. Wagenmann would then meet with bond advisors to find out what the interest rates are and what kind of costs are involved. Mr. Wagenmann emphasized that he is not looking for approval but just exploring if the Authority is open to the idea.

While generally open to the idea, a discussion followed with regard to the pros and cons of such a financial arrangement and the types of guarantees that should be considered. Risk mitigation was the main requirement.

A question was asked about the estimated cost to open up the road. Mr. Wagenmann responded that it would be approximately \$550,000. He said that Brian Keaveney felt it could come

in less than that and if it came in as a private project it would be at or below \$450,000. If the township would do it costs could be as high as \$850,000 because of such considerations as prevailing wage. While Mr. Wagenmann was not committing the Authority to a specific course of action he wanted to get an idea of the Authority's view. If the matter comes back to the Authority it would be an infrastructure loan for 10 years and it would have to go back to the supervisors if it is a bond issue.

### **US 422 Tolling**

A series of meetings were held with elected officials and the consensus is that no one wants tolling all of US 422 although there was some discussion for the option to toll the Schuylkill River bridge to pay for the new twin bridges. Neither party will move on any of the proposals unless the governor acts first.

### **Electronic Agenda**

It was generally agreed that a "drop box" would be more helpful for the transmittal of the Transportation Authority meeting packet as opposed to a piecemeal approach. The Information Technology Department is looking into the "drop box" suggestion.

### **Signal Project**

Project proceeding ahead. Grant paperwork is in hand. PennDOT agreed to sole source of the traffic adaptive signal equipment and the Township Solicitor concurred sole source is appropriate for that equipment because there is only one manufacturer. Two signals have already been installed at US 202/North Gulph Road and I-76 West Ramps/South Gulph/South Henderson Road with favorable results.

### **Task Force**

Mr. Wagenmann is chairing a transportation task force to determine the financial needs of counties and municipalities. The figure the group is coming up with is \$3.8 billion a year for all the local maintenance requirements of municipalities in Pennsylvania. There is currently \$1.6 billion of funding available which amounts to a \$2.2 billion shortfall. The task force is finalizing the report. Local roads carry 23% of the traffic and therefore, the task force is of the opinion that municipalities should be getting a minimum 20% of the share.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

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

Much positive activity in August. PennDOT approved Design Field View on the Multi-Use Trail project. Two outstanding issues on environmental clearance: Section 4(f) since the Schuylkill River is a water trail and Section 106 for the Norfolk Southern Railroad line. The engineering agreement for Final Design services is being reviewed by PennDOT and finalized. Once that is completed and the environmental clearance is done the project can proceed into final design on schedule.

### **Relocated North Gulph Road**

Notice to Proceed issued by the Authority. Making plans for a project kick off meeting.

### **Henderson Road Sanitary Sewer**

Contractor determining whether to use night crews for the entire project. Mr. Smyth suggested that contractor send in a request for night work because of noise ordinances in Upper Merion. The

packet from the Pre-Construction meeting including minutes and a letter with revised paving item/pipe fitting prices reflected net savings.

### **Henderson Road Widening**

Finishing preparation of Highway Occupancy Permit Plan and report submission.

Need to get E&S approval (erosion and sediment control) approval and will continue working on that.

### **SR 0076, Section RMP Construction**

Final inspection for project will be held Thursday, September 15. Contacted Valley Seeding regarding Leyland Cypress trees and they recommended changing the tree type to an arborvitae which is similar in nature and better suited for survival. Joe Orsatti, landscape architect, will allow the change. Mr. Wagenmann is in the process of notifying the residents with the maintenance agreement that the tree type will change. He is also working with the contractor to plant some extra trees since the new tree species is lower in price. The priority is to get the dead trees out before the ribbon cutting ceremony and new trees planted since the planting period window is closing.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

No report.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Director of Finance presented the Monthly Financial Report for August 2011. Mr. Hiriak reported bank balances at \$4.9 million. No movement in investments. Last month and August received a \$104,000 reimbursement on Henderson ramp project. During the months of July and August the Commonwealth has paid for everything outstanding. Second quarter wave of reimbursements went out end of August.

### **REQUISITIONS – SEPTEMBER 14, 2011**

Boles, Smyth Assoc.,	\$23,256.91	Multi-Use Trail Bridge over the Schuylkill River SR 3051, Section C22 July 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011 (Inv. #14)
Boles, Smyth Assoc.	\$6,264.95	SR 0076, Section RMP – I-76 West Ramps at Henderson Rd. Project – Construction Phase Svcs. July 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011 (Inv. #66)
Boles, Smyth Assoc.	\$33,561.34	Henderson Road Ramps & Widening Project July 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011 (Inv. #66)
ARRO Consulting	\$ 675.00	Project 00010429.00, Planning Module; Henderson Road Sewer Ext. (Inv. #0009744)
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$63,758.20</b>	

### **Authority Action:**

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Zotti, all voting “Aye” to approve the requisitions for September 14, 2011 in the amount of \$63,758.20. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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**RONALD G. WAGENMANN**  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

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**MICHAEL SANTILLO**  
**CHAIRPERSON**

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: