

UPPER MERION TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
December 14, 2011

The members of the Upper Merion Transportation Authority met for their regularly scheduled meeting on December 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
Tad Hershey, Treasurer
Ronald G. Wagenmann, Executive Secretary
Nicholas Hiriak, Director of Finance
Edward J. O'Brien, 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
Marvin Meneeley, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Zotti, all voting "aye" to approve the meeting minutes of November 9, 2011 as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Metz Engineers Professional Engineering Services - Updated, Construction

Observations/Inspections, South Henderson Road Gravity Sewer Line

Mr. Wagenmann stated N. Abbonizio has indicated a change from their original inspection level of effort projection in that their inspection work might run into some overtime with their 10-hour work schedule. This is just to put the Authority on notice in that it might be necessary to come back with a change order for that purpose.

Final Award Act 209 Engineering Firm

Mr. Wagenmann discussed the composition of the seven-member Act 209 committee; 40% of the membership must be from the private development community. He has held preliminary discussions with some prospective members. Once the Transportation Authority appoints an engineering firm, Mr. Wagenmann will work with the Solicitor over the intervening period so that an actual contract can be presented to the Authority early next year.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Zotti, seconded by Mr. Hershey, all voting "Aye" to appoint Pennoni Associates, in accordance with their technical and price proposal, to conduct the Act 209, Highway Assessment Study. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Henderson Ramps

Positive comments received regarding the Henderson Road ramps.

Church Road Bridge over SEPTA Route 100 Project

We are still trying to finalize the right-of-way.

Signal Project

Adaptive equipment went operational for all traffic signals along Route 202, from North Gulph Road to the entry into Bridgeport.

Leyland Cypress trees

Replacement planting of all trees is completed.

R-CAP, Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program

Application for R-CAP grant was submitted to continue construction of the trail from Heuser Park to the Valley Forge National Historical Park. Notification was received today that a \$500,000 grant to Upper Merion Township has been approved. Good meeting held yesterday with the Norfolk Southern (NS) railroad. The proposed trail width may have to be limited to about 10 to 12 feet maximum with necessary offset distances from the track, but the preliminary discussion with the local NS Rail Operations personnel indicate the trail should be able to be accommodated. The other issue involved an agreement the Township would be required to sign to relocate the trail if the rail spur became active in the future. Due to the low probability that this may occur, it is Ron's feeling that this may be worthwhile.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

One remaining environmental coordination issue (Section 106 Historic) had remained as part of the Categorical Exclusion Evaluation (CEE) coordination to get out of preliminary engineering. PennDOT has been informed that delay is impacting schedule. Determination was made that there is no adverse impact on any historic structures; therefore, PennDOT District can now approve the CEE document since this was the final hurdle. It will then go to PennDOT Central Office and Federal Highway Administration for them to approve it as well. It can go quickly if priority is placed on it. Meetings scheduled for Friday, December 16 at District to discuss this project as well as Relocated North Gulph Road. If a priority is assigned to the CEE review, with the Design Field View approval in hand it could possibly be in Final Design by January 15, 2012.

The Right-of-Way Clearance process is moving along well. The Right-of-Way documents associated with the Park Service accepting ownership of the trail structure over the river are in Washington and progressing through their signature process which ultimately ends with the Director of the National Park Service. The Right-of-way along Trooper Road will be abandoned first. The Authority will accept ownership and then pass it along to the National Park Service; West Norriton will do the same for the trail portion. Next, Special Use Permits similar to a temporary construction easement are needed for the selected contractor to do any work in the national park. It involves additional stipulations. The lawyers from PennDOT and the lawyers from the National Park Service have been negotiating and there has been movement to the extent that it is at a point where the final remaining issues are being resolved. Last, Boles, Smyth is coordinating with PennDOT/Urban Engineers regarding proposed Right-of-Way adjustments along Trooper Road in West Norriton to accommodate a proposed stormwater basin.

Regarding Utility Clearance, Boles, Smyth is working with the PennDOT Utility Unit to coordinate with affected utility companies specifically PECO gas, since the gas line currently on the Route 422 bridge will be relocated onto the new bridge over the Schuylkill River. There is also a Verizon line underground and an above net line that is below ground that will require relocation.

The Permit for the work in the river itself has been progressing. Continued hydrologic and hydraulic calculations (H&H analysis) for the Trail Bridge over the Schuylkill River to make sure the proposed structure does not increase the 100 year flood plain elevation. The US 422 team was able to obtain six borings for the proposed trail structure pier locations in the Schuylkill River and are doing the testing so that the Foundation Design Guidance Report can be done for the Schuylkill River Trail Bridge. Meeting scheduled Friday, December 16, 2011 to discuss options to advancing final design phase for the project.

Relocated North Gulph Road

The second element of the Friday meeting will be discussion of the Relocated North Gulph Road project, to go through the right-sizing approach for the project and stress that there is an environmentally approved option. However, this option depends upon construction of the US 422 Eastbound "flyover" ramp that is part of the independent US 422 Widening Project (SR 0422, Section SRB).

One of the commitments by the trail project is to provide an interim trail crossing at the intersection of Route 23 at the Kennedy Supplee Mansion before the trail bridge opens. The National Park Service is aggressively pursuing funding to deal with that crossing which is located at Trooper Road where it meets Route 23 going through the park, and are actively pursuing funding to put toward that intersection. After a brief group discussion about the crossing, Mr. Smyth noted that PennDOT would have the final say as to whether or not a mid-block signal crossing is appropriate.

Henderson Road Sanitary Sewer

N. Abbonizio began construction on Tuesday, December 6. Metz Engineers, the inspector, contacted BSA to inform that test pits were not done to determine the depth of the existing pipe which was in the contract. The manhole delivered had a pipe opening for the new line that did not accommodate the existing pipe elevation. Through coordination and redesign effort the issue has been resolved resulting in a new manhole being delivered at no cost to the Authority. An additional issue involved the presence of a limestone boulder at Saulin Boulevard. The contractor damaged a PECO electric underground line that was not marked after a PA One Call was made for construction start. Metz Engineers has photos to verify line was not marked. No electrical service was interrupted. These delays placed the project into a weather dependent schedule. The contractor has until January 16, 2012 to complete construction. Mr. Smyth met with the contractor and Metz Engineers on December 14th and stressed to them that they have the weekend detour available to install the sanitary sewer across Saulin Boulevard.

The trees were removed at Franklin Maps. There was one tree within an excavation zone that did need to come down that had an additional cost associated to it. Construction is still working within the budget for the bid amount because an approximately \$10,000 credit was received for the revision to the pavement type. This amount was reduced by the additional tree removal, additional costs to adjust the manhole rim elevations and provide lined epoxy fittings. Currently, there is a credit of approximately \$1,000 still associated with the project in moving forward. BSA coordinated with Lackland Self Storage to discuss relocation of some small trees and shrubs within the dedicated Right-of-Way area. These trees have been moved by Shreiner Tree Care.

Henderson Road Widening

Much activity on the project. Received comments on Highway Occupancy Permit submission of November 9, 2011. BSA met with PennDOT's Traffic Unit on December 1st to go through all the comments and responses. The updated package should be going in by the end of next week. Met with Montgomery County Conservation District (MCCD) regarding the E&S transmittal on December 2nd.

Plans were transmitted to MCCD on December 8 and they completed their Administrative Review on December 9th. There were some minor comments one of which is the requirement for a municipal consistency letter for drainage design. Boles, Smyth received this from the Township on December 13th. Revised E&S will be submitted on December 15th to get out of Administrative Review and into the Technical Review of the E&S submittal. Coordinated further with PECO gas and Verizon for their underground lines and will be meeting with Aqua on December 15th to discuss their intention to install a proposed water main along Henderson Road within the limits of our project. The meeting will provide information on the alignment of the new water main and begin coordination of construction staging between the projects.

There is one piece of Right-of-Way, the PECO Towers property, that is still required that has not been recorded. The draft agreement being reviewed by PECO Legal Department and should be sent to the Solicitor next week.

SR 0076, Section RMP Construction

After the holidays a small study and report will be done to detail the efficiency of the traffic adaptive signal. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) goal is a 10% reduction in delay. Since this is an experimental proprietary item, the FHWA because of the non competitive nature does not fund it without justification and this would be the justification.

Church Road Bridge Over SEPTA Route 100 Line

The Foundation Guidance Report has been submitted for the retaining walls on either side of the proposed 96-inch pipe. Gannett Fleming is reviewing. Approval of this report is required to obtain borings.

South Henderson Road Widening (PA Infrastructure Bank Loan)

Mr. Wagenmann indicated that he sent the response to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) as to how the Authority was going to fund the project. The response noted that the Township would adopt an ordinance that would backstop and guarantee and, if necessary, the Liquid Fuels money could be used. BSA provided other answers to environmental issues. Once the agreement is prepared formal application can be made to DCED under the Unit Debt Act.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Director of Finance presented the Monthly Financial Report for November 2011 and asked for a motion to adopt the 2012 budget that was presented last month.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Zotti, all voting "Aye" to approve the 2012 budget. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

REQUISITIONS - December 14, 2011

Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$23,746.73	Relocation of North Gulph Road (SR 3039) (Invoice #1)
Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$28,373.30	Multi-Use Trail Bridge over Schuylkill River (Invoice #17)
Boles, Smyth Assoc. , Inc.	\$10,765.54	SR 0076, Section RMP I-76 West Ramps at Henderson Rd – Construction Phase Svcs. (Inv. #25)
Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$ 23,243.76	SR 3029, Section HRD and SR 3039, Section SGR Henderson Rd. Ramps and Widening Project (Inv. #69)
Boles. Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$30,486.25	Professional services re: Transportation engineering consulting from 6/11/2011 thru 11/30/11 (Inv. #74)
Commonwealth of PA Clean Water Fund	\$ 500.00	Erosion & Sediment Plans Henderson Road Widening (prepaid)
Montgomery County Conservation District Clean Water Fund	\$ 500.00	Erosion & Sediment Plans Henderson Road Widening Project (prepaid)
Montgomery County Conservation District	\$ 975.00	Erosion & Sediment Plans Henderson Road Widening Project (prepaid)
TOTAL:	\$118,590.58	

Authority Action

It was moved by Mr. Zotti, seconded by Mr. Hershey, all voting “Aye” to approve the December requisitions in the amount of \$118,590.58. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

RONALD G. WAGENMANN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MICHAEL SANTILLO
CHAIRPERSON

Minutes Approved:
 Minutes Entered: