

UPPER MERION TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
June 8, 2011

The members of the Upper Merion Transportation Authority met for their regularly scheduled meeting on June 8, 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)
Carly Fenske, Esq., Solicitor, Pizonka, Reilley, Bello & McGrory, P.C
Rita Ann Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Carl Pinto, Secretary, excused absence

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Hershey, all voting "aye" to approve the meeting minutes of May 11, 2011, as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2011-03 authorizing signatory authority for Agreement No. 164228 (reimbursement) for the final design of the relocation of N. Gulph Road/PA 23, SR 0023, Section 2NG.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "aye" to approve Resolution 2011-03 as stated. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

PennDOT request for portion of BSA Team Construction Phase Services Funds from I-76 West Ramps at Henderson Road Project

Mr. Wagenmann stated that PennDOT submitted a request in regard to the I-76 West Ramps project to evaluate remaining funding on the Construction Phase Services Agreement and provide them with an amount that will not be required before the end of the construction phase. While construction is on or ahead of schedule, there is not enough inspection funding available; therefore, PennDOT is looking for funds from the contract to help bridge the funding gap. Under the stimulus program the project is required to be completed within the money that was originally budgeted. Mr. Wagenmann explained that since the Authority has a 100% Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT, the Authority has been requested to provide authorization that the money could be turned back to the state. The Authority does not have any of its money in this phase of the project. In response to a series of questions from the Authority, Mr. Smyth responded that the funding available for transfer to

PennDOT includes some geotechnical services and reproduction that was not used in addition to money from Boles, Smyth Associates and a sub consultant, Ang Associates. In total, approximately \$67,500 can be returned out of the contract. He explained that this is a contract modification so that their invoice would show new maximum amounts to draw down upon. In response to a question if there was enough funding to do inspections, Mr. Smyth responded in the affirmative and stated that this includes certain things that FHWA wanted. In response to another question, Mr. Smyth stated that Boles, Smyth is doing construction consultation not construction inspection. The actual day-to-day inspection on site is done by PennDOT and another Construction Inspection firm. Members of the Authority wanted to make sure that the Authority does not leave itself open to paying for services that will not be reimbursed. Mr. Wagenmann emphasized that he also wanted to make sure that our cost is covered and that is when Mr. Smyth came up with the calculation of \$67,500. He also reminded PennDOT that there is an FHWA commitment of something that needs to be done and a report was prepared and submitted. PennDOT has recognized this, and will accept this number.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Zotti, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting “aye” to approve an amendment to the Construction Phase Services Agreement with Boles, Smyth to reflect a reduction of approximately \$67,500. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

Old Betzwood Bridge Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail (CO47) – Part 5 of River Crossing Complex SR-3051

Mr. Wagenmann provided a short recap of what is proposed for the overall project that is currently designated as a Design-Build Project and why it now makes sense to do the River Trail Bridge as an As-Designed Project with two Design Build bridges. He explained Boles, Smyth is asking PennDOT to add the Final Design phase to the project. The funding for this phase is included in the final version of the 2011 DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (T.I.P.). Mr. Smyth stated that instead of it being a Design-Build Project, it is going to be a Final Design project with two Design Build bridges. The River Bridge is still going to be Design Build, the Norfolk Southern Bridge is still going to be Design Build, but all of the other approvals will be in place so that the contractor can start to construct what has already been designed after receipt of the Notice to Proceed while the Schuylkill River Trail Bridge and Norfolk Southern bridges are being designed. As discussed at the last meeting we do not want to have the Trooper Road bridge over the Schuylkill River Trail designed and then have a situation where the contractor cannot build it because he does not have approval due to the Design-Build portion of the project. Mr. Smyth explained that it will be treated as a single project so that all of it will go out to the contractors as one single bid upon project.

Mr. Wagenmann stated that a motion is needed to have the Authority administer the Engineering Agreement and Reimbursement Agreement, adding a Final Design Phase to the project. Mr. Smyth emphasized that adding a Final Design Phase to the project is the key phrase in order to support the conversion of the project from a Design-Build Project.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Zotti, all voting “aye” that the MPNS No. 16703 Old Betzwood Bridge Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail (CO47) – Part 5 of River Crossing Complex SR-3051 Agreement be amended to add a Final Design Phase to the project. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

After the vote Mr. Smyth referred to the handout and pointed out that what is different with this is that we are working under the PE Preliminary Engineering Phase. He said that \$750,000 out of the \$856,000 is what we are working under and there is a Final Design Phase already established on the DVRPC T.I.P. with \$955,000. Mr. Smyth noted that not all of this amount would be required and over half of that can be put back towards construction.

A brief discussion ensued about the Design Build project as opposed to a Final Design project that has some Design Build components. Mr. Smyth explained the difference between the two approaches. He pointed out the real reason for the Design Build of the River Bridge is actually to save time, to get it out to the contractors so that they can design it while the other portion is built, and this will condense the construction time.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

I-76 West Ramps at Henderson Road

Off ramp construction is proceeding and making good progress.

Leyland Cypress Trees along South Gulph Road

A large portion of the newly planted Leyland Cypress trees along South Gulph Road are dying and turning brown. Mr. Wagenmann indicated the contract with the landscape contractor has a one year guarantee indicating the dead trees will be replaced at their cost. Mr. Smyth recommended planting replacement trees in the Fall during the next planting season. Mr. Smyth indicated that Joe Orsotti, landscape architect, will call the landscape contractor and set up a meeting. Mr. Smyth recommended that trees not be removed until Fall so that there would be at least a visual screen. Mr. Wagenmann indicated a letter should go out to residents with an update when further information is obtained on the status of the trees. A question was asked if the one year guarantee applies to a year from the replanting or original date the trees were planted, and Mr. Wagenmann indicated that this is a question Mr. Smyth can ask at the meeting.

Phase III South Gulph Road Widening Project

Nothing will happen for awhile at this location. Once the off ramp has been open for a period of time Boles Smyth will do traffic counts after which discussions can begin about the right sizing of Phase III.

South Henderson Road Widening Project – Status of Right-of-Way Agreement/Sanitary Sewer

With regard to the Sanitary Sewer, it was advertised to receive bids on June 21, 2011 and results will be presented at the July 13th meeting. Mr. Wagenmann commented on the county's Jump Start II program and provided an update on some discussions Leo Bagley had with Mr. Smyth. Although the county is unable to put up the \$4 million for the second phase of Henderson Road, the suggestion was made to do something about the Church Road right-turn lane onto Henderson Road since it has important operational benefits for the intersection. Mr. Wagenmann and Mr. Smyth will be meeting with Leo Bagley to discuss this issue. A separate meeting will be required with PECO to discuss funding for the utility pole relocations that need to be done.

Hansen Access Sewer Line

No further word on Hansen Access Sewer and Mr. Wagenmann does not anticipate they will tie into the Township sewer system on Henderson Road.

Church Road Bridge over SEPTA

Mr. Smyth stated that he is still waiting for the action that DVRPC needs to take to shift the money from utility to design so that the supplement can get executed. The Township Solicitor is now working to get the Right-of-way acquired from William and Betty O'Hara on the Church Road project. Carly Fenske anticipates an answer by tomorrow.

Betzwood Bridge Trail Project

Mr. Wagenmann provided an update on upcoming meetings Boles, Smyth Associates has with the National Park Service to finalize the design of the bridge aesthetic treatments. The first step to the National Park Service receiving the donation of the trail has been taken with regard to the Value Analysis. The second and final step is with the Design Advisory Board before the National Park Service Director signs off on the donation. Mr. Wagenmann pointed out that once this occurs the National Park Service will take full maintenance responsibility and eventual replacement cost responsibility for the bridge.

Mr. Smyth provided the status of the trail bridge and indicated that on June 1st Boles, Smyth submitted the Design Field View which is a major milestone. The CE, environmental clearance document was submitted June 8th for that project. The other critical path items on that are the final structured plans for Schuylkill River Trail Bridge were submitted on May 12th. Minor comments were received from the Geotechnical Unit and comments from the Structures Unit are pending.

Traffic Adaptive Signals

The ramp project received the same Traffic Adaptive Signal System as the one at North Gulph Road and Route 202. The timing is still being tweaked.

Balligomingo Project

The Township has received many complaints about backups and detours from Balligomingo Road. There are 10,000 more cars a day on adjacent roads that were already overloaded. Balligomingo is a two year project. Once River Road is open, Balligomingo Road will be closed. Traffic counts to be done as part of the Phase III South Gulph Road Widening right-sizing effort may be superficially higher and traffic counts should not be done until there are accurate numbers to determine the right-sizing design for the third phase of the project. A letter will go out to residents as we approach March indicating the status.

Mr. Wagenmann provided an update on the meeting with PennDOT with regard to the June 8th meeting to change signs and signals. A meeting was also held with some of the business representatives from Renaissance at Gulph Mills since they are interested in having the Renaissance connection extend out to Crooked Lane. Another meeting will be held the week of June 27th and concurrently a meeting will be set up with PennDOT to see if they are still willing to agree to the option that was discussed wherein the township would take back a small portion of Crooked Lane. It would no longer be a state highway from Renaissance Boulevard extension to the intersection with Yerkes. If PennDOT still agrees, it will be brought before the Board of Supervisors for a final decision.

Realen Valley Forge Green

Both on and off ramps are now open from the turnpike; now waiting for the intersection to open that will go into the golf course property. Wegman's project is now out of the ground and visible with almost all the steel already erected. Although the Wegman's opening will not occur until 2012, now that the project is a reality it may prompt other projects.

Slots Parlor

Still awaiting building permits. Everything else has been proceeding. Reviews have been done and financing lined up. Currently waiting for them to take the next step. Not only do they have their license, but they have the amended approval from the Gaming Board that the change of law permitted to have a limited number of table games.

King of Prussia Mall: New Store Construction

Mr. Wagenmann said they are still trying to work out some of the lease hold issues so that they can do the demolition.

Route 422 Corridor Study

The Corridor Study has not been received as yet and copies will be provided to the Authority when available.

Route 100 Extension

Still being discussed and SEPTA study proceeding to look at alternate routes.

PIB Loan

Mr. Wagenmann has not received an answer back yet.

Turnpike Widening

Meetings are ongoing and updates are being provided. Currently the PA Turnpike Commission is doing borings and holding meeting with residents regarding storm drainage issues. There is an upcoming meeting with Don Steele and people from the turnpike on the South Gulph Road drainage basin that was supposed to be put in as part of the turnpike widening project. There will also be discussions about the design to widen the PA Turnpike over North Gulph Road, in particular, on the east side of North Gulph where there is a five foot sidewalk. The Authority will coordinate with the Turnpike Commission to accommodate a 12 foot wide bicycle pedestrian trail on that side of the highway. In discussing the possible routing, one of the alternatives was using the First Avenue bridge over US 422 then connecting to Richards Road.

Mr. Smyth stated when a connection is made to a Montgomery County trail there are some grants that might be pursued at least from the county and maybe one other source. Connecting the Schuylkill River Trail with the Chester Valley Trail via what is being constructed over the Schuylkill River would be an important link.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Director of Finance presented the Monthly Financial Report for May 2011 and reported a good balance in money and reimbursements into PennDOT for the first quarter of this year. A brief discussion ensued about the current banking environment.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

REQUISITIONS – JUNE 8, 2011

MR. BILL O'HARA	\$18,400.00	(Prepaid 5/17/2011) Full Consideration for the Temporary Construction And Access Easement and Right-of-Way
BOLES SMYTH ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$13,630.13	SR 0076, Section RMP I-76 West Ramps at Henderson Road Project-Construction Phase Svcs (4/1/11 thru 4/30/11) (Est. No. 19)
BOLES SMYTH ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$24,490.63	Henderson Road Ramps and Widening Project (4/1/11 thru 4/30/11) (Est. No. 63)
BOLES SMYTH ASSOCIATES, INC.	\$31,729.09	Multi-Use Trail Bridge Over the Schuylkill River Project (4/1/11 thru 4/30/11) (Est. No. 11)
H.A. STEEN INDUSTRIES	\$28,400.00	(Prepaid 5/23/2011) Full-consideration for Temporary Construction & Easement Right-of-Way
PIZONKA, REILLEY, BELLO & MCGRORY, PC	\$273.33	Professional Services (Inv. #29299)
DAVID BLACKMORE	\$ 1,616.00	Geotechnical Investigation (report, soil testing and boring logs for Henderson Rd. Sanitary Sewer Line Project
NORRISTOWN TIMES	\$ 899.55	Ad for Invitation to Bid South Henderson Road Gravity Line (Invoice 00213050)
TOTAL:	\$119,438.73	

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Hershey, all voting "Aye" to approve the requisitions for June 8, 2011 in the amount of \$119,438.73. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

RONALD G. WAGENMANN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MICHAEL SANTILLO
CHAIRPERSON

Minutes Approved:

Minutes Entered: