

UPPER MERION TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

March 9, 2016

The members of the Upper Merion Transportation Authority met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 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

Tom Kohler, Chairman
Carlton Stuart, Secretary
Ian Kingsley, Asst. Sec. /Treasurer
David G. Kraynik, Executive Secretary
Edward J. O'Brien, Director of Public Works
Jack Smyth, Jr., P.E., Consulting Engineers, Boles Smyth Associates, Inc., (BSA)
Nicholas Hiriak, Director of Finance
Rita Ann Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

Greg Philips, Supervisor Liaison
Lou Zotti, Vice-Chairman
Marvin Meneeley, Treasurer
Joseph Pizonka, Esq., Pizonka, Reilley, Bello & McGrory, P.C.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Kohler stated the Authority met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss legal and contractual matters.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

It was moved by Mr. Stuart, seconded by Mr. Kingsley, all voting "Aye" to approve the meeting minutes of February 10, 2016 as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Lack of Signage on some Township Roadways

Mr. Kohler discussed the need for additional signage on Allendale Road and Mall Boulevard for traffic approaching US 202 to mitigate current confusion and illegal maneuvers for some destined for US 202 North or South. He pointed out most roadways crossing a major artery such as US 202 will have a junction warning sign and then a final north/south sign. Mr. Kohler asked if something could be done to have such signs installed at certain designated roadways. Mr. Kraynik indicated he would coordinate with Police Chief Tom Nolan.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Solicitor

Mr. Kraynik provided an update on the RFQ for Transportation/General Authority Solicitor.

Development Plan Updates

Liquor Licenses – The Yard House liquor license was approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 18, 2016. The Yard House will occupy a portion of the old Sears property across from the Fox and Hound at the King of Prussia Mall. Two public hearings were held at the February 18th Board of Supervisors business meeting for two liquor license transfers scheduled for consideration at the March 31st business meeting. One license transfer is for the Pour House at the Village at Valley Forge and the other is for The Fat Ham, a restaurant which will be located at the King of Prussia Mall.

O'Neill's Renaissance Boulevard Development – Consideration by the Board of Supervisors is pushed back three to six months because of some Superfund issues which have to be worked out with the EPA.

SEPTA Public Meetings in King of Prussia and Norristown

Public meetings are being held tonight in Norristown and next Tuesday in King of Prussia. These meetings will generate a lot of discussion over the next several months and years.

Additional comments

Mr. Kraynik noted there have been six or seven liquor transfers in the last year which is being generated by a lot of activity in the restaurant business.

Mr. Kraynik mentioned actual plans have not been submitted as yet for the Yard House, but they have redesigned the deck out of the right-of-way area.

Following up on his question regarding the potential assessment for the Yard House Restaurant at last month's meeting, Mr. Kohler reported all uses at the Mall are charged the same rate which would be \$4,500.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Sullivan's Trail is scheduled for a June opening. Now that the weather has moderated contractor moving forward with the final push bringing in crews to finish. Field meetings have been held to discuss landscaping.

Rapid Flashing Beacon

Remaining construction for paving of trail section will occur simultaneously with the Multi-Use Trail Bridge project. Project paving is scheduled for April 2016. Rapid Flashing Beacon will not be operational until the trail opens.

Relocated North Gulph Road, SR 0023 Section RNG

BSA has been concentrating on coordination of utilities with the 422 project. BSA held a PennDOT coordination meeting with the District 6-0 Utility Unit to update the Department on the status of the project.

Church Road Bridge over SEPTA Route 100 Line

Final internal design team questions regarding the required depth of foundation for the Frog Run Culvert have been answered and the final report to PennDOT is being revised accordingly to incorporate the recommended foundations for the culvert.

Other project milestones such as the NPDES permit from PA DEP (Erosion and Sediment) as well as the General Permit which is needed from PA DEP to impact the creek itself may now be prepared.

Trout Creek Bridge

Since authorization last month, BSA has continued coordination with PennDOT's Geotechnical Unit to determine the most efficient strategy for design of bridge foundations which may involve PennDOT drilling and inspecting the subsurface borings for the new bridge. PennDOT has an open ended contract with drillers they have already selected. This option will be discussed at a future meeting.

Coordinated with PennDOT District 6-0 Environmental Unit to re-initiate activities for the environmental clearance process. BSA started the updated Categorical Exclusion Evaluation (CEE) form update. FHWA is involved because of the current Level 2 designation. It was noted that Levels 1A and 1B would have kept it within PennDOT's purview. An FHWA representative spoke with the PennDOT Environmental Unit and BSA to update the Scoping Field View from the 2008 submission.

Began redesign of the structure to include sidewalk on south side and incorporate a potential left turn lane from Valley Forge Road onto Beidler Road into the project.

US 422 Project

Following up on a meeting he attended at PennDOT, Mr. Kohler raised a question related to the US 422 project. He observed part of the reconstruction of the PA 23 interchange has some reconstruction of the eastbound on-ramp. Since that ramp will be eliminated in a few years, he suggested installing a new traffic signal would be ill-advised.

Mr. Kohler commented the ramp will eventually have to be closed and detoured down to First Avenue for several months. His thought process is to keep it closed and not put in a light or repave. In this way people would get used to the traffic patterns that will have to be followed once the project is completed.

Mr. Smyth said in a separate discussion with PennDOT project management and Urban Engineers, this was discussed and as construction advances there will be some items that can be deleted or downsized based on the design status of the Relocated North Gulph Road project.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2016

Mr. Nick Hiriak, Finance Director, reviewed the financial report for February 2016. He said his reports now provide separate account information for Act 209 impact fees and non-Act 209 impact fees.

Mr. Kohler asked if the cash flow is okay. Mr. Hiriak responded in the affirmative.

REQUISITIONS – MARCH 2016

Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$ 708.15	Multi-Use Trail Connection on Port Kennedy Road for work performed 1-1-16 thru 1-31-16 INVOICE #20
Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$ 9,083.02	Construction Phase Svcs. For Multi-Use Trail Bridge over Schuylkill River Project for work performed 1-1-16 thru 1-31-16 INVOICE #23
Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$ 3,900.35	Relocation of North Gulph Road (SR 3039) for work performed 1-1-16 thru 1-31-16 INVOICE: #28
Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$ 4,349.75	For professional services relative to transportation engineering consulting from 12-1-15 thru 1-31-16 INVOICE #88
Pizonka, Reilley, Bello & McGrory, P.C.	\$ 270.00	Professional Services for 2-11-16 INVOICE #: 32612
Upper Merion Township General Fund	\$ 17,871.26	Summary of expenses incurred and advanced by Township General Fund for 2015 expenses for Transportation Authority
TOTAL:	\$36,182.53	

Authority Comment:

Mr. Kohler asked for more details about the reimbursement to the Upper Merion Township General Fund. Mr. Hiriak responded that is an annual reconciliation for certain staff time and minor expenses. Mr. Kohler asked if this covers calendar 2015. Mr. Hiriak responded in the affirmative.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Stuart, seconded by Mr. Kingsley, all voting “Aye” to approve the March 2016 requisitions in the amount of \$36,182.53. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Mark McKee, resident and member of the Planning Commission, asked for clarification about the Church Road detour once construction starts on the bridge in early 2017. Mr. Smyth responded the detour would go from Crooked Lane to Shoemaker to Henderson and down to Church Road on Henderson Road and vice versa. He said the roads will be signed and there will be minor signal

adjustments made at each of the signals, including providing more green time to Shoemaker Road at Henderson Road.

Mr. Kohler asked how long the detour would last. Mr. Smyth responded it could be at least a year but he will get an updated construction schedule for the next meeting.

Mr. McKee discussed the stop signs at Yerkes and Crooked Lane where they come out by the SEPTA Norristown High Speed Line. He said the two stop signs are approximately 45 feet from one another and most people cruise through one if not both stop signs.

Mr. McKee asked if any thought was given to opening up the Renaissance emergency access. Mr. Smyth responded that was not formalized and currently we are mainly dealing with detour traffic itself and not any potential access points from Renaissance that require Township action. Mr. Kraynik stated any decision that is made on the extension of Renaissance Boulevard is going to come under the land development review of O'Neill's development.

Joint Meeting with Board of Supervisors

Mr. Kraynik stated the Authority is scheduled for a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, May 12th at 9 p.m. Mr. Stuart asked if the regular Authority meeting would still be held on Wednesday, May 11th. Mr. Kraynik responded currently both meetings are scheduled.

Additional Comments

Mr. Kohler asked Mr. Smyth to keep the Authority advised when Sullivan's Bridge gets closer to completion so that a ribbon cutting could be planned. Mr. Smyth responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Kingsley raised an issue that was brought to his attention regarding the egress from Walgreen's on South Henderson Road. He pointed out there are no signs prohibiting a left turn out. Mr. Kohler suggested "do not block driveway" signage.

A discussion followed about the problematic nature of egress from properties on both sides of Henderson Road at this location. With regard to the Chick-fil-A and Wawa properties, Mr. Kraynik stated the eventual plan would be to make it a right out only onto Henderson Road. Once the new stores open and traffic studies are done the property owner would like to have a full signal on US 202 for which he would pay. It was pointed out across the street at Walgreen's and PNC Bank is a different property owner.

Mr. Smyth recalled when the median on North Henderson Road was installed it required extensive coordination with the gas station owner. He explained when restricting moves from driveways accessing state routes, Highway Occupancy Permits need to be obtained. With regard to the Walgreen's egress, Mr. Smyth suggested signage to discourage blocking the driveway on Henderson.

Mr. Kohler asked if it is possible once the new traffic counts for that light are done that the Township look into potentially restricting left turns onto Henderson Road. Mr. Kraynik responded staff could take a look at it.

Mr. Smyth said if there is an opportunity for the developer to put in a full signal once the traffic counts warrant there might be an opportunity to look into whether or not a median on that side of Henderson Road is something to consider.

Mr. Kohler commented that was what he had in mind especially since there is already a precedent for a median along that stretch of roadway on the other side of US 202.

Mr. Kingsley suggested getting PennDOT involved to make the driveway out of Walgreen's a one-way. Mr. Smyth responded any access change for the driveway would involve a Highway Occupancy Permit on a state route and PennDOT would be involved from an access management perspective.

Mr. McKee commented the planning commission has tried for years to eliminate curb cuts as properties are consolidated and make cross easements for parking and access particularly on major arteries such as US 202.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

DAVID G. KRAYNIK
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

THOMAS KOHLER
CHAIRMAN

Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: