

UPPER MERION TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
September 12, 2012

The members of the Upper Merion Transportation Authority met for a meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 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, Chairman
Louis Zotti, Vice-Chairman (arrived late)
Marvin Meneeley, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Tad Hershey, Treasurer
Greg Waks, Supervisor Liaison
Ronald G. Wagenmann, Executive Secretary
David Kraynik, Township Manager Designee
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
Nicholas Hiriak, Director of Finance
Rita Ann Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary
Brian Keaveney, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

ABSENT

Carl Pinto, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Hershey, all voting "aye" to approve the meeting minutes of August 8, 2012 as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2012-05 authorizing the acceptance of a deed of dedication in lieu of condemnation of a certain parcel of ground for use as a public right of way on Church Road (O'Hara)

Mr. Wagenmann pointed out the acceptance of a deed of dedication in lieu of condemnation is done in order to eliminate the real estate transfer tax, thereby realizing a savings of 1%.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "Aye" to approve Resolution 2012-05 as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

East Church Road Bridge – Design Supplement E (Agreement 064129)

Mr. Wagenmann stated this Supplement E is necessary in order to incorporate comments requested by PennDOT with regard to the foundation and footers and will amend the reimbursement agreement for the project. Mr. Smyth pointed out this is for the pipe culvert, not the actual bridge itself over SEPTA which is already approved. On or about October 1, 2012, funds will be transferred so that BSA sub consultants could do this work.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "Aye" to approve Design Supplement E as stated. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

Boles, Smyth Associates – Henderson Road Construction Phase Services Proposal (FY 2012)

Mr. Wagenmann stated under the Henderson Construction Phase Services, BSA is asking for a separate agreement so their services can continue September through November as the project proceeds. BSA has issued a letter outlining the work involved in order to assure proper construction oversight. Mr. Smyth stated to date everything has been done under the general agreement BSA has with the Authority. BSA has been holding biweekly progress meetings with Glasgow and the utility companies which have been critical for coordination. In view of different unforeseen field conditions, revisions to plans have occurred throughout construction, as well as a great deal of coordination that is necessary with Metz Engineers and others. Based on BSA monthly efforts to date, a separate agreement with the Authority is requested up to \$15,000.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "Aye" to approve the Boles, Smyth Associates proposal for the Henderson Road Construction Phase Services up to \$15,000. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

Act 209 Land Use Assumption Report

Mr. Wagenmann stated the Act 209 Advisory Committee completed the Land Use Assumption Report and Pennoni Associates is now ready to proceed to the traffic analysis portion of the Act 209 Study and come back with recommendations on projects that could then be used to generate the assessment number.

Mr. Scott Greenly, Associate Township Planner provided an overview of the Land Use Assumption Report which identifies general areas of potential development within the township over the next ten years. These areas include:

South Gulph Road corridor
King of Prussia Business Park
South Henderson Road corridor
King of Prussia Mall and Lockheed Martin area

Mr. Greenly explained how the calculations for potential development were determined utilizing the expertise of the Act 209 committee, comprised of township residents, property owners, business owners. He said once the Transportation Authority approves the Land Use Assumption Report it will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Mr. Keaveney stated the document will be circulated to adjacent school districts, municipalities, and the Montgomery County Planning Commission for cursory review and comments. Subsequent to final approval of the report, Pennoni will proceed to prepare the two additional documents that make up the overall Act 209 process. The second document is the roadway sufficiency analysis which is the traffic study itself that looks at the existing condition of the intersections and roadways and the conditions that would exist if all the properties develop. Pennoni will then outline what improvements are warranted at the various intersections, if any, to facilitate additional traffic. The third document is primarily a financial document. The capital improvements plan will look at the improvements

recommended in the traffic study, estimates projected costs, including rights of way, design, construction, inspection, and debt service, It then defines a fair share basis between the amount that is attributable to existing traffic conditions and the amount that is attributable to new development. That will result in the township's new impact fee. Mr. Keaveney anticipates completion of the Act 209 study near or about the end of the year.

Mr. Wagenmann pointed out the importance of these projections since they are used to calculate dollar amounts for an assessment so that developers pay their fair share for project costs. He emphasized that this study is not an absolute of what is going to happen.

A discussion followed about the assumptions made and rationale used in preparing the report and coming up with some realistic numbers.

Mr. Wagenmann stated a similar presentation will be made to the Board of Supervisors and the Board will be asked to approve the Act 209 Land Use Assumption Report as well.

Mr. Waks emphasized it needs to be made clear to the supervisors who are not liaisons to the Transportation Authority that this is about traffic impact and not about any type of land development pre-approval. Mr. Wagenmann agreed.

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Hershey, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "Aye" to approve the Act 209 Land Use Assumption Report as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Henderson Road Widening

Mr. Wagenmann stated the Henderson Road project is moving ahead. Utility conflicts have been coordinated and are being resolved. According to the schedule, Glasgow should begin pouring curbing next week and then proceed putting down the road base. Once the binder is in place, traffic can be moved to the new widened area so that they can proceed onto the other side of Henderson Road (east side) and do a limited amount of widening. It is anticipated that Glasgow will meet the construction schedule which is due by mid-December so that the lanes could be opened. Next spring, paving, sidewalk and landscaping will be done according to PennDOT guidelines as well as final lane markings.

Mr. Smyth noted that coordination continues with utility relocations. Most utilities have been responsive. Comcast has one issue and Verizon is the critical path for completion of utility lines.

Pennsylvania Turnpike – Flint Hill Road Slip Ramp

Mr. Wagenmann stated Jack Smyth, Sr. has come up with some concepts to do a full directional interchange at Flint Hill Road which will be presented at next month's meeting. This approach would probably overcome state police objections to the westbound aspects of the project. Without a westbound off ramp the Turnpike Commission and state police may not go along with a westbound on ramp because they currently use the ramp that is there for both ingress and egress off the turnpike.

Mr. Wagenmann had a discussion with Leo Bagley today to have Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) do some studies and road projections as to potential traffic volumes.

If DVRPC is able to forecast traffic information, this will be used to show the turnpike the type of revenue it could generate for the turnpike if it is an EZ-Pass lane.

Extension of Chester Valley Trail

Mr. Wagenmann stated Chester County is constructing the extension of the Chester Valley Trail over to South Warner Road in Upper Merion Township. There will be a culvert under Warner Road since the railroad would not permit use of the available right of way under the current bridge. Next Monday the contractor will begin that work necessitating the detouring of Warner Road. Peco could not turn off power in those conduits; therefore, it required different construction methods requiring closure rather than doing one lane at a time. The contractor has three months to do the work and signs have been posted.

Mr. Waks asked if a phone voice message could be sent to the residents in that area. Mr. Wagenmann responded in the affirmative. He indicated that the Public Information Office has the information to put out in an email, the e-newsletter as well as Connect CTY.

Mr. Wagenmann noted Montgomery County hopes to then proceed in picking up the trail at South Gulph Road and he then described the proposed route of the trail.

PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE BANK (PIB) LOAN

Mr. Wagenmann reported that the PIB loan was approved and the Finance Director received \$3,500,000 for payment of invoices for South Henderson Widening project.

Renaissance Boulevard Extension

Mr. Wagenmann had a discussion with Scott Fletcher, PennDOT, with regard to the importance of the Renaissance Boulevard Extension, and he will try to get a decision in the next couple of weeks. The extension is proposed to go out to Crooked Lane and then Yerkes to provide a third ingress and egress out of the office complex in Gulph Mills. Once Mr. Wagenmann receives agreement from PennDOT, a meeting will be scheduled with the residents. He noted this proposal entails the township taking back a portion of Crooked Lane with PennDOT's approval. The township would take over ownership and control from Church Road to Yerkes and then PennDOT would pick up Crooked Lane again at Yerkes on out to South Gulph Road.

Schuylkill Valley Transportation Coalition

Mr. Wagenmann reported on the Schuylkill Valley Transportation Coalition meeting today during which Leo Bagley handed out the latest Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) about to be announced. Listed in the TIP were projects that remained on the TIP that had to be fiscally constrained. Remaining on the TIP for Upper Merion is US 422 Betzwood Bridge for a total cost of \$156 million and the Church Road Bridge at \$4,942,000. Also included are the Betzwood Multi-Use Trail Project and the Relocated North Gulph Road Project. Mr. Wagenmann had a discussion with Tom Kohler in Representative Briggs' office about the need to get a "bridge bill" passed by the State Legislature for the Allendale Road Bridge to make it eligible for reimbursement. Once this project is on the "bridge bill" the township can obtain 80% federal and 15% state funding.

The delayed projects include: Route 23 Trout Creek Bridge project (down by Mancill Mill Road), next phase of South Henderson Road Widening as well as the third phase of South Gulph Road Widening from Crooked Lane to the interchange.

Mr. Wagenmann also provided an update on the project shown as a future phase for extending Lafayette Street in the Borough of Norristown to go up to the Turnpike and create an interchange as well as various related project phases. Mr. Wagenmann pointed out certain benefits to Upper Merion Township in lowering traffic on a number of roadways through the township if the interchange was constructed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Henderson Road Widening

Mr. Smyth stated BSA has been working with property owners to accomplish some things while the road is open. He coordinated with Kunda Beverage regarding a fire sprinkler connection that needs to come out from their parking lot and connect to the water main as well as Franklin Map regarding proposed land development for a car wash on their property. They are trying to get service connections for the gas and water in place. Coordinated with Hansen Access property owner regarding proposed sanitary force lateral. They have a concept in place and an engineer; however, to date there has been no recent word from them about this matter. The engineer was told that they would need Municipal Utility Authority approvals and a Highway Occupancy Permit. PennDOT requires each entity working in the zone to have a permit. Mr. Smyth pointed out if all four properties tie in they would pay into the cost of the sewer main. This would provide additional income to the Authority which could help with the Church Road Right Turn lane.

Mr. Smyth received a quote from Competitive Edge Sports for them to install their new sign and maintain their warranty. Their quote of \$5,700 is substantially below Glasgow's price of about \$11,000 and per previous Authority action will be authorized for payment. Mr. Smyth noted there was one \$1,300 item in the Competitive Edge Sports quote for the posts which is included in the \$5,700. The property owner was to supply the sign of equal or smaller size and the Authority would install it. Because the cost was low to install the sign, Mr. Smyth indicated that as a "thank you for their patience during construction," the \$1,300 would be included as a goodwill gesture from the \$5,700 quote.

Mr. Wagenmann commented that he had a conversation with PA American Water; Kunda and Franklin Map need to get all their paperwork submitted.

Mr. Smyth noted that BSA has worked with Kunda Beverage to inform them all they need to do is get out into the road to the edge of where stage one stops because the water main is in the stage two area. He noted that it is not necessary to have the PA American Water application processed for the tap into the water main until mid-October.

Glasgow was given authorization to fill a small sinkhole that was exposed just north of the Norfolk Southern overpass. PennDOT has committed to repairing future sinkholes within the roadway area.

Church Road Bridge Over SEPTA Route 100 Line

Waiting to get Notice to Proceed on Supplement E.

Relocated North Gulph Road

Meeting held with PennDOT Traffic Unit to go through some concepts that include hybrid approaches and roundabout concepts. Moving forward for the right-sizing concept.

Multi-Use Trail Bridge over the Schuylkill River

Main focus has been to get the plans into PennDOT and out to bid with continued coordination regarding the Peco gas line within the Valley Forge National Historical Park. The issue has been resolved. NPS has authorized Peco gas to locate on the new Norfolk Southern overpass and along the new trail. Mr. Smyth noted Kate Hammond, the new Superintendent of the VFNHP was extremely helpful in obtaining this authorization.

Critical path items are now the structure approvals and permit approvals which are going well. The Schuylkill River Trail Bridge has been approved. The Schuylkill River Bridge which is only going to a Conceptual Type Size and Location plan is close to being approved. The Norfolk Southern Final Structure plans are in development right now. A full plan set is being submitted by the end of the week to PennDOT so they can do a Constructability Review. The Constructability Review is the last major milestone at the PennDOT District before plans are submitted for bid and into Contract Management. The environmental permit is the other major milestone. A meeting was held on site and they were in favor of the mitigation concepts for the red bellied turtles. Currently in the process of finalizing the permit through the PennDOT system for review by PA DEP and Army Corps of Engineers. With regard to right of way, temporary construction easements and utilities are being finalized.

With regard to the turtles, Mr. Smyth noted that basking platforms will be placed on the piers for the turtles. The basking platforms will be set to slope up so that they catch the water at various elevations throughout the course of the year to maximize basking.

REQUISITIONS – September 12, 2012

Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$44,647.40	Multi-Use Trail Bridge SR 3051, Section C22 Final Design (7-1-12 thru 7-31-12) (Inv. #4)
Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$ 16,345.71	Final Invoice: SR0076, Section RMP – Construc. Phase Svcs. For work performed 5-1-12 thru 8-3-12 (Inv. #28)
Metz Engineers	\$ 14,539.00	S. Henderson Road Widen &Reconstruc. Project #: M7519, (7-2-12 thru 7-29-12), Inv. Dtd 8-22-12
Glasgow, Inc.	\$304,181.04	SR 3029, Section HRD, Henderson Rd. Widening, Inv. #2 from July 26 to August 24, 2012
Pizonka, Reilley, Bello & McGrory, PC	\$ 1,955.88	Professional Services (7-11-12 thru 7-30-12) and (8-8-12 thru 8-31-12), Inv. #30101
Pennonni Associates	\$ 8,697.00	For Services rendered thru 7-1-12. Continued Coordination with Twp. Act 209 Advisory Com., Inv. # 514395
Estate of Betty E. O'Hara	\$ 36,000.00	O'Hara Right of Way
TOTAL:	\$426,366.03	

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Hershey, all voting "Aye" to approve the September requisitions in the amount of \$426,366.03. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Nick Hiriak, Director of Finance, provided the financial report for the month of August 2012. Now that the \$3,500,000 PIB loan has been approved, what was paid out of the Transportation Authority's account will be reconciled against the loan proceeds and adjusted next month. The Transportation Authority account now stands at \$4,040,903.76. Nothing moving on the investment front. With regard to activity against the budget for August, there were two small traffic assessments for single family dwellings. The budget after eight months is "on target" for most items.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Pizonka stated he has finalized the O'Hara agreement and deed.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Santillo started a discussion on planning a road tour for Authority members. Mr. Wagenmann said he would take a look at the calendar and send an email to coordinate the road tour.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

RONALD G. WAGENMANN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MICHAEL SANTILLO
CHAIRPERSON

Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: