

**UPPER MERION TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
JULY 10, 2013**

The members of the Upper Merion Transportation Authority met for a meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 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
Tad Hershey, Treasurer
Marvin Meneeley, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Greg Philips, Supervisor Liaison
David G. Kraynik, Township Manager
Edward J. O'Brien, Director of Public Works
Nicholas Hiriak, Director of Finance
Jack Smyth, Jr., P.E., Consulting Engineers, Boles Smyth Associates, Inc., (BSA)
Joseph Pizonka, Esq., Solicitor, Pizonka, Reilley, Bello & McGrory, P.C
Rita Ann Pfeiffer, Recording Secretary

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 June 12, 2013 as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Report on 6/25 Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Project

Mr. Kraynik reported the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Meeting on June 25 went very well. It was attended by Transportation Authority Chairman Mike Santillo, Jack Smyth, Jr., Boles Smyth, Supervisor Greg Waks, Supervisor Greg Philips, two county commissioners, representatives of the County Planning Commission, representatives of the Business Improvement District (BID) Transportation Management Authority (TMA), and a representative from State Representative Tim Briggs' office. PowerPoint presentations were made by both the County Planning Commission and Jack Smyth, Jr. on behalf of the Transportation Authority. The County explained that it is important to provide more effective and direct access to business parks and other major destination centers to stimulate economic growth.

The fact that the Authority had already done some preplanning and engineering for potential PA Turnpike ramps in Upper Merion was very well received by the County. The County will continue to dialog with both the Turnpike Commission and the Township and have asked that a working group be formed with the County. Mr. Kraynik will be working with Chairman Waks to establish a working

group consisting of representatives from the Authority and the other groups who were in attendance at the June 25th meeting.

Henderson Road Widening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on July 11 at 11 a.m.

Mr. Kraynik reminded Authority members of the Henderson Road Widening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, July 11 at 11 a.m. to be held in the Kunda Beverage parking lot.

Land Development Projects

Pep Boys at 214 E. DeKalb Pike – (former Kunda Sign property) – First review by the Board of Supervisors was held on June 20 and applicant has been asked to come back on August 1 for a further presentation at a Workshop meeting. The supervisors asked questions about the traffic, ingress/egress, etc.

Mr. Hershey recalled at one time the Authority was considering if barricades of some kind should be placed down the middle of US Route 202 with a “jug handle” by the traffic light at Saulin Boulevard. He asked if something similar has been considered in connection with this land development project because of the challenging left turns. Mr. Kraynik responded it was not considered as yet; however, the supervisors have already expressed concern to Pep Boys about how people are going to safely get in and out of that property.

A discussion followed about how to address the issue of left turns and whether it would be better to do a “round-about” as opposed to a “jug handle.” Mr. Kraynik commented he will go over this issue with the Township Planner tomorrow and ask the applicant to look into it and report back at the August 1st Workshop meeting.

Lafayette Apartments at Valley Forge Club House – located on Old Valley Forge Road next to the Towers. First Review by Board of Supervisors scheduled on July 18th to consider an application to build a 3,300 square foot clubhouse adjacent to existing swimming pool. The clubhouse will house a small fitness center, a leasing office and a meeting room, and it will be used for tenants only and not for the public.

707 Flint Hill Road - First Review by Board of Supervisors scheduled on July 18th to consider an application to demolish existing dwelling and construct a two-story business garage and office located in an industrial zone.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Henderson Road Widening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Mr. Smyth provided agenda details on the Henderson Road Widening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on July 11th at 11 a.m. at Kunda Beverage. He provided Authority members with the press packet with complete details on this project, as well as the overall program with 3 Phases (Phase 1 was the I-76 West Ramps, Phase 2 was the Henderson Road Widening and Phase 3 is the remaining South Gulph Road and South Henderson Road Widenings).

Multi-Use Trail Bridge over the Schuylkill River

BSA transmitted the right-of-way plans to the Authority for recordation by the Authority’s solicitor. The Traffic Control Plan, Pavement Marking and Signing plan have been submitted. Critical path items include the Type, Size and Location and Foundation Report for the Schuylkill River structure

and the Final Structure Plans for the Norfolk Southern bridge. The team is coordinating with PennDOT on a foundation issue that they wanted addressed for the Schuylkill River Bridge in regard to the bottom of footing elevation. Geotechnical engineering work has been addressed and will be resubmitted next week. Final structure plans for the Norfolk Southern Bridge have been submitted to PennDOT for second review. The last critical path item is a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Environmental Protection which is going through administrative and technical review. There were some minor comments; the only item remaining for issuance of the permit is the Type, Size and Location plan for the River Bridge.

Church Road Bridge over SEPTA Route 100 Line

BSA met with Gannett Fleming to review comments from the drainage culvert. Based on late comments, BSA committed to revising the design of the culvert. This will affect the approved General Permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the approved Erosion & Sediment NPDES Permit. The current plan is to take out all the pipes and put in a new one. BSA met with ConSpan, a manufacturer of a PennDOT approved prefabricated structure. This may be the basis of the revised design and Type, Size & Location Plan. Gannett Fleming indicated they will not allow borings to be obtained without approval of the TS&L. This will impact the schedule. An update will be provided at next month's Transportation Authority meeting.

Upper Merion Community Center

Township Planner and BSA met with PennDOT Traffic Unit to discuss the preferred option from the May 30th Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting. PennDOT is supportive of Option 3 which allows for the ingress and egress to the back via General Maxwell, keeps the Valley Forge Road driveway open, provides a left turn lane from Valley Forge Road to General Knox heading westbound, a left turn from Valley Forge Road to Caley Road heading eastbound and provides a right-in lane from Valley Forge Road to the main driveway.

PennDOT stressed that a Signal Warrant Analysis will be required to justify a traffic signal at Valley Forge Road and General Knox/Caley Road. BSA coordinated with Pennoni Associates and has received peak hour intersection volumes to assist in the Signal Warrant Analysis. If the Warrant Analysis finds a signal is not justified at Valley Forge Road and Caley/General Knox, then PennDOT expressed support for a Rapid Flashing Beacon system at the intersection.

Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Project

Mr. Smyth provided an overview of the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Project following the June 25th meeting with the County and handed out the Power point presentation from that meeting. The key goals are to provide a more direct access to the Turnpike from the local and regional roadway network and provide better and more direct access to the business parks, and minimize travel times on the Turnpike. Other benefits include enhancing the land values and economic vitality of the business parks as well as enhance opportunities for usage and revenue for the Turnpike. It would also open up the opportunity for public/private partnerships which would be a key component of the project.

The study identified 11 preliminary locations throughout the township which include: US 422, North Gulph Road, Moore Road, Goddard Boulevard, Mall Boulevard, Allendale Road, US 202, Henderson Road, Crooked Lane, Flint Hill Road and River Road. A PowerPoint was shown. Six of the locations were not recommended for further advancement (US 422, North Gulph Road, Goddard Boulevard, US 202, Crooked Lane and River Road). The remainder of the presentation discussed five locations (which are not full interchanges) which were isolated for consideration at the following locations:

Moore Road and First Avenue (BID and Brandywine Trust are interested) – One of the items BSA was looking at is does it make sense to use Park Avenue instead of tying into Moore Road. Based on feedback from the June 25th Meeting, the priority is to provide access from the PA Turnpike and I-76 at First Avenue and Moore Road. The County asked Boles, Smyth if they could provide a concept for a full movement interchange modernization and Jack Smyth Jr. presented the revised option that includes a turn-around to access PA Turnpike Eastbound. The turn-around makes use of the wide paved area where the toll plaza is currently located.

Mall Boulevard – traffic counts are needed for this; however the concept would directly bring an eastbound off-ramp from the Turnpike into Mall Boulevard.

Allendale Road – Allendale Road is posted for “no trucks” in the residential area. This concept provides a westbound off-ramp from the Turnpike that intersects Allendale Road north of the overpass and an eastbound on-ramp to the Turnpike from the Allendale Road and Wills Boulevard intersection.

Henderson Road – makes use of the Peco towers right of way property and ties a westbound on-ramp and off-ramp directly into Saulin Boulevard. This garnered a favorable reaction at the June 25th meeting and the County asked if there is any way this could be made into a full movement interchange. Boles, Smyth has since revised the concept to include ramps for the eastbound Turnpike. Basically this option would provide ramps to and from Hansen Access Road and then build an overpass structure to allow for access to Saulin Boulevard. A round-about was shown as part of the concept to eliminate the need for a structure where the westbound and eastbound ramps intersect before tying into the Saulin Boulevard intersection.

One issue that requires further evaluation is whether to incorporate Hansen Access Road into the eastbound ramp system or to separate the eastbound ramps and the road with a retaining wall. If Hansen Access Road is incorporated with the ramps, then it might be possible to prohibit left turns in and out of Hansen and send this traffic to Saulin Boulevard. The question is how far to take it from a priorities perspective. The first priority would be just the ramps. A good spot for a round-about would be between the Peco towers to bring people into Saulin Boulevard.

Flint Hill Road – This was previously studied by the Authority and has been maintained as part of the program due to the potential to attract traffic from the Renaissance Business Park. Only an eastbound on-ramp and off-ramp are shown to discourage cut-through traffic in the residential Jefferson Street and Coates Lane area. However, this location does not have the support of the County.

In concluding his presentation, Mr. Smyth stated the County indicated during the meeting their top two priorities are Valley Forge Interchange Modernization and full movement for Henderson Road. With the Authority’s approval, Mr. Smyth would like to set up a follow up meeting with Leo Bagley and all the interested parties. The final presentation and accompanying report will be presented next month.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Hiriak detailed the budget report June. 2012 Audit reports completed by Maille were handed out for Authority members to review before next month's meeting. Reimbursements are being requested from PennDOT for the last six months and will go out next week.

REQUISITIONS – JULY 2013

Boles, Smyth Assoc., Inc.	\$ 2,885.38	Final Design of the Multi-Use Trail Bridge over the Schuylkill River Project work performed 5-1-13 thru 5-31-13 INVOICE #14
Pizonka, Reilley	\$ 621.00	Professional Services 6-12-13 thru 6-24-13, INVOICE # 30642
TOTAL:	\$3, 506.38	

Authority Action:

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Hershey, all voting "Aye" to approve the July requisitions in the amount of \$3,506.38. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Santillo reported that an executive session will be held after this meeting to discuss legal matters. Mr. Santillo also acknowledged and thanked Mr. Hershey for his many years of service to the Authority as Mr. Hershey has resigned. Remaining members and attendees expressed how much they valued Mr. Hershey's input and wished him well on his next endeavors.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

**DAVID G. KRAYNIK
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**MICHAEL SANTILLO
CHAIRPERSON**

Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: