

**UPPER MERION TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**March 10, 2021 Meeting – 7:00PM**

The members of the Upper Merion Transportation Authority met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 via the Township's Webex virtual meeting platform. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM and commenced with the pledge of allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Tom Kohler, Chair  
Andrew Bahmueller, Vice Chair  
Carlton Stuart, Secretary  
Marvin Meneeley, Treasurer  
Lou Zotti, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer  
Greg Philips, Board Liaison  
Noah Marlier, Solicitor, Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell, & Lupin, PC  
Jack Smyth, Engineer, Boles, Smyth Associates, Inc.  
Nick Hiriak, Director of Finance  
Geoff Hickman, Director of Public Works  
Rob & Patti Erickson, Hughes Park Civic Association

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

It was moved by Mr. Meneeley, seconded by Mr. Stuart, all voting "Aye" to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2021 Authority meeting. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Mr. Hamaday was unable to attend the Transportation Authority Meeting because his presence was required at the Planning Commission Meeting held at the same time. Mr. Hickman provided an update to the Authority on his behalf: through discussions between the Township and Realen Properties, the developer of the Village at Valley Forge will draft an agreement for North Gulph Road, which will be submitted for the Authority's review in April.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Smyth presented status updates for the following projects: Relocated North Gulph Road, Granite Block Restoration at Valley Forge Monument, Church Road Bridge over SEPTA Route 100 Line, Prince Frederick Extension, and the Potential New PATK Interchange at Henderson Road (cf. attached report).

For the Act 209 Study, Mr. Smyth will provide a draft to Mr. Kohler and Mr. Marlier discussing the challenges of accurate traffic counts in a COVID/post-COVID world (in which traffic counts have been artificially depressed). For the study, historic counts from DVRPC could be incorporated, or the RFP can be structured to receive input from respondents for how this can be addressed.

Mr. Philips asked about the proposed detour for the Chester Valley Trail Extension Project (i.e. at DeKalb Pike and Saulin Boulevard). Mr. Smyth replied that the proposed route restriction on Saulin Boulevard would decrease the duration of the project's traffic management from eight months down to four weeks. Mr. Kohler noted the Authority's assent to this proposal and requested that additional post-detour signage be installed to ensure motorists are notified when Saulin Boulevard returns to service.

Mr. Kohler opened the forum to public comment to discuss the East Church Road Bridge Project detour. Mr. Erickson noted that although truck detour signs and truck length restriction signs have been installed, he questions both the placement of the signs and the perceived lack of enforcement by the Police Department (e.g. tractor trailers from Fedex and other companies are still using Crooked Lane). These trucks continue to create issues at the Crooked Lane and Yerkes Road intersection. Mr. Erickson contends additional signs are needed on Shoemaker Road and Yerkes Road and that enforcement measures must be increased. He also asserted bollards or other channelizing devices should be installed in the newly-marked gore area of the intersection. Mrs. Erickson inquired about Mr. Hamaday's discussions with Fedex and other companies regarding the tractor trailers, as well as any attempts on his part to contact hauler/driver information apps of these truck restrictions. She noted that residents continue to be frustrated with the lack of effectiveness of the measures so far, especially when pedestrian and bicycle traffic will increase during the spring and summer months. Mr. Smyth replied that Crooked Lane is a state road, and sign placement is at PennDOT's discretion and is in conformance with traffic standards. Mr. Hickman noted that police enforcement had been steady through February and March, and that his department would consider the installation of an advance truck restriction sign on Yerkes Road as it approaches Shoemaker Road. Additionally, he would convey the Ericksons' questions to Mr. Hamaday.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

No report.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Mr. Hickman noted that in addition to the traffic markings and signage undertaken at the Crooked Lane and Yerkes Road intersection, Upper Merion Public Works has submitted an application to PECO to use their power poles for the installation of new street lights along Yerkes Road.

Mr. Hickman also reported that the Township and PECO are discussing a potential detour for their gas main installation project along Matsonford Road.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT:**

Mr. Hiriak reported that little change has occurred in interest rates or their effect on the Authority's assets.

**REQUISITIONS:**

Mr. Hiriak reported that for the East Church Bridge Project there is a substantial delay between the processing of invoices in ECMS (PennDOT's software system), the Authority's receipt of the reimbursement payment, and the approval of requisitions by the Authority. This results in a lengthy delay for the Contractor to receive payment, so Mr. Hiriak asked the Authority what measures may be undertaken to expedite this process. After a discussion in which several options were evaluated, Mr. Zotti noted that by processing the invoice in ECMS, the PennDOT inspector has already verified that the work has been performed and the invoices accurately reflect the work in place, so there should be no need for additional Authority action once the reimbursement has been received. Mr. Hiriak will notify Authority members when a reimbursement payment has been received, and he will be authorized to pay the Contractor at that time. The invoice will be documented in the requisition packet for the next Authority meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Zotti, seconded by Mr. Meneeley, all voting "Aye" to approve the March 10,2021 requisitions in the amount of \$43,913. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Authority, on a motion by Mr. Kohler, seconded by Mr. Bahmueller, the meeting adjourned at 7:52PM.

---

**THOMAS KOHLER**  
**CHAIR**