

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, April 15, 2009
9:00 A.M. in the GBNRTC Conference Room

Attendees: K. O'Brien, C. Sickler, T. Trabold, H. Morse, M. DeSantis, T. DeSantis, P. Zakrzewski, K. Stilwell, G. Gottlieb, R. Chrostowski, N. Peters, R. O'Connor, M. Golen, J. Bidell, A. Marzban, G. Szewczyk, and D. Smith. *Stakeholders:* M. Leydecker, J. Mecca.

1. Approval of March 18, 2009 TPS Meeting Summary – *Motion for approval: Bidell / O'Brien. Approved.*
2. 2008-2012 TIP – TPS Action Requests
 - a. PIN 5759.45 Seneca St. – J. Bidell explained the City's desire to separate this project from the existing South Buffalo Repaving project (5757.60). It was originally to be done that way but had been grouped with other South Buffalo projects to simplify bidding. New non-federal funding for this project made it desirable to advance on its own. It was agreed this was an administrative modification that could be resolved at the TPS level. *Motion to approve at TPS Action #16: Bidell / Sickler. Motion approved.*
 - b. 2008-09 Transportation Enhancements Program Awards – G. Szewczyk gave a brief overview of this year's selected candidates for TEP funds. He explained that the awarding of projects was held back until the TE stimulus funds were clarified. Three projects were added to the program, two of which were funded with ARRA TEP funds. It was decided that NYSDOT would be the lead agency for the Industrial Heritage Trail project instead of the NFTA. The City of Buffalo also agreed to be lead agency on the Union Ship Canal Promenade project instead of Erie County. K. O'Brien requested inclusion of a High Risk Rural Roads Program (HRRRP) project in this amendment, but it was decided it would be advanced separately as Major Amendment #9. *Motion to recommend approval of Major TIP Amendment #8 to PCC: Sickler / Bidell. Motion approved. Motion to recommend approval of Major TIP Amendment #9 to PCC: O'Brien / Bidell. Motion approved.*
 - c. NF Stimulus Fund Cost Adjustment – T. DeSantis discussed the possibility of shifting ARRA funding from one Niagara Falls' project to cover unforeseen cost increases on others. It was suggested by G. Gottlieb to proceed as is until project bidding takes place. Nationwide aggressive contract bidding has resulted in many awards coming in under engineer's estimates. No changes were made to Niagara Falls' ARRA funded projects.
3. TPS Discussion Topics
 - a. 2011-2015 TIP Update Schedule – T. Trabold explained the handout for the 2011-2015 TIP update timeline. The 12-month development cycle will give some time to assess SAFETEA-LU reauthorization impacts and manage stimulus projects.
 - b. SAFETEA-LU Project Earmark Status – T. Trabold reviewed outstanding earmarks being carried in the current TIP. For many of these projects, there has been little or no progress. It was noted the legislation does state for most earmark categories that the funds are available until expended. Only a few projects could lose their funding if they are not progressing by the September 30th deadline. It was also noted by H. Morse that the money for these projects that aren't progressing could be reprogrammed, but only by Congress. All agreed they did not want to see the area lose any of this money due to lapsed deadlines.
4. Status 2009 ARRA/Stimulus Program – T. Trabold discussed the latest FHWA report of 4/9/09 showing obligated and unobligated ARRA funding amounts for Region 5. Should the region be able to obligate all of its ARRA projects by June 29th it may be eligible for an additional ARRA funds. Members then reviewed the status of each of their agency's stimulus funded projects.
5. Old Business – None
6. New Business – T. Trabold reminded members that the staff could assist with any high priority project applications being requested by congressional staff. H. Morse let everyone know that the DOE had funding available for coordinating signal timing and LED traffic replacement lights.
7. Next Meeting – Subcommittee confirmed the next TPS meeting for Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 9a.m. in the GBNRTC offices. *Motion to adjourn: Bidell / Zakrzewski. Approved.*