

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, March 4, 2016

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:00 a.m. at New Britain Township, on February 4, 2016, and called to order by Consortium President William Wert.

2. Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Sandra Zadell, Chalfont Borough
John Davis, Chalfont Borough
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Autumn Canfield, Doylestown Township
Bill Wert, Dublin Borough
Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township
John McMenamain, Lower Southampton Township
Scott Sadowsky, Middletown Township
Sam Bryant, New Britain Borough
Angela Benner, New Britain Township
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township
Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township
Jamie Gwynn, Northampton Township
Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township
Mike Brown, Springfield Township
Alison Smith, Tullytown Borough
Jim Pascale, Upper Makefield Township
Judy Caporiccio, Upper Makefield Township
Joseph Golden, Upper Southampton Township
Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton Water & Sewer Authority
Steve Wiesner, Warminster Township
Timothy Hagey, Warminster Township Municipal Authority
Christian Jones, Warrington Township
Vivian Bell, Warrington Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Judy Decker, West Rockhill Township
John Boyle, Yardley Borough

Sponsors:

Chris Englebert, Beirne Wealth Consulting
Brian Jeter, Comcast
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Markets
Rick Lee, DVIT
Alan Herr, HPT Systems Inc
Michael Davidson, Uninvest
David Othman, Uninvest

Community Updates:

The local managers went around the room and introduced themselves and briefly shared “Front Burner” issues affecting their community. Sponsors in attendance also shared updates or current issues in their field of expertise.

3. Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2016:

Upon motion by Eileen Bradley, seconded by Sandra Zadell, the Minutes of February 4, 2016 were approved as presented.

4. Treasurer’s Report and Payment of Bills:

Vivian Bell reviewed the treasure report for February 2016. Upon motion by Caroline Brinker, seconded by Bob Pellegrino, the Treasurer’s Report for February 2016 was approved as presented.

5. Presentations:

5.1. Bucks County:

Mr. Wert introduced Bucks County Planning Commission Executive Director, Lynn Bush and Bucks County Planning Commission Senior Transportation Planner, Richard Brahler, Jr.

Ms. Bush stated that the Bucks County Planning Commission has been working with a number of municipalities on their comprehensive plans. One main focus of the County is trail programs. Currently, the County is working on three trails outside of their park systems in addition to supporting municipal trail systems through the County.

Ms. Bush stated that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) used to be a wish list for projects, however over the past couple years the TIP has transformed from a wish list to a viable project list. With this Ms. Bush turned the presentation over to Rich Brahler, Jr.

TIP Background: Mr. Brahler provided background on the TIP stating that the TIP is a regionally agreed upon list of priority transportation projects. The TIP must list all projects that intend to use federal funds, along with all non-federally funded projects that are regionally significant. The projects are multi-modal.

ACT 89: Mr. Brahler stated that Act 89 was established to provide a safe and reliable system of transportation for all residents of Pennsylvania. A comprehensive Transportation Funding Plan in the amount of \$2,400,000,000 was created and divided between State Roads and Bridges, Public Transportation, Local Roads and Bridges, PA Turnpike Expansion, Multi-Modal Fund, and Dirt/Gravel Roads.

Bucks County Large Projects: Mr. Brahler shared the list of large projects funded by the TIP in Bucks County. Those projects include the PA Turnpike Interchange, US Route 1 Bridges, County Line Road Widening, US Route 1 Frontage Road, Route 309 resurfacing, Route 611 Cooks Run Bridge, County Line Restoration, Route 232 Safety Improvements, and the Quakertown Loop Project.

Fiscal Year 2017-2020 TIP: Mr. Brahler announced that a subcommittee began to meet to discuss priorities and develop a “constrained” draft program. By February 2016 a draft TIP was submitted to PennDOT for internal review.

Mrs. Mason asked if municipalities can submit project ideas for the TIP. Mr. Brahler stated that currently there is no additional funding. However, if a municipality has a project to reach out to him and he can assist the municipality with finding alternate funding options. Mr. Pellegrino added that a project has a better chance of ending up on the TIP if the municipality is willing to pay for the full engineering of the project, which can be expensive.

5.2. TMA Bucks:

Mr. Wert introduced TMA Bucks Executive Director Bill Brady.

Mr. Brady stated that TMA Bucks is an advocacy organization for roadwork, transit, and safety. TMA Bucks is a membership driven organization. TMA Bucks works with PennDOT, Bucks County Planning Commission, and Municipalities to find a good solution to their transportation concerns. An example given by Mr. Brady was a Wawa that provided an entrance for its customers in multiple locations, however there was only one viable, safe exit. TMA Bucks worked with the municipality to find alternate exits.

Mr. Brady stated that TMA Bucks has a large social media presence and can assist in notifying the public of road closing, road work, detours etc. With their large social media presence they are able to reach a large audience of individuals that live, work, or travel through municipalities.

TMA Bucks is helping to push public transportation to help individuals avoid congestion of major roadways. Mr. Brady stated that TMA Bucks wants individuals to be aware that they can use public transportation to go to sporting events and shows in the city. In addition, to educating the public on public transportation, TMA Bucks is working to provide information on the new Septa Pass System that will initially be for the subway and busses, that will eliminate the need for cash and the card can be renewed online.

TMA Bucks also provides safety checks for Car Seats and Pedestrian Safety. TMA is able to work with municipalities to come up with Pedestrian Safety ideas, reducing the cost of studies, by providing recommendations that a municipality can to their engineer for implementation.

Mr. Pellegrino inquired into Rush Buses. Mr. Brady stated that there are two (2) rush buses that operate in Bucks County, Warminster/Richboro, and Bristol Borough. The Rush Buses serve two purposes to get individuals to the work via mass transit and to take individuals around town. Mr. Brady stated that the goal is to eventually turn the rush buses over to Septa as normal routes. There is a huge potential for rush buses to grow.

Mr. Wert inquired into the funding source of TMA Bucks. Mr. Brady stated that there are around 13 different funding sources that TMA uses, that include CMAQ funding and Mobile Alternative Funding.

6. Discussion:

Before discussion started, Mr. Wert recognized Eileen M. Bradley for serving as the Bucks County Consortium President for 2014 and 2015. Mr. Wert provided Ms. Bradley with a plaque on behalf of the members of the Consortium.

International Code Council: The PA Builders Association is encouraging Pennsylvania municipalities to join the International Code Council so that the municipalities can designate up to 4 elected officials or employees as voters when the ICC votes later this year on the Codes that will be adopted. Those Codes will be applicable in Pennsylvania under the Uniform Construction Code. Mr. Wert stated information on the International Code Council is available in the back of the room and that Ms. Benner would also circulate the information to everyone via email.

Verizon Franchise Renewal Agreements: Mr. Wert asked the Consortium Members if they would want to pull together to work on the Franchise Renewal Agreement with Verizon. The current agreement is due to expire on September 18, 2018. Mr. Pellegrino stated that when the existing Franchise Agreement was created, the Consortium pulled together and hired an attorney to work with on one (1) master contract, and that took around 1 ½ years to create. Mr. Davis stated that it was a very complicated process because Verizon wanted to be different than Comcast, however at the end their contract ended up similar to Comcast's. Mr. Davis added that previously the cost was divided between municipalities based on their population and as a group paid for the consensus document. Once the consensus documents were established if a municipality wanted to pick up

negotiations themselves they could. Mr. Pellegrino stated he would contact Dan Cohen to obtain a proposal to work on the agreement and once received it would be presented to the Consortium Members.

Codification Companies: Mr. Wert stated that with Keystate Publishers closing their doors at the end of March 2016 multiple municipalities are left with finding a new company to provide codification services. One of the concerns heard was that municipalities will be losing the link to their codified ordinance once Keystate Publishers closes. Dublin Borough has been contacted by multiple companies and Mr. Wert asked what others experience has been since announcement of Keystate Publishers closing. Mr. Brown stated that Springfield Township obtained four (4) different proposals; two companies wanted to incorporate what already existed and were reasonably priced, the other two companies were expensive. Springfield went with American Legal Publications. Mrs. Zadell stated that Chalfont Borough uses General Code and likes their online feature. Mr. Gwynn stated that he recently converted the chapters of the Northampton Township's Codified Ordinance and placed them on their website. This will serve the Townships needs until they award to another codification company.

7. Community Updates:

APMM Scholarships: Mr. Wert reminded everyone that the deadline to submit their application to the APMM Scholarship is March 11, 2016.

Salary Survey: Mr. Wert stated that the deadline for municipalities to submit their salary survey information was Feb. 26th. Ms. Benner extended the deadline to March 4th and followed up with those municipalities that responses were not received from. Mr. Wert encouraged everyone to submit their salary information.

Emerging Leaders Training: Ms. Benner announced that in replace of the Annual ICMA training, the Executive Committee is planning an Emerging Leaders Training event that will focus on negotiations. The date of the training is June 10th at the Talamore County Club. As more information is available Ms. Benner will circulate it to the members.

Trip to Washington D.C.: Mr. Wert announced that the Executive Committee is currently working on planning a trip to Washington D.C. to visit with Congressman Fitzpatrick before his final term ends. Mr. Wert stated that Ms. Benner is working on finalizing a tour of the White House and due to this reason RSVPs for the trip will be required within two (2) weeks. The date of the trip is Thursday, July 14, 2016 and Ms. Benner would be sending on registration information by the end of the week.

8. Other Business: Mr. Gwynn announced that he had sent out a 2015 Pension Survey and encouraged member to complete the survey.

9. Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mr. Schoell, seconded by Mr. Golden, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The next meeting was scheduled on April 7, 2016 at Northampton Township.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela P. Benner
Consortium Coordinator