

**Meeting Minutes**  
**State College Borough Transportation Commission**  
**June 11, 2019**

The State College Borough Transportation Commission (TC) met on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in Room 304 of the Municipal Building. Raymond Najjar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**Members Present**

Raymond Najjar, Chair; Richard Garis, Vice-Chair; Rick Gilmore; Paul Jovanis; Hugh Mose; Diana Malcom; and Mieke Haeck

**Others Present**

Amy Kerner, Borough Engineer; Alan Sam, Arborist & Environmental Coordinator; Jasmine Fields, AmeriCorps Representative; Lt. Barrett Smith, State College Police; Ed Holmes, Director of Purchasing and Risk Management; Tom Brown, Facilities Manager; Jackie Sheader, CATA Public Relations Manager; Tom Zilla, Transportation Planner CCMPO; Greg Garthe, Planner and Stacy Hall, Administrative Assistant

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Najjar asked if there were any corrections to the May 14, 2019 minutes. Mr. Mose made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Garis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Public Hour**

David Stone, a member of the Highlands Civic Association, said he attended a recent Borough Council meeting where a representative from PennDOT gave a presentation on future work on Atherton Street. He said it seemed as though decisions had been locked in. He suggested now was the time for the TC to ask Council to consider the possibility of a Blue Course Drive connector or another alternative entrance to the new parking garage on West Campus. Mr. Najjar pointed out no one was available to speak on behalf of Pennsylvania State University (PSU).

**Discussion Items**

Spring Vehicle Counts

Ms. Kerner reported, since 2003, the Borough had been collecting a 24-hour snap shot of each street segment, except for arterials, collectors, and cul-de-sacs, to archive both volume and speed. She said a spreadsheet was attached that included the 24-hour count and 85% speed for each direction of travel and a comparison to the last counts taken in 2015. She reminded the members no action was required on the topic and it was for information only. She added staff continued to be diligent in tracking the data and more detailed counts could be done if deemed necessary. Mr. Jovanis suggested it would be helpful to put an asterisk next to the 2019 data as it was not a normal year due to all the construction. Mr. Mose asked if the information would be used for policy development or was it simply a set of numbers? Ms. Kerner answered a policy on traffic calming already existed and the numbers were for information only.

Mr. Gilmore asked if street classifications could be added to the database and Ms. Kerner said yes. Mr. Gilmore asked if the report was available to the public on the web and Ms. Kerner said not presently, but she would work with Communications to make it happen. Mr. Gilmore thought the public should be able to view the report for transparency.

Capital Improvement Plan Input

Ms. Kerner explained the timeline of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) presented to Borough Council on June 3, 2019, with adoption slated to occur on August 5, 2019. She said the project summary by

scores with the five-year spending request was included with the agenda packet for the members' review. She added the full CIP was available on the website and asked the members to review it so comments could be presented for discussion at the July 16 TC meeting for presentation to Borough Council prior to adoption.

Ms. Kerner announced Mr. Holmes and Mr. Brown would be giving a presentation on CIP Capital Parking Projects. Mr. Brown said the projects were split into should-do and must-do categories. He reviewed the should-do items which included a new parking structure and a unified parking platform. He reviewed the estimated costs of the new parking structure and stated the parking supply and demand study from 2015 showed additional parking infrastructure was needed. He added the study would be updated in early 2020 to include updated parking demands for Downtown State College. He reported the Pugh Parking Garage was nearing the end of its useful life as it was built in 1972. He said potential projects for the new parking infrastructure included public private partnerships, an intermodal transportation center, and the replacement of current facilities creating additional parking spaces. Mr. Holmes said staff was in the process of consultant selection for the updated parking supply and demand study.

Mr. Holmes reviewed the next should-do item which was developing a unified parking platform. He said it would replace assets including parking kiosks, garage access and revenue control equipment, license plate recognition system, and permit and enforcement software. He explained replacing all the equipment at the same time would ensure systems integrated with each other to improve the efficiency and service of the Parking Department.

Mr. Holmes reviewed the must-do item of parking garage maintenance saying if the current parking garages were not maintained, the effectiveness of those assets would be lost. He reviewed the costs coming out of the Parking Enterprise Fund and said it was estimated it would reduce the total cost of garage maintenance by \$375,000 every five to seven years.

Mr. Mose inquired about the parking structures including the intermodal transportation center and public private development. He asked what "public private" meant. Mr. Holmes answered the term referred to the Days Inn/PSU project.

#### Traffic Impact Studies

Ms. Kerner stated, per the May 2019 TC meeting, a letter was prepared by Mr. Najjar to Borough Council for review and discussion regarding the TC's input on traffic impact studies. She noted she was told by the Manager the Borough Council President was preparing a response. Mr. Najjar commented the concern was the TC was not having an opportunity to provide input on transportation-related items until after the fact and he was hopeful to receive a positive response.

Mr. Mose asked if the letter was shared with members of the TC. Mr. Najjar answered it was not due to sunshine laws regarding doing work outside of a meeting. He said the letter was reviewed with Ms. Hoag via e-mail and it relayed the intent of the TC members. Ms. Kerner said it would be okay to share the letter with the members and she would request a copy for the members' review.

#### Upcoming Meeting Date

Mr. Najjar announced the next TC meeting would be on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 12:15 p.m.

#### MS4 Stormwater Permit Update

Ms. Kerner stated Jasmine Fields, AmeriCorp Representative, would be giving the update. Ms. Fields reviewed the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) basics, existing permit requirements and the Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan via PowerPoint presentation with the members. Following the detailed presentation, Ms. Malcom asked what training was involved as far as public education, and Ms. Kerner answered informational handouts were distributed. Ms. Malcom suggested a video presentation be used in place of handouts.

Mr. Gilmore asked if achieving a 10 percent reduction in sediment was a part of the pre-permitting process. Ms. Kerner answered yes, and it would also reduce phosphorus and nitrogen. Mr. Gilmore asked how it was measured. Ms. Kerner said through a module created by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). She added it could also be done through stream bank restoration and Walnut Springs was currently the targeted area. Mr. Gilmore said he suspected with the intense rain cycles there would be an effect on the sediment. Ms. Kerner agreed and added if the ordinances were followed and onsite stormwater managed, there would be a reduction of the amount of water going into the streams. Mr. Gilmore asked what happened with car washes. Ms. Kerner answered they were required to use surface drains that ran into the municipal storm sewer. She said it would be a part of the new permit and the revision to the ordinance would be complete by 2022.

## **Liaison Reports**

MPO/CRPA/COG Transportation – Mr. Zilla noted a map showing the Atherton Street update was being produced and the map would be updated as changes occurred. He said there was still a lot of draining and curb work going on in College Heights. He said a culvert would be replaced in August along Atherton Street with repaving in mid to late September. He reported the MPO had a public meeting in May to talk about an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program. He added procedural steps at the MPO level still needed to be done and the comments received from the public would be passed along to PennDOT. He referred the members to the MPO website for more information.

Mr. Najjar asked if long-term infrastructure improvements were expected to last for decades. Mr. Zilla said the design standards were catching up with the latest industry and hydrology for the Atherton Street Project was based on present-day standards. He added knowledge about climate change was growing and it needed to be incorporated into long-range plans.

Mr. Mose asked Mr. Zilla to share his knowledge regarding federal and state transportation funding. Mr. Zilla explained on the federal level congress passed an authorization act where the funding was passed, and each year amounts were appropriated. He said the current Authorization Act would expire before the next presidential election and there could be the same level of federal funding. He reviewed in detail the federal and state funding levels.

Centre Area Transportation Authority – Ms. Sheader said CATA received public comment following service changes. She said the feedback would be compiled and a report would be given next month.

Mr. Mose asked if CATA was considering purchasing new larger buses. Ms. Sheader stated “yes” and 60-foot articulated buses with an accordion middle would be arriving in April of 2020.

Penn State Transportation – No report given.

PennDOT – No report given.

Borough Planning Commission – No report given.

Borough Engineer – Mr. Mose mentioned the resurfacing of Country Club Lane and asked Ms. Kerner if there were any other streets up for resurfacing. Ms. Kerner gave a detailed list which included Waupelani Drive, Westerly Parkway, Sandpiper Drive, West Prospect from Allen Street to Atherton Street and Blue Course Drive from Whitehall Road to the Borough line.

Environmental Coordinator – Mr. Sam reported Ms. Fields had been actively working with outside agencies planning community activities for Bike Month.

Parking Office – No report given.

State College Police – No report given.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, Ray Najjar, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Hall  
Administrative Assistant