

**Meeting Minutes**  
**State College Borough Transportation Commission**  
**October 13, 2015**

The State College Borough Transportation Commission (TC) met on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 in Room 304 of the Borough Municipal Building. Chairman Rito called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**Members Present:** Richard Garis, Joseph Haloua, Greg Halpin, Paul Jovanis, Diana Malcom, and Chairman Rito

**Others Present:** Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Amy Kerner, Borough Engineer; Thomas Fountaine, Borough Manager; Alan Sam, Environmental Coordinator/Arborist; Joseph Zaffuto, State College Police Department; Patrick Ward, Borough Parking Manager; Trish Meek and Tom Zilla, MPO, CRPA; Robert DeMayo, Penn State University (PSU) Transportation Director; Karen Michaels and Dean Ball of PennDOT; Denise Rhoads, Staff Assistant and other interested parties

**Approval of Minutes:**

The July 7, 2015 minutes were approved as submitted by Chairman Rito.

**Public Hour:**

No one in the audience wished to discuss items not on the agenda.

**Discussion Items**

Atherton Street Improvements

Mr. Whitfield stated engineers from PENNDOT's District 2-0 have a presentation on planned improvements to North Atherton Street. He noted the project is slated for a 2018 construction and includes the section of North Atherton Street from Park Avenue to Aaron Drive.

Ms. Michael's, PennDOT Engineer, first topic of discussion was the Park Avenue intersection from Wendy's restaurant to Park Avenue. Her discussion included noting some alternatives under review such as; 1) roundabout/traffic circle, 2) overhead pedestrian bridge, 3) red light enforcement (included in this discussion was violation and crash results), 4) pedestrian review and movement counts at Park Avenue/Atherton Street, and Curtin Road/Atherton Street with the State College Borough and PSU and 5) the October 19 presentation to Borough Council.

Dean Ball, PennDOT Engineer, discussed Drainage from Park Avenue to the Big Hollow. His discussion included the needs for drainage; 1) 24 additional inlets with a two foot shoulder would be needed to meet the design criteria for the area, 2) inlet types were being discussed to maximize efficiency and keep maintenance cost at a minimum

and 3) pipe materials are being evaluated to provide the most efficient system for the Borough.

Mr. Ball then discussed Roadway Lane Widths. His discussion included current lane widths which are too narrow at Blue Course Drive to Roadway Inn Drive; Roadway Inn Drive to Hillcrest Avenue turn lane and Hillcrest Avenue turn lane to Park Avenue and desired lane widths of ten foot lanes, 8 foot pedestrian islands and two foot shoulders for drainage.

He also discussed Speed and Widening and noted if the streets were widened the average speed would only increase by two miles per hour.

Mr. Ball discussed some previous questions:

- 1) Why not leave this area like it is? He stated it would not improve the drainage and flooding issue.
- 2) Can they add inlets only? He stated adding inlets only puts them right in the lane and they would take a pounding due to the volume of traffic and the life of the inlet would be about five to seven years.

He also discussed the next steps and they included widening options and widths to provide a best fit in order to minimize impacts and provide an improved roadway with an adequate drainage system.

Commissioners' comments included:

- Chairman Rito asked if any consideration to a "roadway diet" has been made. Mr. Ball stated yes, PennDOT was still studying this.
- Mr. Halpin asked about the average speed and if it was currently broken down by times of day. Mr. Ball stated it was.
- Ms. Malcom asked for clarification of the term "feasibility of crossing" at both Park Avenue and Curtin Road intersections regarding pedestrian counts.
- Mr. Haloua asked what the purpose was for the Atherton Street Improvements. Ms. Michael stated it was a balancing act.
- Mr. Haloua asked if there was an origin destination study. Mr. Zilla stated they don't do those types of studies on a regular basis or in such detail. Mr. Zilla stated there had been travel studies in the past.
- Dr. Jovanis stated red light enforcement and lane width have been studied for many years. He noted two crosswalks have been "snuck into" College Heights, one at Ridge Avenue and one at Arbor Way and stated these were not good locations for crosswalks.
- Mr. Haloua noted that if you increase the speed this would affect the air quality.

Sarah Klinetob, 910 N. Atherton Street, stated there were 45 different units in this widening area including the historic Exxon gas station and the College Heights School. She wanted to show that both the north and south sides of Atherton Street would be

equally impacted. She also noted that very few residents in the area knew about this project. Ms. Klinetob stated she distributed letters to all the residents impacted by this project.

Kevin Lowe, 910 N. Atherton Street, noted he had heard that part of the pedestrian node and the center lane would be removed and he stated this would make that intersection more dangerous. He stated the center lane is very important in the winter time. He also noted the proposed two miles per hour speed increase is still too fast in this area.

Charles Tricou, 801 N. Atherton Street, stated by increasing the width and removing the retaining walls near his home, bicyclists would not have any options. He encouraged PennDOT and the Borough to look for “out of the box” solutions. He would like to see real studies of origin destination occur.

### Storm Water MS4 Permit

Ms. Kerner’s presentation included: 1) basics; 2) what the permit requires; 3) components of the plan; 4) Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan and 5) impaired waters in the Borough. She noted our storm sewer is separate from our sanitary sewer.

Ms. Kerner stated the permit is targeted to urbanized areas and is based on the Census data.

Ms. Kerner noted the original permit was issued in 2003 and covered five years but, we received an extension until 2013 because the Department of Environment Protection (DEP) had a hard time coming up with a second permit. She did note the new permit was effective as of November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2018.

Ms. Kerner next discussed what the permit requires: 1) must implement a storm water management program, 2) must track progress toward goals by documentation, 3) must develop a written plan and distribution education materials, 4) must have public involvement and participation, 5) must hold one public meeting per year, 6) must report illicit discharge of illegal dumping, 7) must map the entire system and 8) must develop a written prevention pollution/good housekeeping program,

Next discussed was the Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Program (CBPRP) and topics were: 1) must prepare a plan, 2) identify total maximum daily limit control measure, 3) approximately 730 acres of the Borough drains directly to a sinkhole not including Memorial Field, 4) impaired waterways are Thompson and Walnut Runs (siltation) and Slab Cabin Run (thermal and siltation) because of this the Borough has to make sure new or redevelopment does not contribute to these impaired water ways. Ms. Kerner noted the Borough now has a website at [MS4Partners.org](http://MS4Partners.org).

## **Liaison Reports**

MPO/CRPA/COG Transportation: Ms. Meek reported they recently adopted their long range Transportation Plan. She noted a funding round is now open for multi-modal funds through PennDOT and the application deadline is November 18, 2015. Ms. Meek noted they will be posting their draft Centre Region Bike Plan today on their website.

Penn State Transportation: Mr. DeMayo had nothing to report.

Borough Engineer: Ms. Kerner had nothing further to report.

Environmental Coordinator/Arborist: Mr. Sam introduced Kelly Doyle, the Borough's new AmeriCorps volunteer. He noted she has been working on anti-idling signs and noted we received a grant to place these sign around various schools in the Borough. Mr. Sam also noted they are nearing the approval process for the bike repairs stations, and there are two requests for new bike rack locations (one adjacent to the current rack at the Library and one in front of Appalachian Outdoors on South Allen Street).

Parking Office Manager: Mr. Ward had nothing to report.

State College Police: Officer Zaffuto reported PennDOT did a study on Atherton Street. He noted, at one point, he had set up speed sensors in both directions on Atherton Street and now has a study for that two week time period.

## **Items of Information**

### Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Commission will be on December 8, 2015 at 12:15 pm.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m. by Chairman Rito.

Respectfully submitted:  
Denise L. Rhoads, Staff Assistant