

**Operations Minutes**  
**March 2, 2021**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams Live pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Planning Department Presentations – David Hunter, Executive Director of Berks County Planning Commission, Ashley Showers, Deputy Director, and Alan Piper, Transportation Planner III

1. Proposed Regional Freight Study – Metropolitan Planning Organizations (“MPO”)  
Mr. Hunter said the Planning Commission is seeking approval today from the Board of Commissioners to move forward with a study for coordination of freight transportation planning activities in the multi-region Interstate 78, Interstate 80 and Interstate 81 Corridors, consisting of Lackawanna/Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization, Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance, Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, Lebanon County Metropolitan Planning Organization and Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS). The study includes truck, rail and aviation transportation.  
Freight planning is a federally required element of the transportation planning process, and joint coordination would provide the greatest utilization, documentation and recommendations when submitting a request to PennDOT for funds.  
The study is expected to cost in the range of \$250,000 to \$350,000 to be borne equally by the five MPOs, and will be the pro-rata share of a 20% local share match. Berks County’s match would be approximately \$10,000 to \$14,000.  
Mr. Piper said this study will also be valuable to Berks County, as it will give the County a better look at our local transportation/traffic issues.  
After discussion, on motion by Commissioner Rivera, the Board agreed to support in principal the proposal put forth by the Planning Commission of up to \$14,000, but asked the Planning Commission staff to come back before the Commissioners for final review and approval. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt. The motion carried.
  
2. Possible B.U.I.L.D. Grant Application Update and Request for Recommendation  
David Hunter, Executive Director of Berks County Planning Commission, and Alan Piper, Transportation Planner III  
Mr. Hunter reported at this time there is not a specific project available for 2021, but suggested planning for 2022, and is asking for Commissioner recommendation to move ahead with the B.U.I.L.D. application. Mr. Hunter presented a proposed timeline for the grant application process, including the must have support from PennDOT, legislative delegation support, and come back before the Board with the Planning Commission’s findings and ask for the Commissioners for its support to engage a consultant by May 2022.  
After a brief discussion, the Board of Commissioners agreed that Planning staff move forward with the application process.

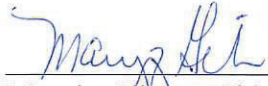
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Seeing no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivera. The motion carried.

Comments – None

Respectfully Submitted,



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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk