

MINUTES OF MEETING

LOWER MACUNGIE TRAFFIC IMPACT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TIFAC)

LOCATION: LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP BUILDING

MEETING DATE: November 2, 2009

McMahon Project No. 908120.11

PRINCIPALS

Joseph W. McMahon, P.E.
Rodney P. Plourde, Ph.D., P.E.
Joseph J. DeSantis, P.E., PTOE
John S. DePalma
William T. Steffens

ASSOCIATES

Casey A. Moore, P.E.
Gary R. McNaughton, P.E., PTOE
John J. Mitchell, P.E.
Christopher J. Williams, P.E.
John F. Yacapsin, P.E.
Thomas A. Hall

Attendees:

Don Denburg – TIFAC
Dale Dries – TIFAC
John Hayes – TIFAC
Annie McGeary – TIFAC
Mike Policano – TIFAC
Mick Seislove – TIFAC
Peter Nelson – Township Solicitor
Jim Lancsek – Township Zoning Officer
Joe Fiocco – McMahon Associates, Inc
Sandy Koza – McMahon Associates, Inc.

1. Chairman Don Denburg called the meeting to order at 8:05 and reviewed the agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda by John Hayes that was seconded by Mike Policano. The motion was unanimously approved.
2. A motion was made by John Hayes and seconded by Annie McGeary to approve the meeting minutes from the October 20, 2009 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. The following comments were recorded on non-agenda items by the public:
 - a. Grayson McNair summarized his comments to the Board of Commissioners from their October 29, 2009 meeting, where the *Roadway Sufficiency Analysis Report (RSAR)* was presented, which included his support of the project, his concern with the operations of the Route 100/Schoeneck Road intersection, since Opus has sold the property to new owners and the status of the PennDOT HOP/improvements are not set, and this intersection was not included in the RSAR.
 - b. Don Denburg noted that the RSAR is a snap-shot and at the time the study was prepared the status of the Opus project was not known, although accounted for in the study traffic. The study can always be incorporated at a later date if the Board determines that this intersection should be included as part of a periodic update.
4. Don Denburg noted that there was some correspondence between Attorney Zator and the Board of Commissioners and those running for office related to the impacts of this study on the Township's budget.
5. A review of the *Transportation Capital Improvements Plan (TCIP)*, dated October 22, 2009 was completed with the following comments from the committee:

- a. It was noted that the Board of Commissioners would need to determine the future budgeting needs for the study and set priorities based on recommendations by their engineers/zoning officer as projects are developed in the Township.
 - b. Sandy Koza presented a summary sheet detailing the overall costs in both transportation service areas.
 - c. Don Denburg noted that while there are concerns about funding from PennDOT, it is better to have a plan like this to help the Township move forward, since the improvements will most likely be needed anyway and the plan does provided a fair-share cost to development projects.
 - d. John Hayes noted that it look like the Township had potentially lost about \$5 million in impact fees with the delays that have occurred, while Dale Dries noted that some of these projects in the East were needed before depending on development trends. Mike Policano pointed out that either way, the Township would be required to fund some of the improvements. The existing system is already stressed by development projects completed in the past and will only continue to be more stressed as more development projects enter the Township.
 - e. It was noted that the signal recently installed at Lower Macungie Road/Wild Cherry was either fully funded or partially funded with liquid fuel funds. The amount of these funds may increase once the 2010 census is complete, since the formula is based on the 2000 census numbers for the Township and the number of miles of roadway.
 - f. The level of service (LOS) C in the zoning ordinance could be revised to conform to the RSAR; however, it was noted that the LOS C is mainly for new intersections, while the LOS used in the RSAR is for retrofitting existing intersections. It was suggested that since the Board of Commissioners is revising the Zoning Ordinance, this could also be revised.
6. The following public comments are also noted related to the TCIP:
- a. Sarah Jolly noted that the Township may need to cover all costs assigned to PennDOT, since her office (Attorney Zator) did not know of any projects within the Lehigh Valley that were jointly funded by Act 209 and PennDOT. She also noted that the City of Allentown was not able to secure funding for the American Parkway Project from PennDOT and were funding it from their real estate taxes and thought that Lower Macungie may need to do something similar. She also noted that the feasibility of a project may also be looked at in terms of cost.
 - b. Annie McGearly noted that if the development projects continue to build more, than it is only fair that they cover their portion of the roadway costs.
 - c. John Hayes noted that the system is already stressed, and a lot of the arguments are political in nature regarding funding sources.
 - d. Sandy Koza pointed out that while the Lehigh Valley has not seen success, other areas in District 6 (Towamencin Township) and District 8 (Mount Joy Township) have had success in completing projects in their municipalities. The municipalities sent letters to their state and US representatives/senators, as well as to their county/regional planning commissions and PennDOT District trying to get projects on the TIP or secure other grants/earmarks for their projects. As part of the process, they also completed preliminary concept plans and started the design work to show their commitment to the projects. The process was not instantaneous, as it sometimes took multiple submissions over a period of years to finally secure funding.
 - e. Grayson McNair noted that the process is political, and that the lack of a property tax in the Township could hurt their ability to secure funding, which was also noted by Jim Lancsek as an

existing issue for the Township within the Lehigh Valley region. Jim Lancsek also noted that the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission had a tendency to support projects in areas with higher populations, and that PennDOT funding may not be available.

- f. Joe Fiocco noted that PennDOT's new traffic impact study guidelines includes an Alternative Transportation Plan option that a developer can use to fund an Act 209 study if they cannot provide mitigation at an intersection.
7. Following the discussions related to the TCIP, a motion was made by John Hayes and seconded by Annie McGeary to approve the TCIP to reflect the mark-ups noted at the meeting and update the date on the cover to November 2, 2009. The motion was unanimously passed.
8. Don Denburg then reviewed the schedule with the committee, which includes the public meeting that is scheduled for November 19th at 6:00 PM followed by the presentation of the study and public comments to the Board of Commissioners, which will be listed later on their agenda in case the public hearing is extended. It was noted that rules for public comments should be set-up so that no one person takes an excess time and so that comments are not repeated by multiple parties to keep the public hearing moving. The study will be put on display in the township/web-site for at least 10-days and two public notices of the November 19th meeting will be posted by the Township. Don Denburg will prepare a draft recommendation letter for the Board to present that night.
9. Grayson McNair noted that the TIFAC schedule listed the first public notice for the TCIP as October 23rd, which should be revised.
10. Dale Dries made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mick Seislove and unanimously approved.