
BOARD MEMBERS: Ms. Jeannette Quirus; Ms. Allison Slizofski; Mr. Tom Kohler; Mr. Scott Brown; Ms. Janet Cunningham; Ms. Laura Frein; Mr. Jeffrey Guzy; Ms. Kourtney High; Mr. John Kennedy

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS ATTENDING: Jayne Price (AECOM)

STAFF ATTENDING: Mr. Matthew Edmond; Mr. Matt Popek; Mr. Brian Phillips; Mr. Thomas Benner; Ms. Ann Marie Meehan

(Pre-Meeting)

Mr. Matthew Edmond thanked the Board for attending and said that this hybrid public meeting will be held and recorded via Zoom telecommunication conference call due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued limited closure of physical county offices. He stated that the meeting agenda was published online on the MCTA website and Board members who participated via teleconference received board packets electronically as PDFs (including the December 16, 2021 meeting draft minutes).

Mr. Brian Phillips of the Solicitor's Office explained the rules for public comment; any public comments must be germane to the meeting's agenda or future agendas and would be limited to two minutes per speaker.

Attendance was taken; all nine Board members were present, therefore, a quorum was present.

I. Call to Order

The Montgomery County Transportation Authority (MCTA) meeting was called to order by Ms. Jeannette Quirus, MCTA Board Chair.

II. Election of 2022 Officers

Ms. Frein, as Chair of the MCTA 2022 Nominating Committee, reminded the Board members that the formal reorganization will take place at this meeting, and asked them to vote on the following MCTA Board recommendations: Ms. Allison Slizofski for Chair; Mr. Jeff Guzy for Vice Chair, and Mr. Tom Kohler as Secretary/Treasurer of the MCTA Board.

Motion: Ms. Frein motioned and Ms. Quirus seconded to elect Ms. Slizofski as Chair, Mr. Guzy as Vice Chair, and Mr. Kohler to the Board of the Montgomery County Transportation Authority. The motion was approved by all present.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Approval of December 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the December 16, 2021 MCTA meeting were approved by the Board.

Motion: Mr. Guzy motioned and Mr. Brown seconded to approve the December 16, 2021 Authority Meeting minutes. The motion was approved by eight of the nine Board members; as he did not attend the meeting, Mr. Kennedy abstained.

V. Finance Director's Report

Two handouts were presented to the Authority: MCTA Cash Report as of January 13, 2022, and the MCTA Check Register (Transaction Detail), January 2022.

Mr. Thomas Benner, on behalf of the Finance Director, reported that there was one deposit from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a partial reimbursement for previously paid project costs and an interest deposit in the amount of \$22.97. A total of 14 checks totaling \$78,549.32 are being issued in January.

VI. MCTA Administration**A. Authorization to Amend MCTA Resolution 21.1.1. Banking Relationship**

Mr. Edmond explained that upon the election of the 2022 MCTA Board members, action is required to update certified signatures and authorize the newly elected officers to sign checks on behalf of the Authority in their capacities with the MCTA's financial institution, Truist Bank.

Motion: Mr. Kohler motioned and Ms. Cunningham seconded to authorize Ms. Slizofski as Chair, Mr. Guzy as Vice Chair, and Mr. Kohler to act on behalf of the Authority and to certify their original signatures for Truist Bank. The motion was approved by all present.

VII. County Road/Bridge Projects**A. Authorizations for Property Acquisition****i. William J. Muldoon and Rosa Ramos Muldoon (Mill Creek Road Bridge (CB 6), Parcel 3)**

Mr. Popek described the county-owned bridge on Mill Creek Road over Mill Creek in Lower Merion Township. A total of 1,394 square feet of fee simple area and 828 square feet of temporary construction easement is required for the project. The appraisal value and cost for Parcel 3 is \$17,000.00 for the fee simple and easements; as well, \$240.00 for estimated tax proration and \$680.50 in settlement costs are required. Total acquisition cost is \$17,920.50.

Motion: Ms. Quirus motioned and Ms. Slizofski seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 22.1.2 to acquire a portion of 112 Old Gulph Road owned by William J. Muldoon and Rosa Ramos Muldoon to further the Mill Creek Road Bridge 6 Rehabilitation Project in Lower Merion Township. The motion was approved by all present.

ii. Lower Merion Township (Mill Creek Road Bridge (CB 6), Parcel 4)

Mr. Popek said that this action is the second of three related to the county-owned bridge on Mill Creek Road over Mill Creek in Lower Merion Township. A total of 348 square feet of fee simple area, 1,307 square feet of temporary construction easement and 1,655 square feet of permanent drainage easement is required for the project. The appraisal value is \$10,300.00 for the fee simple and easements; as well, \$680.50 in settlement costs is needed. Total acquisition cost is \$10,980.50. No property tax prorations are needed as this parcel is owned by the municipality and is therefore tax-exempt.

Motion: Ms. High motioned and Mr. Brown seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 22.1.3 to acquire a portion of 475 Mill Creek Road owned by Lower Merion Township to further the Mill Creek Road Bridge 6 Rehabilitation Project in Lower Merion Township. The motion was approved by all present.

iii. Pamela G. Phelan (Mill Creek Road Bridge (CB 6), Parcel 5)

Mr. Popek said that this is the third of the three actions related to the bridge project on Mill Creek Road in Lower Merion Township. A total of 1,394 square feet of fee simple area and 1,045 square feet of temporary construction easement is required for the project. The appraisal value is \$24,600.00 for the fee simple and easements, \$240.00 for estimated tax prorations, and \$680.50 in settlement costs. Total acquisition cost is \$25,520.50.

Motion: Ms. Slizofski motioned and Mr. Kohler seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 22.1.4 to acquire a portion of 543 Mill Creek Road owned by Pamela G. Phelan to further the Mill Creek Bridge Project in Lower Merion Township. The motion was approved by all present.

iv. Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (Butler Pike Bridge (CB 83A), Parcel 1)

Mr. Popek described the bridge replacement project on Butler Pike over Prophecy Creek. Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) is the owner and conservation easements are owned by Natural Lands Trust (NLT); negotiations have been ongoing and lengthy. The appraisal allocation of value is 80% to the landowner (WVWA) and 20% to the easement holder (NLT), and totaled \$2,800.00 for the fee simple acquisition and easement. A total of 4,574 square feet of fee simple area and 2,701 square feet of temporary construction easement is required for the project. An administrative agreement has been reached with the two owners and has been approved by PennDOT. Under its provisions, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association would receive \$16,000.00 as compensation for the land and 40 impacted trees and National Lands Trust would receive \$1,500.00 for staff time and monitoring impacted areas during construction.

An additional \$680.50 in settlement costs is requested for the real estate transaction, bringing the total acquisition cost to \$18,180.50.

Mr. Edmond explained that as the County has relationships with both organizations involved, an amicable settlement was highly desirable and condemnation was not an option. He added that the County will receive partial reimbursement from the federal government.

Mr. Brian Phillips added that as the property is subject to conservation easement, condemnation would involve yet another layer of litigation, leading to an untested legal process, and concurred with Mr. Edmond that negotiation is a more desirable means of resolution.

Motion: Mr. Kennedy motioned and Ms. Quirus seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 22.1.5 to acquire a portion of Morris Road to further the County Bridge 83A Replacement Project in Upper Dublin Township. The motion was approved by all present.

B. Authorization to Award Contract for Appraisal Services

v. County Bridge 190 – Keim Street (Appraiser)

Mr. Popek described the Keim St. bridge over the Schuylkill River in Pottstown Borough, built in 1935, as the longest bridge the county owns in its portfolio. This is a replacement bridge project, and 2 parcels will require full appraisal valuation; the bridge has been closed since 2010 and the right-of-way is located in a heavy industrial area. Four firms (Indian Valley Appraisal Company, Bart F. Brigidi, Inc., Christie Davies, and Gontram Appraisal and Consulting) were invited to bid. Gontram declined, and out of the three remaining firms, Indian Valley Appraisal Company provided the bid of the best value. Staff is recommending that the contract be awarded to Indian Valley.

Motion: Mr. Guzy motioned and Mr. Kohler seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 22.1.6 to award a contract for appraisal services for 2 parcels to further the County Bridge 190 Replacement Project in Pottstown Borough. The motion was approved by all present.

VIII. Authorization for Payment of Checks and Invoices

Motion: Mr. Kennedy motioned and Ms. Frein seconded to approve the authorization of checks and invoices. The motion was approved by all present.

IX. County Road, Bridge and Trail Projects Update

Mr. Popek provided a brief status update on these projects; some highlights included: 1) Cross County Trail-Erdenheim Farm: County Open Space and Trails working on “Global agreement” with all parties; 2) Bridge 83A (Butler Pike, Upper Dublin) – Parcel 1 settled today; 3) Bridge 77 (Plymouth Road)-Cleared; 4) Bridge 101: Negotiations underway; 5) Bridge 99: Cleared.

X. Ridge Pike Improvement Project Update

Mr. Edmond noted that significant progress has been made on Sections A and D, and provided the following updates to the Board about each section of the project:

- A. DB-116 and County Bridge #0 (TP&D): Now that we have environmental clearance, the safety submission is under review by PennDOT. Design Field View plans are assembled & will be submitted after the safety submission is approved.
- B. Belvoir Road to Chemical Road (Pennoni): NPDES permit application is under review by the Montgomery County Conservation District; structural submissions (TS&Ls) have been sent to PennDOT.
- C. Butler Pike to Crescent Avenue (RK&K): Stuck in environmental phase; historical resource structural form has been submitted for the Bellfield propert and is awaiting PennDOT’s review. Safety submission has been sent to PennDOT and comments are expected back in February 2022.
- D. Crescent Avenue to Philadelphia Line (Gannett Fleming): Project was advertised for construction bids by the Commissioners at their December 16th meeting and are due back on January 20, 2022; an informational public meeting on construction staging will be held in March or April 2022 and Board will be kept informed on the scheduled time and date.

XI. Other Business

A. Congratulations to 2022 MCTA Elected Officers

Board members extended their congratulations to the newly elected MCTA officers and wished them well, and complimented them on the successful running of the meeting.

B. Upcoming Board MCTA Meetings

Mr. Edmond said that in light of the ongoing pandemic, upcoming Board meetings would continue in a hybrid format until further notice.

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Quirus and seconded by Ms. Slizofski to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by all present.

The next MCTA Board meeting will be held on February 10, 2022 at 1:00 pm.