(Pre-Meeting)
Mr. Matt Edmond thanked the Board for attending and said that this public meeting will be held and recorded via Zoom telecommunication conference call due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued closure of 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 July 2020 meeting draft minutes).

Mr. Edmond added that the One Montgomery Plaza building is still closed to the public during the “green phase” of Pennsylvania’s pandemic response. It is not known how many more months it will be closed to the public, and he asked the Board and attendees to continue to plan on attending upcoming monthly meetings via teleconference.

Roll was called and attendance was taken; eight of nine Board members were present.

I. Call to Order

The Montgomery County Transportation Authority (MCTA) meeting was called to order by Mr. Scott Brown, Chair.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of July 13, 2020 Minutes

The minutes from the July 13, 2020 MCTA Meeting were approved by the Board.

Motion: Mr. Guzy motioned and Mr. Kennedy seconded to approve the July 13, 2020 Authority Meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by all present.
IV. Finance Director’s Report

Two handouts were presented to the Authority: MCTA Cash Report as of August 13, 2020, and MCTA Check Register (Transaction Detail) January 1, 2020 – August 13, 2020.

Mr. Tom Landauer provided an update of the MCTA’s finances. He said the MCTA’s required Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) filing for 2018 was submitted and approved. He reviewed the check register with the Board, including two deposits totaling $33,471.90 and an interest deposit in the amount of $3.33. Total cash balance as of August 13, 2020 was -$17,130.82; ten checks are to be approved by the board, and there was one check voided to correct the amount of the payment.

V. Ridge Pike Improvement Project – Crescent Avenue to Philadelphia (Section D)

A. Authorization for Property Acquisition

i. Lois Ann Brown (Parcel 25)

Mr. Popek said that the purchase of 372 square feet of fee simple and 312 square feet of temporary construction easement is required from 662 Ridge Pike for the Ridge Pike Improvement Project in Whitemarsh Township. Appraisal value was $12,800.00, property taxes due at the time of settlement totaled $150.00, and there were $680.50 in settlement fees for a total of $13,630.50.

Motion: Mr. Kohler motioned and Mr. Kennedy seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 20.8.1 authorizing property acquisition of Parcel 25, owned by Lois Ann Brown, for the purpose of acquiring 372 square feet of fee simple right-of-way, and 312 square feet of temporary construction easement at 662 Ridge Pike in Whitemarsh Township. The motion was approved by all present.

VI. County Road and Bridge Projects

A. Authorization to Award Contract for Appraisal Services

i. County Bridge 83A – Butler Pike

Mr. Thomas O’Brien of Roads and Bridges described the replacement of the highly trafficked circa 1926 bridge on Butler Pike over Prophecy Creek in Upper Dublin Township. Both the structure and superstructure have been deemed structurally deficient by PennDOT, and Mr. O’Brien said that federal and state funding had been obtained for the bridge replacement project. This proposed action is to undertake APA preparation and appraisal reviews at a cost not to exceed $2,400.00 for parcels needed to acquire in part or in whole in the vicinity of Bridge 83A.

Motion: Mr. Wichner motioned and Ms. Slizofski seconded to approve MCTA Resolution 20.8.2 to enter in a contract with Appraisal Review Specialists, LLC, of Hurricane, West Virginia to complete an appraisal problem analysis and appraisal review for parcel 1 of the Butler Pike Bridge Replacement Project over Prophecy Creek in Upper Dublin Township. The motion was approved by all present.
VII. Chester Valley Trail Extension Project

A. Authorization to Approve Business Reestablishment and Non-Residential Move Costs Package

1. SBW Dental Associates, P.C. (Parcel 60-64)

Mr. Edmond introduced Mr. Josh Harkins of Keystone Acquisition Services.

Mr. Harkins explained how eligibility was determined for business reestablishment and non-residential move costs for SBW Dental Associates. Mr. Harkins said the former tenants of 108 DeKalb Street were cooperative and there were no problems with the relocation. This tenant is eligible for a Non-Residential Move Costs Payment as compensation for relocating office equipment and materials.

Mr. Popek said that the building is ready for demolition, required permits are being obtained, and these payments should be the final costs for SBW Dental Associates.

Motion: Mr. Kennedy motioned and Ms. Cunningham seconded to approve the payment of $2,529.95 to SBW Dental Associates for non-residential move costs and the payment of $6,707.35 for business reestablishment costs. The motion was approved by all present.

VIII. Authorization for Payment of Checks and Invoices

Motion: Mr. Wichner 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 said that five of seven properties on the Cross County Trail at Erdenheim Farm are finished, and that staff is working through final design issues.

Negotiations on County Bridge 27 at Fetters Mill Road in Lower Moreland and Bryn Athyn are ongoing and efforts to clear properties with mortgage issues continue. An engineering supplement is needed for PECO Gas utility work.

Condemnation has been filed on the remaining properties for County Bridges 162 and 177, Stump Road and Sterigere Street. Negotiations continue for the remaining property near County Bridge 163 at Lutheran Road, New Hanover Township.
Appraisals have been returned for final edits on County Bridge 296 Rostkowski Road in Upper Salford Township.

Right-of-way for County Bridge 217 at Hedrick Road in Towamencin Township has been cleared.

Negotiations are ongoing re County Bridge 166 at Swamp Pike in New Hanover Township and on the sinkhole project at Butler Pike in Plymouth and Whitemarsh Townships.

The ARS contract approved at today's meeting is the first required action on County Bridge 83A at Butler Pike in Upper Dublin Township.

X. Lafayette Street Extension Project Update (Section A)

Ms. Gilchrist said that the estimated construction completion date is August 20, 2020. Paving and striping will start August 17th. Staff will consider perhaps a “virtual ribbon cutting ceremony” in the near future, and she is hopeful that the completion of this project should result in a positive impact to Norristown’s economic outlook.

Mr. Edmond said he would keep the Board informed of any developments on the ribbon cutting event.

XI. Ridge Pike Improvement Project Update – Plymouth Twp. (Section B)

Ms. Gilchrist said that staff discussions with utility suppliers are ongoing regarding the PA Turnpike Bridge (B1). Options are being reviewed concerning engineering of the gas line on the crossing.

Ms. Gilchrist explained that in the B2 section of the project at Belvoir and Chemical Roads, right of way is nearly wrapped up with the exception of the Norfolk Southern parcel where stormwater management issues are being discussed with Norfolk Southern.

XII. Ridge Pike Improvement Project Update – Whitemarsh & Springfield Twps.

A. Butler Pike to Crescent Avenue (Section C)

Ms. Gilchrist said this project is in the preliminary design stage.

B. Crescent Avenue to Philadelphia Line (Section D)

Ms. Gilchrist explained that minor details concerning right of way are being worked out, with an expectation of clearance by the end of 2020.
XIV. Other Business

Mr. Popek stated that the 2020 Montgomery County Transportation Program grant application period closed on July 31, 2020 and that the selection process will soon begin with the appointed members of the MCTA and MCPC Boards and County staff. A wide range of projects will be reviewed.

Mr. Edmond mentioned that the Board meeting Zoom credentials will change next month and that Ms. Meehan would be scheduling the meeting from her Zoom account.

Mr. Edmond told the Board that Ms. Gilchrist would be retiring; her last day with MCPC will be September 11, 2020. Ms. Gilchrist said that she has worked as a planner since 1984 and the Board members expressed their best wishes on her retirement.

XV. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Guzy and seconded by Mr. Brown to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was approved by all present.

The next MCTA Board meeting will be held on September 10, 2020 at 1:00 pm.