

**QUAKERTOWN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**May 10, 2016**

The monthly meeting of the Quakertown Area Planning Committee (QAPC) was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Jim Dunn (Richlandtown Borough). The following members were in attendance: Tom Courduff (Milford Township); Henry DePue (Haycock Township); Athan Koutsouroumbas (Milford Township); Michael Orzel (Quakertown Borough); Jon Roth (Quakertown Borough); Gwen Simek (Richland Township); Rusty Taft (Haycock Township); and Court Trimble (Trumbauersville Borough).

Also in attendance: John Krafczyk (Assistant District Executive - Maintenance, PaDOT Engineering District 6-0); Cal Morrison (County Maintenance Manager, PaDOT Maintenance District 6-1, Bucks County); Tim Stevenson, P.E., (Design Portfolio Manager, PaDOT Engineering District 6-0); Kevin Herdin (District Maintenance Manager, PaDOT Maintenance, Bucks County); Lisa Wolff and Rich Brahler (staff of the Bucks County Planning Commission); Sarah Rasmussen (Representative from the office of State Senator Bob Mensch); and several local municipal officials and area residents.

On a motion by Tom Courduff, with second by Court Trimble, the minutes of the April 12, 2016, monthly meeting were unanimously approved.

Discussion on Transportation Issues in the Quakertown Area

Lisa Wolff provided an overview of the development of the QAPC's regional PaDOT priority lists that had been sent to PaDOT officials. These priority lists had been developed with input from each of the six Quakertown Area municipalities and the Quakertown Community School District. Lisa explained that the purpose of the meeting was to continue dialogue between Quakertown Area officials and PaDOT representatives.

John Krafczyk, Assistant District Executive-Maintenance for PaDOT District 6-0, noted that the regional PaDOT priority lists developed by the Committee are exactly what his department needs in order to know what roadway improvements are most important to the local communities. John indicated that, while the QAPC priority lists may not necessarily be the same as what his department comes up with, his department will consider the input of local officials when they prioritize improvements. The QAPC representatives discussed developing a regional transportation priority list every year. John indicated that getting a yearly priority list to him by late spring would be most beneficial to his department. The Committee also discussed and agreed to change the yearly meeting on transportation issues from the fall to the spring.

John distributed a prioritization list of maintenance improvements that his department recently developed. Titled "Bucks County 5 Year Surface Treatment Plan", the prioritization list includes roadways throughout the county and is based on funding capabilities. John explained that he expects the list to change frequently based on a number of different factors. The priority list is based primarily on an Overall Pavement Index (OPI), which has information on the conditions of every state roadway in the region. In addition, knowledge of road conditions by the PaDOT maintenance department personnel has also been considered in developing the list. Three of the top

four priorities are located within the Quakertown Area (Deerwood/Stony Garden/Gallows Hill from Route 563 to Route 212; Mill Road from Milford Square Pike to Route 309; Saw Mill Road from Route 563 to Old Bethlehem Pike.)

QAPC member Jon Roth noted that Route 313 through Quakertown Borough is not on the list. Jon indicated that the road is in terrible condition and is disintegrating fast, particularly the stretch in the eastern part of town where there is a problem with the roadway base. Jon noted that he doubts the road surface will last another 5 years and he asked PaDOT officials to consider adding this road to the 5-year plan.

PaDOT officials noted that, throughout the Spring, crews have been working on crack-sealing state roadways in the County. Crews completed crack-sealing on 40 miles of roadway in April and are currently working on Route 309.

John Krafczyk noted that PaDOT's bridge engineer unit has been determining priorities related to bridges on the structurally-deficient list. The department's goal is to get bridges off of the structurally-deficient list. It was stated that there are approximately 1,200 structurally deficient bridges across the state. Bucks County contains 17 structurally deficient bridges, 6 of which are located within the Quakertown Area.

QAPC representative Tom Courduff noted that Milford Township officials were recently told by the County that bids for repairs to the Milford Square Bridge were recently put out to bid. Tom also mentioned that Milford Township will be rebuilding Mill Road from Portzer Road to Friar Road this year.

Jon Roth questioned if improving the base of a roadway is considered a maintenance or capital project. John Krafczyk responded that if a complete base reconstruction is needed, it would most likely be considered a capital project.

John Krafczyk noted that the state police budget is growing by about 4 percent a year and money comes out of PaDOT's capital budget to cover the state police increases. That impacts what transportation improvements and projects can be funded. When asked what local officials could do to try to get more funding for necessary transportation improvements and projects, John didn't have a recommendation for local officials, but he indicated that his department is trying to work more efficiently with the funding they do get.

Tim Stevenson, Design Portfolio Manager, PaDOT Engineering District 6-0, discussed the capital projects. He went over a number of projects, noting that one has been "let" this year, with most of the remaining projects scheduled to be "let" in either 2017 or 2018 (the term "let" refers to the final step of compiling everything needed for the project to go to construction.) Also, there are some projects that currently do not have funding, but PaDOT is continuing to work on preliminary designs for those projects. Tim provided the following update:

- Old Bethlehem Road over Kimples Creek (Haycock) – Right-of-way has been acquired; PaDOT is waiting for permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) regarding impacts to wetlands. This project is anticipated to be "let" in late 2017.

- Route 663 at Allentown Road (Milford) – Right-of-way has been acquired; PaDOT is addressing concerns by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and PaDEP related to riparian buffers/stream impacts with the replacement of the Allentown Road bridge, the Route 663 bridge, and the widening of Route 663 and Allentown Road. This project is anticipated to be “let” in late 2017.
- Upper Ridge Road over Unami Creek (Milford) – The original design of the replacement structure carrying Upper Ridge Road over the Unami Creek was modified to include a sidewalk on the structure to connect to Milford Township’s planned walking trail. This is currently in preliminary design phase and the project is anticipated to be “let” in late 2017.
- Rocky Road Bridge over Tohickon Creek (Richland) – Replacement of this bridge is in the final design stage. This project is included in a package of other bridge improvements so it will be up to the contractor to determine when the new structure can be built. Once construction begins, it is expected to last about 3 to 4 months. This project is anticipated to be “let” in the latter part of 2016.
- Route 309 Preventative Maintenance – This project is for the rehabilitation of Route 309 which includes concrete paving patching and resurfacing of the roadway. This project is anticipated to be “let” in mid-2018.
- Deerwood Lane over Kimples Creek (Haycock) – This project is currently not funded for construction but PaDOT is continuing design work to replace the existing structure which carries Deerwood Lane over Kimples Creek. This project is included in a package of other bridge projects. The existing bridge is structurally deficient.
- Allentown Road over Barrel Run Creek (Milford) – This project is currently not funded for construction but PaDOT is continuing design work to replace the existing structure which carries Allentown Road over Kimples Creek. This project is included in a package of other bridge projects. The existing bridge is structurally deficient.
- Route 309 Joint Closed Loop Traffic Signal System (Richland/Quakertown) – This project entails coordinating a closed-loop traffic signal system along Route 309 in Richland and Quakertown. Acquisition of necessary right-of-way has been an issue. The project is scheduled to be “let” in Spring of 2017.
- The roundabout at Old Bethlehem/Portzer Road has a federal earmark. This project is now programmed and meetings are being held with PaDEP regarding wetlands issues.

Tom Courduff thanked both Tim Stevenson and Rich Brahler for their assistance with getting this project programmed.

When asked about notifying residents about upcoming transportation projects, such as bridge replacements, PaDOT representatives stated that they will be making better attempts to engage the public early on.

Following discussion with PaDOT officials, Committee representatives discussed the need to retain existing transportation funding and obtain more funding for local transportation projects.

Old Business/New Business

Update on land development – It was mentioned that the proposed drug store building at the corner of Routes 313 and 309 is constructed and ready for inside fit-out. Members noted that the building was originally proposed to be a Walgreen's, followed by Rite-Aid; however, both chains have decided not to locate in that building. The building is currently up for sale.

Invoice – Lisa Wolff passed around the draft invoice from the Bucks County Planning Commission for planning services provided in April of 2016. Upon motion by Tom Courduff, with second by Mike Orzel, the Committee unanimously approved the BCPC invoice in the amount of \$731.25.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa M. Wolff*

Lisa M. Wolff, Secretary