

**Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO)
Coordinating Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

6:00 pm

Patton Township Municipal Building

Please note the location!

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** *January 23, 2007 Coordinating Committee meeting*
3. **Citizens' Comments:** *For items not on the agenda*
4. **Final Draft FY 2007-08 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):**
Review Final Draft UPWP for adoption
Action: Adopt FY 2007-08 UPWP
5. **Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2007 Update:**
Draft Public Participation Plan
No action required
6. **PennDOT District 2-0 Bridge Program Presentation**
No action required
7. **Funding for Pennsylvania's Transportation System:**
Presentation about recent proposals
No action required
8. **Announcements**
9. **Adjourn**

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ITEM 4

FY 2007-08 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Review Final Draft UPWP for Adoption

Each year in February, the MPO adopts a UPWP for the fiscal year which begins on July 1 of that year and ends on June 30 of the following year. The UPWP lists the work tasks to be completed by the MPO staff (Centre Regional Planning Agency and Centre County Planning and Community Development Office) on behalf of the CCMPO. The MPO staff is currently operating under the FY 2006-07 UPWP.

At the November 2006 MPO meetings, staff presented PennDOT's priorities for the FY 2007-08 UPWP, and also presented potential tasks that may be completed with supplemental planning funds, beyond the normal allocation of funding for the UPWP budget. A first draft FY 2007-08 UPWP was then prepared and reviewed at the January 2007 MPO meetings, with the discussion focusing on the potential supplemental planning funds projects.

On January 23, 2007, the Coordinating Committee reviewed the first draft UPWP, and approved a motion to request supplemental planning funds for two projects in the FY 2007-08 UPWP:

- #1 Priority Coordination of Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Transportation Planning
- #2 Priority Assessment of Public Transportation Services [Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) and Centre County Office of Transportation (CCOT)]

Candidate supplemental planning projects compete on a statewide basis for funding. The CCMPO's candidate projects were submitted to the PennDOT Central Office, which met in February to consider the projects. At the February 14, 2007 Technical Committee meeting, PennDOT staff reported that both of the CCMPO's candidate projects received *tentative* approval for supplemental planning funds. At this meeting, staff will report about whether *final* approval has been granted by PennDOT.

Staff will also provide a brief presentation about key projects in the UPWP, but will not review the document in detail.

An adopted UPWP must be submitted to the PennDOT Central Office by March 1, 2007.

The Coordinating Committee should review the final draft UPWP, and consider adopting an FY 2007-08 UPWP.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

Action: Adopt the FY 2007-08 UPWP.

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ITEM 5

CENTRE COUNTY LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) 2007 UPDATE

Draft Public Participation Plan

At its September 26, 2006 meeting, the CCMPO Coordinating Committee adopted the new Centre County LRTP 2030. As the new LRTP was being considered for adoption, staff noted that several updates would be needed for the plan to be in full compliance with the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and federal transportation planning rulemaking by July 2007.

In November 2006 and January 2007, staff identified the items to be addressed in the 2007 update of the LRTP, including the preparation of a new Public Participation Plan. Because a draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) must be advertised for a 45-day public review period, staff is presenting a first draft PPP in February in order to facilitate the process for approving a PPP prior to the July deadline.

A first draft PPP is attached. The Technical Committee reviewed the first draft PPP at its February 14 meeting. In addition, the first draft PPP was reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration, which offered several comments.

At this meeting, staff will review the key elements of the draft PPP.

No formal action is necessary at this meeting. The Coordinating Committee should receive the staff presentation, and provide comments to facilitate the preparation of a final draft PPP for further discussion at the March CCMPO meetings.

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA

No action required

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ITEM 6

PENNDOT DISTRICT 2-0 BRIDGE PROGRAM PRESENTATION

One of the elements of the 2007 update of the adopted Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2030 is the potential addition of nine (9) state bridge projects to the LRTP. These bridge projects were identified as priorities by PennDOT in fall 2006, as a result of the most recent cycle of bridge inspections.

As MPO and PennDOT staff discussed how to prioritize the candidate bridge projects using the CCMPO's approved project ranking criteria, staff members agreed that it would be beneficial for the MPO Committees to receive a presentation from PennDOT District 2-0 about the process for identifying high priority candidate bridge projects, and the management of the District's bridge program.

At this meeting, PennDOT District 2-0 staff will provide a presentation about the bridge program.

No formal action is necessary at this meeting. The Coordinating Committee should receive the presentation, and provide comments to PennDOT and MPO staff that will help in evaluating and prioritizing candidate bridge projects for the 2007 update of the LRTP, and future LRTP updates.

Presented by: Karen Michael, PennDOT District 2-0

No action required

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ITEM 7

FUNDING FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Presentation about Recent Proposals

In 2005, highway funds were flexed to public transportation operators across Pennsylvania, including CATA, to address shortfalls in transit funding. Additional highway and bridge funding was also made available at that time. In response to the transportation funding issues, Governor Ed Rendell established a "Transportation Funding and Reform Commission (TFRC)" to provide recommendations about how to address the issues, and set a November 15, 2006 deadline for the TFRC to provide a final report.

In August 2006, the TFRC released a draft report with its initial findings entitled *Investing in Our Future: Addressing Pennsylvania's Transportation Funding Crisis*. The TFRC solicited public comments about the initial findings through a series of statewide listening sessions, including a session held in Centre County on September 13. MPO Chair Dan Klees and Vice-Chair Elizabeth Goreham provided testimony, along with CATA and other local and county officials.

After the listening sessions, the TFRC completed and released its final report in November 2006. The report was circulated to the Governor and state legislators. On February 6, 2007, Governor Rendell subsequently outlined a plan to address funding for the Commonwealth's transportation system as part of his annual budget address.

Attached are:

- Executive Summary of the TFRC report
- Overview of Governor Rendell's proposal

Staff will provide a brief presentation about the key points in the TFRC final report, and the Governor's funding proposal.

The Coordinating Committee should receive the staff report, and discuss the TFRC recommendations and the Governor's proposal. Although no formal action is necessary at this meeting, the Committee may consider what comments the CCMPO could provide to the Governor and state legislators about a funding approach.

Topics may include, but not be limited to:

- a. Should fuel taxes be used to generate additional revenue?
- b. Should user fees be used to generate additional revenue?
- c. Should certain sections of interstate roads or other limited access expressways be converted to toll roads to generate additional revenue?
- d. Should the Pennsylvania Turnpike be leased to a private entity to generate funding?
- e. Do the funding proposals for public transportation provide for a source of dedicated funding that will keep pace with inflation over time?
- f. Will a new formula be developed for allocating public transportation funding, and will that formula benefit transit operators with growing systems such as CATA?

(Continued)

As the Governor and state legislature discuss a potential funding plan in the next few months, there may be opportunities for the CCMPO to provide comments. Thus, this item may also be included on future meeting agendas.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

No action required

The complete TFRC report may be accessed on the web at www.dot.state.pa.us/tfrc

Also, please note that 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania and several other interest groups commissioned a study about transportation investments in Pennsylvania. A report entitled *Investing in Transportation: A Benchmarking Study of Transportation Funding and Policy* was completed by the Pennsylvania Economy League (PEL) in 2006, and is available on the PEL's website at <http://www.issuespa.net/publications/17673/>.

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ITEM 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Future Meeting Dates

a. Technical Committee: Wednesday, March 14, 2007, 9:30 am
College Twp. Municipal Building

- ⇒ Centre County LRTP – 2007 Update
- ⇒ Schedule for 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- ⇒ JARC Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

b. Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 6:00 pm
College Twp. Municipal Building

- ⇒ Centre County LRTP – 2007 Update
- ⇒ Schedule for 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- ⇒ JARC Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

2. Each year, PennDOT District 2-0 provides the CCMPO, Centre County, and affected municipalities with a list of the roadway pavement improvement projects on state roadways that are scheduled to be completed in the upcoming fiscal year using state funds from the 711 maintenance program that does not fall under the purview of the MPO. Attached are a map and list illustrating the projects to be completed in the state Fiscal Year 2007-08.

3. In late January 2007, PennDOT's Program Management Committee approved a request to use \$300,000 from the state's Emergency Highway and Bridge Fund to repair the sinkhole on the stream bank of Slab Cabin Run near the Mount Nittany Expressway Bridge over Slab Cabin Run and Puddintown Road in College Township. The repairs were completed using funds from PennDOT's Centre County Maintenance Budget, thus, the emergency repair funds will be used to replenish the County Maintenance Budget. No actions are required by the CCMPO, because state maintenance program funds do not fall under the purview of the MPO.