

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

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

6:00 pm

Patton Township Municipal Building

Please note the location!

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Election of Officers**
3. **Approval of Minutes:** *November 28, 2006 Coordinating Committee meeting*
4. **Citizens' Comments:** *For items not on the agenda*
5. **Transportation Enhancements/Home Town Streets/Safe Routes to School Program:**
Pennsylvania Military Museum project cancellation
South Atherton Street Path cost increase
Action: Approve cancellation of Military Museum project
Action: Approve additional funding for South Atherton Street Path
6. **FY 2006-07 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):**
Supplemental Planning Funds request
Action: Approve making a request for funds
7. **Draft FY 2007-08 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):**
Review Draft UPWP
No action required
8. **Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2007 Update:**
Status Report
No action required
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjourn**

JANUARY 23, 2007 MEETING

ITEM 2

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Coordinating Committee should elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2007. In 2006, Dan Klees served as Chair, and Elizabeth Goreham as Vice-Chair of the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee should also consider the appointment of a Secretary. Bob Crum, CRPA Director, currently serves as the MPO Secretary.

Voting members of the Coordinating Committee include:

Centre County Board of Commissioners	Chris Exarchos
Centre County Board of Commissioners	John Saylor
Benner Township	John Elnitski
College Township	Dan Klees
Ferguson Township	George Pytel
Halfmoon Township	Bob Neff
Harris Township	Chris Lee
Patton Township	Jeff Luck
Spring Township	Frank Royer
State College Borough	Elizabeth Goreham
Penns Valley Planning Region	Bob Corman
Lower Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region	Thomas Poorman (interim member)
Upper Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region	Jadine Reese
Moshannon Valley Planning Region	Jack Shannon
Mountaintop Planning Region	John Yecina
Centre Area Transportation Authority	John Spsychalski
Centre Regional Planning Commission	Ronald Buckalew
PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)	Thomas TenEyck
PennDOT District 2-0 Office (Clearfield)	Kevin Kline

Non-voting members of the Coordinating Committee include:

Bellefonte Borough	Frank Halderman
Pennsylvania State University	Rob Cooper
Federal Highway Administration	Matt Smoker
Federal Transit Administration	Karen Roscher

Presented by: Bob Crum, CCMPO Secretary

Action: Election of officers for 2007.

JANUARY 23, 2007 MEETING

ITEM 5

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS (TE)/HOME TOWN STREETS (HTS)/SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SR2S) PROGRAM

PA Military Museum Project Cancellation South Atherton Path Cost Increase

In 2004, the MPO approved \$25,825 in federal TE funds for the Pennsylvania Military Museum Access Bridge, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The scope of the project involved the installation of a “Bailey” bridge over Spring Creek on the museum grounds. However, PHMC has requested that the CCMPO cancel the project (see attached correspondence).

In 2005, the MPO approved \$128,225 in federal TE funds for the South Atherton Street Path project, sponsored by Harris Township. The scope of the project includes the reconstruction of the existing path between Warner Boulevard and Villa Crest Drive. The path was originally constructed in 1983, and the pavement and base structure is in poor condition. Design of this project has been completed. Based on the final design, PennDOT’s pre-bid estimate of cost for the project is greater than the amount of committed funding. Thus, Harris Township has requested \$67,000 in additional funding for the project (see attached correspondence).

The adopted CCMPO *Policy for Approval/Disapproval of TE Project Cost Increases* requires a project sponsor to make a formal presentation to the TE Review Committee if additional funding is requested. The TE Review Committee and MPO Technical Committee met on January 10 to discuss the two requests. The Technical Committee subsequently recommended that the PA Military Museum project be cancelled, and that additional funding be approved for the South Atherton Street Path project. Details of the shifts in funds needed to provide additional money for the South Atherton Street Path project are provided in the attached staff PowerPoint presentation.

Attachments include:

- Correspondence from the PHMC requesting that the PA Military Museum project be cancelled
- Correspondence from Harris Township requesting \$67,000 in additional funding for the South Atherton Street Path project
- CCMPO *Policy for Approval/Disapproval of TE Project Cost Increases*
- Staff PowerPoint presentation
- Harris Township PowerPoint presentation

The Coordinating Committee should receive a staff report about the requests and the MPO Technical Committee’s recommendation, and consider action on the recommendation.

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA

Action: Cancellation of the PA Military Museum Access Bridge project, and approval of additional funding for the South Atherton Street Path project.

JANUARY 23, 2007 MEETING

ITEM 6

FY 2006-07 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Supplemental Planning Funds Request

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 CRPA and the CCPO on behalf of the CCMPO. The MPO staff is currently operating under the FY 2006-07 UPWP.

Recently, the Centre County Board of Commissioners forwarded the attached correspondence asking the CCMPO to request additional supplemental planning funds to complete an assessment of options for better integrating the public transportation services provided by CATA, and the transportation services provided by the Centre County Office of Transportation (CCOT). The CCOT provides "dial a ride" paratransit service to special needs clients (elderly, disabled, medical assistance, etc.) throughout Centre County. Because CATA's fixed-route and paratransit transportation service is limited to the core urbanized area of Centre County, the CCOT provides the only service available in rural areas of the County.

The proposed assessment would evaluate different options for coordinating services, and recommend methods to increase the efficiency of existing and future service, including the delivery of rural public transportation service. Much of the foundation data needed for the assessment is being prepared through the completion of a Human Services Transportation Plan for the Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program, which is already included as a supplemental planning funds project in the FY 2006-07 UPWP.

Staff believes that the best option for addressing the request is to complete the assessment as Part 2 of the JARC Human Services Transportation Plan project, using additional supplemental planning funds. A proposed scope of work for the project is attached. On January 10, the MPO Technical Committee recommended that the Coordinating Committee make a request to PennDOT for supplemental planning funds for the proposed project.

The Coordinating Committee should review the request from Centre County and the proposed scope of work for the project, and consider making a request to PennDOT for additional supplemental planning funds.

If supported by the Coordinating Committee, the proposed scope would be forwarded to PennDOT with a request for supplemental planning funds. If approved by PennDOT, the scope and additional funds would be added to the FY 2006-07 UPWP.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

Action: Approval to make a request to PennDOT for supplemental planning funds to be added to the FY 2006-07 UPWP, to complete an assessment of options for better integrating the public transportation services provided by CATA and the transportation services provided by the Centre County Office of Transportation.

JANUARY 23, 2007 MEETING

ITEM 7

FY 2007-08 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Review Draft UPWP

The FY 2007-08 UPWP lists the work tasks to be completed by the CRPA and the CCPO on behalf of the CCMPO during the time period between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

In 2005, the Coordinating Committee directed staff to schedule discussions of the upcoming UPWP prior to the February meetings at which the UPWP is adopted, in order to provide more time for discussion of the work tasks on the new program. At the November 2006 MPO meetings, staff presented PennDOT's priorities for the FY 2007-08 UPWP, and potential tasks that may be completed with supplemental planning funds, beyond the normal allocation of funding for the UPWP budget.

The purpose of this agenda item is to review the first draft FY 2007-08 UPWP, with particular focus on the potential supplemental planning funds projects. Staff will review the two candidate supplemental planning funds projects listed in Task VII:

Task VII.A. – Update Travel Demand Model (page 17)

Task VII.B – Coordination of Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Transportation Planning (page 18)

At its January 10 meeting, the Technical Committee discussed the two candidate projects. The following is a summary of the Technical Committee's comments and questions:

- Members expressed support for each project. A few members expressed a preference for either project, but no consensus was reached about which project should be a higher priority.
- Staff indicated that MPO staff costs could be sustained without supplemental planning funds.
- Staff indicated that the travel demand model has been used primarily for the Long Range Transportation Plan, and is not suited to study the specific impacts of new development.
- Staff indicated a desire to use the travel demand model for air quality conformity analyses.
- Staff estimated that 75-80% of the \$100,000 cost for the travel demand model update would be for consultant services.
- Staff estimated that 50% of the \$50,000 cost for the land use/transportation coordination task would be for consultant services.
- Staff noted that local matching funds are required for both tasks.
- Staff recommended selecting only one of the two projects. However, PennDOT noted that both candidate projects could be submitted for consideration.
- Task VII.A involves an update to the model that should occur every 4-5 years.
- Task VII.B involves work that would be completed on an annual basis.
- Task VII.B should be proposed as a phased scope of work that would continue in future years.
- The land use and socioeconomic data forecast update in Task VII.A should be integrated with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology.

(Continued)

Please note that staff will not review the other work tasks in the draft UPWP, but will respond to questions or comments at the direction of the Chair.

The Coordinating Committee should review the draft UPWP, and provide comments to facilitate the preparation of the final draft UPWP, particularly relative to a preference for one of the two candidate supplemental planning funds projects included in the draft UPWP.

A final draft FY 2007-08 UPWP will be prepared by staff for presentation to the MPO Technical Committee on February 14, 2007, and adoption by the Coordinating Committee on February 27, 2007. The adopted UPWP must be submitted to the PennDOT Central Office by March 1, 2007.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

No action required

JANUARY 23, 2007 MEETING

ITEM 8

CENTRE COUNTY LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) 2007 UPDATE

Status Report

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) federal transportation legislation, by July 2007.

As part of the adoption of the new LRTP, the CCMPO noted that several items identified during the public comment period would be addressed in the update, along with other elements required by SAFETEA-LU and the proposed federal transportation planning rulemaking.

In November 2006, staff provided a report about the items to be addressed in the update. One of the required items is the preparation of a new Public Participation Plan. The draft Public Participation Plan must be advertised for a 45-day public review period, thus staff will present a draft Plan for review in February 2007.

At this meeting, staff will present a brief report about the ranking of additional air quality exempt bridge and pedestrian/bicycle projects. Attached is the staff PowerPoint presentation.

The Coordinating Committee should receive the staff report.

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA
Mike Bloom, CCPO

No action required

JANUARY 23, 2007 MEETING

ITEM 9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Future Meeting Dates

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

- ⇒ Election of Officers
- ⇒ Centre County LRTP – 2007 Update – Public Participation Plan
- ⇒ FY 2007-08 Unified Planning Work Program
- ⇒ Transportation Funding and Reform Commission (TFRC) Report
- ⇒ Presentation about bridge projects by PennDOT District 2-0

b. Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, February 27, 2007, 6:00 pm
Patton Twp. Municipal Building

- ⇒ Centre County LRTP – 2007 Update – Public Participation Plan
- ⇒ FY 2007-08 Unified Planning Work Program
- ⇒ TFRC Report
- ⇒ Presentation about bridge projects by PennDOT District 2-0

2. 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. At that time, Governor Ed Rendell established a “Transportation Funding and Reform Commission (TFRC)” to provide recommendations about how to address the issues in the future.

In November 2006, the TFRC released its final report, entitled *Investing in Our Future: Addressing Pennsylvania’s Transportation Funding Crisis*. The report may be accessed on the web at www.dot.state.pa.us/tfrc . Staff will provide a review about the report to the CCMPO Committees in February.

Attached is an article about the suggested conversion of Interstate 80 to a toll road that was published by the Centre Daily Times on January 13, 2007. The article refers to one of several suggestions made by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and other entities providing input to Governor Rendell about transportation funding, following the release of the TFRC’s report.

Please note that 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania and several other interest groups also 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) and recently made public. The report is available on the PEL’s IssuesPA website at <http://www.issuespa.net/publications/17673/> .

(Continued)

3. Mr. Larry M. King, the Commonwealth's Deputy Secretary of Transportation for Planning, retired in mid-January after a lengthy career in transportation planning for PennDOT. Larry initiated and led the reengineering of Pennsylvania's transportation planning and programming process in 1997, which provided a greater role for MPOs and Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) in developing the funding formulas used to prepare the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Many other innovations were instituted as part of the reengineering process, including the practice of holding annual Planning Partners Meetings attended by staff members from federal and state agencies, MPOs, and RPOs. Under Larry's guidance, Pennsylvania's process became recognized nationwide as model for cooperative transportation planning and programming efforts between federal, state, and local officials.

Larry is also a national expert in federal transportation legislation, and contributed greatly to the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation's efforts to ensure that the Commonwealth received its fair share of federal funding in authorization and appropriations bills. On behalf of the members and staff, we thank Larry for his efforts, and wish him the best in his retirement.

Mr. James D. Ritzman, P.E. will serve as the Acting Deputy Secretary for Planning. Jim is a former member of the PennDOT Engineering District 2-0 staff, and the current Director of PennDOT's Center for Program Development and Management.