

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

**Tuesday, September 25, 2007**

**6:00 pm**  
***College Township Municipal Building***

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** *June 26, 2007 Coordinating Committee meeting*
3. **Citizens' Comments:** *For items not on the agenda*
4. **PennDOT District 2-0 Regional Operations Plan (ROP):**  
Presentation about ROP  
*No action required*
5. **2007-2010 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):**  
TIP Administrative Actions  
*No action required*
6. **Transportation Enhancements/Home Town Streets/Safe Routes to School Program:**
  - a. South Atherton Street Path cost increase – phone ballot results  
*Action: Confirm August 2007 phone ballot approving additional funding*
  - b. W. Beaver Ave./S. Fraser St. Streetscape Project - status report  
*No action required*
  - c. Proposed projects for 2009-2012 TIP  
*Action: Authorize staff to discuss prospective projects with sponsors*
7. **Pennsylvania Act 44 – Transportation Funding Legislation:**  
Presentation about new legislation  
*No action required*
8. **2009-2012 Centre County TIP:**  
Project status and priorities for new TIP  
*No action required*
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjourn**

# SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 MEETING

## ITEM 4

### **PENNDOT DISTRICT 2-0 REGIONAL OPERATIONS PLAN (ROP)**

#### **Presentation about ROP**

As reported in previous agendas, PennDOT District 2-0 and its consultant team from Jacobs Edwards and Kelcey recently completed a “Regional Operations Plan (ROP)” for a multi-county area in District 2-0, and one county in District 10-0. The purpose of the ROP is to identify technologies and institutional arrangements that allow transportation systems to operate more efficiently (traffic signal systems, emergency and incident response, weather monitoring, etc.).

The ROP builds on PennDOT’s previous initiatives to complete an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategic Plan, and a Transportation Systems Operations Plan (TSOP). The CCMPO has already utilized the ITS Strategic Plan to identify projects for the Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Staff members from the MPOs and RPOs within District 2-0 participated in several workshops and meetings to provide input about the ROP, along with stakeholders from transit operators, emergency services providers (police, fire, ambulance, 911 dispatching), public works departments, and other key entities.

Regional Operations Plans are being prepared for all of the PennDOT Engineering Districts in the Commonwealth. PennDOT has requested that the MPOs and RPOs within each respective ROP area in the Commonwealth adopt their respective Plan.

**In anticipation of presenting the District 2-0 ROP to the CCMPO for formal action in November 2007 (e.g. adoption, approval, or acceptance), the consultant team will provide a report to the Coordinating Committee at this meeting.** The consultant team also provided a report to the Technical Committee on September 12.

Attached are:

- Executive Summary from Final Draft ROP (8/3/07)
- Consultant team’s PowerPoint presentation to the Technical Committee

**The Coordinating Committee should receive the presentation.**

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA  
Keith Mullins, Jacobs Edwards and Kelcey  
PennDOT District 2-0 staff

No action required

# SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 MEETING

## ITEM 5

### 2007-2010 CENTRE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

#### TIP Administrative Actions

The 2007-2010 Centre County TIP was adopted by the CCMPO in July 2006, and became effective on October 1, 2006 following approval by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The CCMPO has approved amendments to the TIP in 2006 and 2007, and several other administrative actions have also been completed, as reported in May 2007.

The CCMPO's adopted *Procedures for TIP Modifications* permits project sponsors (typically PennDOT and CATA) to complete certain TIP administrative actions without formal approval by the Coordinating Committee. The procedures specify that the administrative actions be reported to the CCMPO Committees for information purposes.

CATA has completed an administrative action to shift \$50,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding from the Buy Down of Fares Program to the Vanpool and W Route projects in 2007. CMAQ funding for the Buy Down of Fares Program was allocated for years 2007 and 2008 on the TIP, however, the program will not advance in 2007. Thus, the funds will be added to the CMAQ funds programmed for the Vanpool and W Route projects in 2007.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Original 2007 Cost</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>New 2007 Cost</b>
CATA Buy Down of Fares Program	\$50,000	-\$50,000	\$0
CATA Vanpool and W Route projects	\$110,000	+\$50,000	\$160,000
Totals	\$160,000	0	\$160,000

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

No action required

# SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 MEETING

## ITEM 6.a.

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

#### South Atherton Street Path Cost Increase Phone Ballot Results

In 2005, the CCMPO approved \$128,225 in federal TE funds for the South Atherton Street Path project, sponsored by Harris Township. In January 2007, the CCMPO shifted an additional \$67,000 in federal funds to the project from the TE Line Item in the 2007-2010 Centre County TIP, and from the Historic Site Access Bridge project at the Pennsylvania Military Museum, which was cancelled at the request of the sponsor.

Because PennDOT's pre-bid cost estimate for the project was greater than the amount of committed funding, the CCMPO approved an additional \$70,707 in federal funds for the project in June 2007. The additional funding came from the TE Line Item in the 2007-2010 TIP, and from the *statewide* TE line item.

The project bids were opened in late July 2007, and the low bid exceeded the amount of funding programmed for the project by \$78,600. In order to award the bid without reducing the scope of work, and to avoid delaying construction until 2008, additional funds needed to be committed to the project by August 31, 2007. At the request of staff, the PennDOT Central Office agreed to commit an additional \$48,668 in federal funds from the statewide TE line item. Harris Township committed the remaining \$29,932 in local funds. A total of \$314,600 in federal funds has now been committed to the project.

The CCMPO's adopted *Procedures for TIP Modifications* provides for the use of a telephone, email, or fax ballot when the Coordinating Committee's meeting schedule results in a delay in accomplishing a major milestone or results in a loss of federal funding or obligation authority. Actions taken by such ballots are confirmed at the next regularly scheduled Coordinating Committee meeting.

A telephone/email/fax ballot was conducted in late August in order for the Coordinating Committee to include the additional federal funding on the 2007-2010 TIP by August 31. The ten Coordinating Committee members that responded were unanimously in favor of amending the TIP to include the additional federal funding for the project:

John Saylor, Centre County  
John Elnitski, Benner Twp.  
Chris Lee, Harris Twp.  
Tom Poorman, Lower Bald Eagle Region  
Jack Shannon, Moshannon Valley Region

Ken Hall, Mountaintop Region  
John Spychalski, CATA  
Jadine Reese, Upper Bald Eagle Region  
Tom TenEyck, PennDOT Central Office  
Kevin Kline, PennDOT District 2-0

**As required by the CCMPO's adopted TIP procedures, this action must be confirmed by formal action of the Coordinating Committee at this meeting.**

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA

Action            Confirm August 2007 phone ballot approving \$48,668 in additional federal funding from the statewide TE line item for the Atherton Street Path TE project.

## SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 MEETING

### ITEM 6.b.

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

##### W. Beaver Ave./S. Fraser St. Streetscape Project Status Report

In 2004, the CCMPO approved \$251,850 in federal TE funds for the W. Beaver Ave./S. Fraser St. Streetscape project, sponsored by State College Borough. The Borough also applied for \$447,175 in additional funds in the 2005-2006 TE application cycle. The CCMPO ranked this project #3 of the three candidates submitted in the 2005-2006 application cycle. Because of fiscal constraints on the 2007-2010 Centre County TIP, the CCMPO forwarded all three projects to PennDOT to be considered for statewide TE discretionary funding. The request was not approved, and funding was not provided to any of the three projects.

The Borough's TE streetscape project is part of a larger effort to realign the Beaver Avenue/Fraser Street intersection from the current offset configuration to a standard four-way intersection. The improvements are to be completed by September 2009, concurrent with the Fraser Centre development.

State College Borough is currently advancing the design of the TE streetscape project, independent of the design of the street relocation. The Borough intends to complete the TE design activities and obligate the federal TE funds for construction by August 31, 2008 [Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008]. This schedule will ensure that the TE funds do not have to be carried forward on the new 2009-2012 TIP.

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State College Borough is also seeking special state and/or federal funding for the street realignment portion of the project. A proposed earmark of federal funds was included in a preliminary FFY 2008 appropriations bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives. However, the latest House version of the FFY 2008 appropriations bill did not include the earmark. Although efforts are being made to reinstate the earmark, it is unlikely that federal funds will be available in FFY 2008. Thus, the Borough is investigating other sources of state funding for the design and construction of the street realignment.

Because it is still possible that federal funds will be earmarked for the street relocation and other streetscape improvements, the Borough wants to ensure that the project is eligible for federal funds. To preserve eligibility, the Borough is requesting that the CCMPO take certain actions in the future:

- Add Preliminary Engineering phase to the current 2007-2010 TIP
- Add remaining phases to the Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan
- Include remaining phases of the project on the new 2009-2012 TIP

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State College Borough staff will provide a status report about the TE and street relocation projects. MPO staff will also provide comments, and a potential schedule for taking action on the Borough's request.

**The Coordinating Committee should receive the report.**

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA  
Tom Fountaine, State College Borough

No action requested

## SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 MEETING

### ITEM 6.c.

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

##### Proposed Projects for 2009-2012 Centre County TIP

In September 2007, MPO staff received revised Financial Guidance for preparation of the new 2009-2012 TIP. The CCMPO's formula allocation of TE funds totals \$1,311,000 in 2009-2012. The guidance also states that because of a backlog of TE projects statewide, there will not be a statewide TE application cycle in 2007-2008.

Because all TE/HTS/SR2S projects previously funded by the CCMPO will be completed in 2008, PennDOT has confirmed that the CCMPO will be able to include new TE/HTS/SR2S projects on the 2009-2012 TIP.

In the 2005-2006 TE application cycle, the CCMPO approved project priorities for three candidate projects. Because of fiscal constraints on the 2007-2010 Centre County TIP, the CCMPO forwarded all three projects to PennDOT to be considered for statewide TE discretionary funding. but the projects were not included on the 2007-2010 TIP because of fiscal constraints. The three projects are as follows:

<i>RANK</i>	<i>PROJECT</i>	<i>FEDERAL FUNDING REQUESTED</i>
1	Centre Hall Sidewalk Rehabilitation Project	\$441,578
2	Village of Boalsburg Streetscape Improvements	\$172,787
3	W. Beaver Ave./S. Fraser St. Street Realignment and Pedestrian Improvement Project	\$447,175
	TOTAL	\$1,061,540

Staff does not recommend opening a special application cycle for projects in Centre County. MPO staff further recommends that the two highest-ranked projects from the 2005-2006 application cycle be approved for funding funded with the TE line items funds in years 2009 and 2010. The reasons for the recommendation are:

- A five-to-six month time period would be required for staff to provide notice of the cycle, hold a public information meeting, assist prospective sponsors in preparing applications, and to review and recommend priorities.
- It is anticipated that PennDOT will schedule a statewide application cycle in 2009 as part of the development of the 2011-2014 TIP.
- The design of projects approved through a special application cycle would not likely begin until late 2008. Thus, the TE funding for construction of the projects would not be expended until at least FFY 2011.

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- The CCMPO's ability to include projects submitted in the anticipated 2009-2010 TE application cycle on the 2011-2014 TIP would be limited, if projects were carried forward from the 2009-2012 TIP.
- The two previously-prioritized projects can be advanced immediately by amending the current 2007-2010 TIP, using the TE line item funds for years 2009 and 2010 (total of \$618,000). This action would allow the sponsors to execute reimbursement agreements with PennDOT and begin the design of the projects. Thus, the federal TE funds for construction could be obligated in FFY 2009 and 2010 on the new 2009-2012 TIP.

A table illustrating several action steps associated with the staff recommendation follows:

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>ACTION</i>	<i>TIMEFRAME</i>
1	Present recommended TE process to Technical Committee	09/12/07
2	Present recommended TE process to Coordinating Committee	09/25/07
3	MPO staff meets with Centre Hall Borough and Harris Township to determine their interest in advancing the respective projects	10/07
4	Amend the Centre County 2007-2010 TIP to include the following projects as part of the TE line item for 2009 and 2010: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centre Hall Sidewalk Rehabilitation Project</li> <li>• Village of Boalsburg Streetscape Improvements</li> </ul>	11/27/07
5	Project sponsors execute reimbursement agreements with PennDOT and begin design work	12/07
6	Adopt the Centre County 2009-2012 TIP, which will include the two new TE/HTS projects	06/08

In order to formally determine if the sponsors are still interested in advancing the projects as outlined in the recommendation, staff needs authorization from the Coordinating Committee.

**The Coordinating Committee should receive the report and consider authorizing staff to formally determine if the sponsors of the two highest-ranked TE projects from the 2005-2006 TE application cycle are interested in advancing the projects using the CCMPO's TE funding allocation for the 2009-2012 TIP.**

At its September 12, 2007 meeting, the CCMPO Technical Committee approved a recommendation that the Coordinating Committee authorize staff to work with the sponsors to formally determine their interest in advancing the projects.

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA

Action: Authorize staff to formally determine if the sponsors of the two highest-ranked TE projects from the 2006-2006 TE application cycle are interested in advancing the projects using the CCMPO's TE funding allocation for the 2009-2012 TIP.

## SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 MEETING

### ITEM 7

#### PENNSYLVANIA ACT 44 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING LEGISLATION

##### Presentation about New Legislation

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 recommendations about how to address the issues.

In August 2006, the TFRC released a 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 other local and county officials and citizens. Following 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 outlined a plan to address funding for the Commonwealth's transportation system as part of his annual budget address. The Governor and the state legislature subsequently worked to provide a mechanism for increased state transportation funding as part of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2007-08 Budget. As the Governor and legislature were deliberating the issue in June 2007, the CCMPO Coordinating Committee approved the submission of correspondence and comments about various state transportation funding proposals to the Governor and state legislators representing Centre County.

In July 2007, Pennsylvania Act 44 was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor. Act 44 provides increased state funding for highways, bridges and mass transit, and also makes fundamental changes to the way the mass transit funding is distributed in the Commonwealth. Although some of the financial and programmatic implications of Act 44 have been determined, other impacts will continue to be identified in future months.

Attached are:

- PowerPoint presentation provided by PA Secretary of Transportation Allen Biehler to the State Transportation Commission on August 2, 2007.
- PowerPoint presentation by staff
- CCMPO Coordinating Committee comments about transportation funding proposals, as approved in June 2007

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At this meeting, staff will provide a brief presentation about Act 44, and about potential actions that may be needed by the CCMPO in upcoming months.

*Please note that State Senator Jake Corman (34<sup>th</sup> District) has been invited to attend the meeting to provide his observations about Act 44, and to discuss other mechanisms for generating revenue for transportation improvements. Sen. Corman has indicated his desire to attend; however, the state legislature will be in session on September 25, and the Senator cannot guarantee that he will be able to attend the Coordinating Committee meeting.*

**The Coordinating Committee should receive the staff report and comments from Senator Corman should he be able to attend.**

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA  
Hugh Mose, CATA  
State Senator Jake Corman, 34<sup>th</sup> District

No action required

# SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 MEETING

## ITEM 8

### 2009-2012 CENTRE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

#### Project Status and Priorities for New TIP

On January 3, 2007, staff attended a statewide Planning Partners Meeting, which included discussion about the schedule and guidance for preparation of the new 2009-2012 TIP and Twelve Year Transportation Program (TYP). The TIP and the TYP are updated every two years, and the update process traditionally takes approximately one year. Final guidance documents for the TIP update were provided to MPOs and RPOs at the June 19, 2007 Planning Partners Meeting.

On August 2, 2007, MPO staff provided an overview of transportation issues in Centre County to the State Transportation Commission (STC) at the Commission's 2009 Twelve Year Program public hearing, which traditionally initiates the TIP update process.

On September 14, 2007, revised guidance documents were received from PennDOT.

One of the first steps in the update process is to determine whether projects (or phases of projects) must be carried forward from the 2007-2010 TIP to the new 2009-2012 TIP. PennDOT has been reviewing the status of projects on the highway element of the TIP, and assessing how projects may be programmed on the new TIP relative to the fiscal constraints specified in the financial guidance document. Similar activities will be occurring with CATA relative to the transit element of the TIP.

At this meeting, MPO and PennDOT staff will provide a brief presentation about:

- TIP/TYP update process and schedule
- Financial guidance
- Status of projects on the current TIP
- Priority projects for the new TIP.

Attached is:

- PowerPoint presentation by staff

**The Coordinating Committee should receive the presentation.** Discussions about the new TIP will continue in November 2007, with the goal of having the Coordinating Committee approve a Preliminary Draft TIP in late January 2008 for submission to PennDOT.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA  
PennDOT District 2-0 staff

No action required

# SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 MEETING

## ITEM 9

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 1. Future Meeting Dates

- a. Technical Committee: Wednesday, November 14, 2007, 9:30 am  
***Location to be announced***

- ⇒ 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments
- ⇒ Transportation Enhancements Program
- ⇒ 2009-2012 TIP development
- ⇒ FY 2008-09 Unified Planning Work Program

- b. Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, November 27, 2007, 6:00 pm  
***Location to be announced***

- ⇒ 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments
- ⇒ Transportation Enhancements Program
- ⇒ 2009-2012 TIP development
- ⇒ FY 2008-09 Unified Planning Work Program

2. In the past few years, representatives from various cabinet-level agencies of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania worked with a diverse group of representatives from the public and private sectors to identify strategies to improve the integration of transportation, land use, and economic development in the state. In May 2005, a regional conference on the topic was held in Williamsport PA, which resulted in the identification of objectives for addressing the issue in the central region of Pennsylvania.

The Commonwealth subsequently began working with the Local Development Districts (LDDs) (regional economic development agencies) in Pennsylvania to develop action plans to implement the strategies and work toward meeting the objectives from the regional conferences.

In late 2006, SEDA-COG began work on a Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) for the central region of Pennsylvania, including Centre County. Staff is participating on the Steering Committee for the project. SEDA-COG scheduled a series of public meetings to obtain input from local officials and citizens about the RSAP, which was recently named "*Valley Vision 2020 – A Plan for Pennsylvania's Heartland*".

Meetings for elected official and the public for the Central Valleys Region were held on September 20, 2007. More information about the plan is available on the web at [www.valleyvision2020.com](http://www.valleyvision2020.com).

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3. In November 2003, the MPO Coordinating Committee approved the expansion of the MPO to a countywide organization. The approved proposal for expansion included a requirement to complete a performance review of the new countywide MPO.

The performance review is intended to evaluate the effectiveness of the countywide MPO, and to address representation, staffing, and budget issues. For example, the approved proposal for expansion specifically noted that the review should address issues raised about representation for Marion and Walker Townships in the Nittany Valley Planning Region. Completion of the performance review is also necessary to help in the preparation of future MPO budgets, and to address other issues that have been raised relative to representation and voting membership. The Performance Review Committee is also preparing draft bylaws for the CCMPO.

In June and July 2006, the Coordinating Committee approved the formation of a Performance Review Committee to oversee the review process:

Chair Dan Klees	John Elnitski
Vice Chair Elizabeth Goreham	Chris Lee
Chris Exarchos	Karen Michael
Bob Corman	

The committee has held twelve meetings to date, and has discussed a variety of topics. One of the primary discussion items has been the development of a new concept representation structure. Based on the discussions at the September 17, 2007 meeting, the Review Committee agreed that it could not reach unanimous agreement on various concepts for a new representation structure.

Thus, CCMPO Chair Dan Klees, who also chairs the Review Committee, indicated that the Committee will focus its efforts in the next few months on the completion of draft bylaws for the existing organization, and will suspend discussion of representation structures until after January 2008. A report about draft bylaws may be provided to the CCMPO Committees in November 2007.

4. CCMPO staff contact information:

Centre Regional Planning Agency	Telephone: 814-231-3050
2643 Gateway Drive	Fax: 814-231-3083
State College, PA 16801	

Bob Crum, Director	<a href="mailto:rcrum@crcog.net">rcrum@crcog.net</a>
Tom Zilla, Transportation Planner	<a href="mailto:tzilla@crcog.net">tzilla@crcog.net</a>
Trish Meek, Transportation Planner	<a href="mailto:tmeek@crcog.net">tmeek@crcog.net</a>
Greg Kausch, Transportation Planner	<a href="mailto:gkausch@crcog.net">gkausch@crcog.net</a> or <a href="mailto:gkausch@catabus.com">gkausch@catabus.com</a>
Lori Shingler, Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:lshingler@crcog.net">lshingler@crcog.net</a>

Centre County Planning Office	Telephone: 814-355-6791
420 Holmes Street – Willowbank Office Building	Fax: 814-355-8661
Bellefonte, PA 16823	

Bob Jacobs, Director	<a href="mailto:rbjacobs@co.centre.pa.us">rbjacobs@co.centre.pa.us</a>
Chris Price, Assistant Director	<a href="mailto:cmprice@co.centre.pa.us">cmprice@co.centre.pa.us</a>
Mike Bloom, Transportation Planner	<a href="mailto:dmbloom@co.centre.pa.us">dmbloom@co.centre.pa.us</a>