

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

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

6:00 pm

College Township Municipal Building

Please note the location!

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** *February 27, 2007 Coordinating Committee meeting*
3. **Citizens' Comments:** *For items not on the agenda*
4. **Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2007 Update:**
Final Draft Public Participation Plan
Action: Authorize advertisement for public comment
5. **Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2007 Update:**
 - a. Project Ranking – Bridge and Transportation Enhancements Projects
Action: Accept technical ranking for draft LRTP 2007 Update
 - b. Status Report - Other update items
No action required
6. **Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan**
Status Report and Advisory Committee
Action: Approve formation of stakeholder advisory committee
7. **Countywide MPO Performance Review**
Status Report
Action: Authorize circulation of new concept membership structure
8. **Announcements**
9. **Adjourn**

MARCH 27, 2007 MEETING

ITEM 4

CENTRE COUNTY LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) 2007 UPDATE

Final 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, January and February 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 presented a first draft PPP in February in order to facilitate the process for approving a PPP prior to the July deadline.

Based on comments received from the CCMPO Committees in February and from the Federal Highway Administration, a final draft PPP has been prepared.

At this meeting, staff will review the key elements of the final draft PPP. Attached are:

- Final Draft PPP
- Staff PowerPoint presentation

On March 14, the Technical Committee reviewed the final draft PPP, and approved the following motion:

- ✓ The Technical Committee recommends that the Coordinating Committee authorize staff to advertise the final draft PPP for the required 45-day public comment period
- ✓ The Technical Committee commented that certain requirements in the PPP represent unfunded mandates that may take resources away from other tasks in the annual work program.
- ✓ The Technical Committee further recognizes that while it is important to make information available to all populations within the County, it is not practical to identify every individual population.
- ✓ The Technical Committee acknowledges that the MPO has an obligation to provide opportunities for public participation, and that the public has an obligation to stay informed about issues by requesting information from their elected officials.

The Coordinating Committee should receive the staff presentation, provide comments about revisions, and consider authorizing staff to advertise the final draft PPP for the required 45-day public comment period.

Presented by: Mike Bloom, CCPCDO

Action: Authorize staff to advertise the final draft Public Participation Plan for the required 45-day public comment period.

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ITEM 5.a.

CENTRE COUNTY LRTP 2007 UPDATE

Project Ranking – Bridge and Transportation Enhancements Projects

As noted previously, several items are being addressed in the 2007 LRTP Update. One of the items is the prioritization of additional air quality- exempt bridge and transportation enhancements projects for possible inclusion in the Plan.

As part of the adoption of the LRTP in September 2006, the CCMPO agreed to consider 24 new transportation enhancements projects that were proposed during the public comment period for the Plan. Also, nine state bridge projects were submitted by PennDOT for consideration in the 2007 Update, based on the results of the most recent cycle of bridge inspections. The municipalities within which the projects are located were requested to indicate their support for the projects.

The CCMPO's Project Ranking Committee (PRC) evaluated and ranked the candidate projects, and met on February 28, 2007 to discuss the results. Based on the results of the technical ranking process and fiscal constraint analysis, the PRC made the following recommendations to the Technical Committee:

- Forward the technical ranking of bridge and transportation enhancements projects to the Coordinating Committee. Consideration should be given to rank adjustments for the bridges based on the latest information from PennDOT's bridge assessment.
- Forward a recommendation to reevaluate the CCMPO's project ranking criteria related to bridge projects in Fall 2007, following adoption of the 2007 Update.

As the technical ranking process moved forward, MPO staff and PennDOT discussed the prioritization of bridge projects, and agreed that the MPO Committees should receive a presentation from PennDOT District 2-0 about the process PennDOT uses to identify candidate bridge projects. In District 2-0's presentation at the February 27 Coordinating Committee meeting, it was noted that PennDOT has shifted away from using "Sufficiency Rating" to establish bridge priorities and now uses "Structural Deficiency", which is a better indicator of overall bridge condition. PennDOT staff also reported that an assessment of bridges was recently completed, and this assessment would serve as a primary tool for identifying bridge projects.

In March, PennDOT District 2-0 provided MPO staff with the preliminary results of the assessment, which indicated that there are 37 structurally deficient state bridges and approximately 18 structurally deficient municipal bridges in Centre County that are not currently on the LRTP bridge list. District 2-0 indicated that the results of the assessment will be refined in upcoming months to establish a priority for candidate bridge projects in the future.

Because some of the structurally deficient bridges may require relatively low-cost improvements that can be financed with state bridge maintenance funds, not all of the structurally deficient bridges may need to be included on the LRTP. PennDOT District 2-0 will determine the scope of needed improvements when establishing a priority for the candidate bridges.

(Continued)

On March 14, the CCMPO Technical Committee received the PRC's recommendation and the preliminary results of the bridge assessment from PennDOT. The Technical Committee subsequently approved the following recommendation to the Coordinating Committee:

- Accept the technical ranking of bridge and pedestrian/bicycle projects. Consideration should be given to rank adjustments for bridges based on the latest information from PennDOT.
- Reevaluate the CCMPO's project ranking criteria relative to bridge projects in fall 2007, following adoption of the 2007 Update.

Attached are:

- Staff PowerPoint presentation
- Bridge project list (fiscal constraint list)
- Map of bridge projects
- Pedestrian/bicycle project list (fiscal constraint list)
- Map of pedestrian/bicycle projects
- Municipal correspondence related to the candidate projects

The Coordinating Committee should receive the staff presentation, review the Technical Committee's recommendations, and consider accepting the technical ranking of bridge and pedestrian/bicycle projects, and approving the reevaluation of the CCMPO's project ranking criteria related to bridge projects in fall 2007, following adoption of the 2007 Update.

Presented by: Mike Bloom, CCPCDO

Action: Accept the technical ranking of bridge and transportation enhancements projects for the 2007 LRTP Update, and approve the reevaluation of the CCMPO's project ranking criteria related to bridge projects.

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ITEM 5.b.

CENTRE COUNTY LRTP 2007 UPDATE

Status Report – Other Update Items

In addition to the Public Participation Plan and the ranking of bridge and transportation enhancements projects, staff has identified other items that must also be addressed to ensure that the LRTP is SAFETEA-LU compliant. The final federal transportation planning rulemaking has now been completed, and the rulemaking specifies certain items that must be addressed to make the LRTP fully compliant. The remaining items to be addressed in the LRTP 2007 Update include:

- Environmental Mitigation
- Consultations with Resource Agencies
- Consistency of Plan with Planned Growth and Development Plans
- Operational and Management Strategies
- Visualization Techniques in Plans and TIP Development

Staff will provide an update about the process for addressing these items.

Attached is:

- Staff PowerPoint presentation

The Coordinating Committee should receive the presentation, and provide comments to staff.

Presented by: Mike Bloom, CCPCDO

No action required

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ITEM 6

COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT - HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Status Report and Advisory Committee

The CCMPO's current FY 2006-07 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes supplemental planning funds to prepare a Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. A Coordinated Plan must be adopted by the CCMPO in order for eligible project sponsors to access certain types of federal funds for public transportation services.

On January 23, 2007, the CCMPO Coordinating Committee amended the FY 2006-07 UPWP to change the completion date of the JARC Coordinated Plan from June 30, 2007 to March 31, 2008. This action would allow staff sufficient time and latitude to prepare a detailed Coordinated Plan that meets the parameters prescribed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

However, PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transportation (BPT) has now specified an advanced timeline for the preparation of Coordinated Plans across the Commonwealth. The BPT has established a deadline of May 31, 2007 for the adoption and submission of Coordinated Plans, in order to ensure that all transit operators in the Commonwealth are eligible to receive JARC and other federal funds for the current fiscal year.

In the interest of minimizing redundancy of effort, the BPT has directed that the preparation of Coordinated Plans be completed using input from existing transportation stakeholder groups, and be focused on existing candidate projects to the extent possible. Thus, MPO staff is preparing a scope of work that fits within these parameters, and which will yield a Coordinated Plan that can be adopted by the May 31, 2007 deadline. *(Please note that additional CCMPO Committee meetings will be scheduled in May to facilitate the adoption of a Coordinated Plan.)*

Refinements to the Coordinated Plan may be made after May 31, 2007, with any additional work to be closely coordinated with the completion of the CATA/Centre County Office of Transportation (CCOT) assessment of public transportation services. Supplemental planning funds for the CATA/CCOT assessment were approved in the FY 2007-08 UPWP.

At this meeting, staff will present a brief report about the proposed timeline for preparation of the Coordinated Plan. Staff will also present information about the stakeholders that should be included on the advisory committee that will be utilized to provide input about the Plan. **A list of prospective stakeholders is included in the attached staff PowerPoint presentation.** On March 14, the Technical Committee recommended that the Coordinating Committee form a stakeholders advisory committee.

The Coordinating Committee should receive the presentation, and approve the formation of a stakeholders advisory committee to provide input about the preparation of the Coordinated Plan.

Presented by: Greg Kausch, CRPA

Action: Formation of a stakeholders advisory committee to provide input about the preparation of a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

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ITEM 7

COUNTYWIDE MPO PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Status Report

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 not later than two years after implementation.

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 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.

The committee has held seven 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, and the Review Committee proposes to seek comments about one of the concepts.

A presentation about the committee's activities, including a new representation structure, will be provided at the meeting.

Attached are:

- Staff PowerPoint presentation
- New concept representation structure

The Coordinating Committee should receive the presentation, and consider authorizing staff to circulate a new concept representation structure to the County's municipalities and the MPO's member-organizations for review and comment. Comments will then be received and discussed by the Review Committee.

Presented by: Dan Klees, CCMPO Chair
Tom Zilla, CRPA

Action: Authorize staff to circulate a new concept representation structure to the County's municipalities for review and comment.

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ITEM 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Future Meeting Dates

- a. Technical Committee: Wednesday, April 11, 2007, 9:30 am
College Twp. Municipal Building
- ⇒ Centre County LRTP – 2007 Update
 - ⇒ JARC Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan
 - ⇒ Schedule for 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - ⇒ 2007-2010 TIP Administrative Actions
- b. Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, April 24, 2007, 6:00 pm
College Twp. Municipal Building
- ⇒ Centre County LRTP – 2007 Update
 - ⇒ JARC Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan
 - ⇒ Schedule for 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - ⇒ 2007-2010 TIP Administrative Actions

Please note that to facilitate the adoption of the CCMPO's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan by the May 31, 2007 deadline, the CCMPO Committee meeting schedule is being revised to include meetings in May.

- c. Technical Committee: Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 9:30 am
College Twp. Municipal Building
- ⇒ JARC Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan
 - ⇒ Centre County LRTP – 2007 Update
- d. Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, May 22, 2007, 6:00 pm
College Twp. Municipal Building
- ⇒ JARC Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan
 - ⇒ Centre County LRTP – 2007 Update

2. Attached, ***for Committee members only***, is a copy of the latest newsletter from PennDOT about the I-99 Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) remediation efforts. *(Please note that PennDOT provided copies of the newsletter to staff several weeks ago. However, staff inadvertently omitted the newsletter from the February MPO meeting agenda packages.)*