

PCTI Project Assessment

Candidate Project: Philipsburg Area/Moshannon Valley Park and Ride Lots

The application is for \$300,000 in planning funds to evaluate potential locations for park and ride lots in the Philipsburg Area/Moshannon Valley, and to coordinate with local officials in this area to prioritize the locations and reserve rights of way. The project was one of the highest ranked projects on the adopted Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and is in the 2011-2014 time period of the Plan. The project also complements efforts currently underway to plan commuter bus service from Clearfield County and the Philipsburg area to the Centre Region. The goal is to complete the planning study in 2009 so that funds can be committed on the 2011-2014 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which would be adopted in 2010.

Smart Transportation Principle	Applies to Principle	Comments
Emphasizes cost effective solutions scaled to size of problem	Yes	Addresses highest commuter corridor in Centre County. Could formalize park and ride lots now informally operating at several locations in the Philipsburg area. Park and ride lots would complement current rideshare and vanpool programs, as well as the commuter bus service now being planned.
Emphasizes context sensitive design elements	Yes	Would focus on existing parking lots owned by municipalities, the Philipsburg-Osceola school district, and private entities. A downtown Philipsburg lot location would complement streetscape improvements implemented through the Transportation Enhancements Program, and revitalization efforts in Philipsburg Borough.
Project has a high value/price ratio	Yes	Encourages rideshare, vanpool, and transit service, which helps to preserve the existing roadway capacity of Route 322. Potential use of existing lots would significantly decrease costs for right-of-way acquisition and grading.
Enhances local network	Yes	Provides activity center for community facilities and businesses in the area.
Level of Service optimizes the function of the roadway with the surrounding land use	Yes	As noted above, rideshare, vanpool, and transit service will help to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles using Route 322 for commuting purposes.
Emphasizes safety	Yes	The reduction in single occupant vehicles using Route 322 may have an indirect benefit by reducing the probability of vehicle crashes due to congestion in the Route 322 corridor.
Emphasizes intermodal connections	Yes	The park and ride lots are specifically proposed to complement rideshare and vanpool service, and would be served by the commuter bus service currently being planned through the cooperative efforts of Moshannon Valley officials, CATA, and the Area Transportation Authority (ATA) [North Central Region] that would operate the service.
Leverages/preserves existing investments	Yes	Complements the new 15 th Street Connector and 9 th Street Extension projects completed a few years ago. Also complements the downtown Philipsburg revitalization efforts. May result in improvements to parking areas currently used for other purposes (YMCA, football game parking, etc.).
Improves quality of living by promoting town centers and decentralizing sprawl	Yes	Encourages growth in existing activity centers, including but not limited to, downtown Philipsburg, the Cold Stream Dam/YMCA area, and Decatur Township in Clearfield Co.
Develops partnerships with local governments that promote strong land use plans	Yes	Directly supports revitalization efforts in areas identified for growth by municipalities, the school district, and economic development agencies in the Moshannon Valley.