

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

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

9:30 am
Patton Township Municipal Building

Please note the time and location!

AGENDA

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

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ITEM 4

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 project sponsor has requested the CCMPO to 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 project has been designed. 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 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 will meet on January 10 prior to the Technical Committee meeting to discuss the two requests. The Review Committee's recommendations will be presented at the Technical Committee meeting.

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

The Technical Committee will receive a staff report about the requests and the TE Review Committee's recommendation, and should provide a recommendation to the Coordinating Committee.

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA

Action: Recommendation to the Coordinating Committee about cancellation of the PA Military Museum Access Bridge project, and approval of additional funding for the South Atherton Street Path project.

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ITEM 5

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 a Part 2 extension of the JARC Human Services Transportation Plan project, using additional supplemental planning funds. A proposed scope of work for the project is attached.

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.

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

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

Action: Recommendation to the CCMPO Coordinating Committee about making 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.

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ITEM 6

FY 2007-08 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Review Draft UPWP

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.

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, included as Task VII in the draft UPWP. Please note that staff will not review the other work tasks individually, but will go through each page of the draft UPWP and ask if there are questions or comments.

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 on March 1, 2007.

The Technical Committee should review the draft UPWP, and provide comments to facilitate the preparation of the final draft UPWP, particularly relative to the candidate supplemental planning funds projects included in the draft UPWP.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

No action required

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ITEM 7

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 the July 2007 deadline for compliance.

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 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.

The Technical Committee should receive the staff report.

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA
Mike Bloom, CCPO

No action required

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ITEM 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Future Meeting Dates

- a. Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 6:00 pm
College Twp. Municipal Building
- ⇒ Election of Officers
 - ⇒ Transportation Enhancements Program
 - ⇒ FY 2006-07 Unified Planning Work Program
 - ⇒ FY 2007-08 Unified Planning Work Program
 - ⇒ Centre County LRTP – 2007 Update
- b. Technical Committee: Wednesday, February 14, 2007, 9:30 am
location to be determined
- ⇒ 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
- c. Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, February 27, 2007, 6:00 pm
College 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. As a result of these transportation funding issues, Governor Ed Rendell established a “Transportation Funding and Reform Commission (TFRC)” to provide recommendations about how to address the issues.

The TFRC released its final report, entitled *Investing in Our Future: Addressing Pennsylvania’s Transportation Funding Crisis*, in November. 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.

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) and recently made public. The report is available on the PEL’s IssuesPA website at <http://www.issuespa.net/publications/17673/> .