

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

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

9:30 am

College Township Municipal Building

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** *June 13, 2007 Technical 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. **Transportation Enhancements/Home Town Streets/Safe Routes to School Program:**
 - a. South Atherton Street Path cost increase – phone ballot results
No action required
 - b. W. Beaver Ave./S. Fraser St. Streetscape Project - status report
No action required
 - c. Proposed project selection process for 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Action: Recommendation to Coordinating Committee
6. **Pennsylvania Act 44 – Transportation Funding Legislation:**
Presentation about new legislation
No action required
7. **2009-2012 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):**
Project status and priorities for new TIP
No action required
8. **2007-2010 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):**
TIP Administrative Actions
No action required
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjourn**

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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 (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 workshops and meetings to provide input about the ROP, along with staff from transit operators, emergency services providers (police, fire, ambulance, 911 dispatching), public works departments, and other key entities.

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 adoption/approval in November 2007, the consultant team will provide presentations about the ROP to the Technical and Coordinating Committees in September.**

Attached is:

- Executive Summary from Final Draft ROP (8/3/07)

The Technical Committee should receive the presentation.

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

No action required

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ITEM 5.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 June 2007, the CCMPO approved an additional \$70,707 for the project, because PennDOT's pre-bid estimate of cost for the project was greater than the amount of committed funding.

The project bids were opened in late July, 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. Harris Township committed an additional \$29,932 in local funds to the project, and the PennDOT Central Office committed the remaining \$48,668 from the statewide TE line item.

The CCMPO's adopted *Procedures for Transportation Improvement Program (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.

Thus, a telephone/email/fax ballot was conducted in late August in order for the Coordinating Committee to include the additional funding on the 2007-2010 Centre County TIP by August 31. Of the ten responses received from Coordinating Committee members, all were in favor of amending the TIP to include the additional funding for the project. As required by the CCMPO's adopted procedures, this action will be confirmed by the Coordinating Committee at its September 25, 2007 meeting.

Staff will briefly report about the action taken by the Coordinating Committee via the phone ballot. **The Technical Committee should receive the report.**

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA

No action requested

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ITEM 5.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 applied for \$447,175 in additional funds in the 2005-2006 TE application cycle. The CCMPO ranked this project #3 of the three candidate projects submitted in that application cycle. However, funding was not committed for any of the projects because of fiscal constraints.

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

State College Borough's preference is to complete the design of the streetscape and street realignment projects within one design contract. The schedule for completion of design may require the TE funds to be carried forward from the 2007-2010 Centre County TIP to the new 2009-2012 TIP.

State College Borough is seeking additional state and/or federal funding for the street realignment portion of the project. An earmark of federal funds was included in a preliminary Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 appropriations bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives. However, the latest House version of the FFY 2008 appropriations bill does not include the earmark of funds. Although efforts are underway to reinstate the earmark, it is unlikely that the federal funds will be available in FFY 2008. Thus, the Borough is investigating other potential sources of funding for the design and construction of the street realignment project, which may involve actions by the CCMPO in the future.

Because of the uncertainty in the schedule and funding for the design of the projects, and as a preface to the discussions of the TE Program for the 2009-2012 TIP, State College Borough staff will provide a status report about the project. MPO staff will also provide comments. **The Technical Committee should receive the report.**

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA
Amy Story, State College Borough

No action requested

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ITEM 5.c.

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

Proposed Project Selection Process 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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

Because all but one TE/HTS/SR2S projects previously programmed by the CCMPO may be completed in 2008, the CCMPO will have the opportunity to program new TE/HTS/SR2S projects using the TE funding allocation for the 2009-2012 TIP. (As reported in the previous agenda item, the W. Beaver Ave./S. Fraser St. Streetscape project may be carried forward on the 2009-2012 TIP).

MPO staff has prepared a recommendation about candidate TE/HTS/SR2S projects that could be advanced using the funding allocation for the 2009-2012 TIP.

In the 2005-2006 TE application cycle, the CCMPO approved the following project priorities for three candidate projects submitted at that time, but was not able to program the projects on the 2007-2010 TIP because of fiscal constraints:

<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

MPO staff recommends that the two highest-ranked projects submitted in the 2005-2006 application cycle be funded with the TE line items funds in years 2009 and 2010.

In order to facilitate the development of these two projects, staff further recommends that the 2007-2010 TIP be amended to include the two projects in years 2009 and 2010. This action would allow the sponsors adequate time to execute reimbursement agreements with PennDOT and begin the design of the projects, so that the federal funds for construction are ready to be obligated in 2009 and 2010 as part of the new 2009-2012 TIP.

A table illustrating several action steps associated with the staff recommendations follows on the next page.

(Continued on next page)

<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"> • Centre Hall Sidewalk Rehabilitation Project • Village of Boalsburg Streetscape Improvements 	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. Thus, **the Technical Committee should receive the staff report and recommendation, and consider recommending that the Coordinating Committee 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.**

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA

Action: Recommendation to the Coordinating Committee about authorizing 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.

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ITEM 6

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 is:

- PowerPoint presentation provided by PA Secretary of Transportation Allen Biehler to the State Transportation Commission on August 2, 2007

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.

The Technical Committee should receive the staff report.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

No action required

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ITEM 7

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 Transportation Improvement Program (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.

One of the first steps in the update process is to establish the status of the projects on the current 2007-2010 TIP. This step determines whether projects (or phases of projects) must be carried forward 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.

The Technical Committee should receive the presentation, and provide comments about project priorities. Discussions about the new TIP will continue in November 2007, with the goal of approving a Preliminary Draft TIP in January 2008 for submission to PennDOT.

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

No action required

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ITEM 8

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 several amendments to the TIP in 2006 and 2007, and other administrative actions have also been completed, as reported in May 2007.

The CCMPO's adopted *Procedures for TIP Modifications* permits project sponsors to complete certain TIP administrative actions without requiring 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 programmed in 2007 for the Buy Down of Fares Program to the CATA Vanpool and W Route projects. 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.

Project	Original 2007 Cost	Change	New 2007 Cost
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

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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 has 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*”. A meeting for the Central Valleys Region is scheduled for:

Thursday, September 20, 2007
7:00 pm
Central PA Institute of Science and Technology
Pleasant Gap, PA

More information about the plan is available on the web at www.valleyvision2020.com .

(Continued)

3. CCMPO staff contact information:

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