

**CENTRE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CCMPO)
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, May 9, 2007
9:30 a.m.
College Township Municipal Building**

Minutes

Voting Members

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Bill MacMath | Spring Township |
| Amy Story | State College Borough |
| Bob Jacobs | Centre County Planning & Community Development Office (CCPCDO) |
| Chris Price | CCPCDO |
| Harold Nanovic | PennDOT Central Office |
| Michele Barbin | Mountaintop Planning Region |
| Doug Weikel | Benner Township |
| Ray Hankinson | Penns Valley Planning Region |
| Paul Weener | Harris Township |
| John Knowles | Moshannon Valley Planning Region |
| Bob Crum | Centre Regional Planning Agency |
| Hugh Mose | CATA |
| Karen Michael | PennDOT District 2-0 |
| Bob Crum | Centre Regional Planning Commission |

Non-Voting Members

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sue Hannegan | Bellefonte Borough |
| Doug Holmes (for Teresa Davis) | Penn State University |

Others Present:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Tom Zilla | Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA) |
| Trish Meek | CRPA |
| Greg Kausch | CRPA |
| Lori Shingler | CRPA |
| Vickie Rusnak | PennDOT District 2-0 |
| Lynn Herman | Citizen |

1. Call to Order

Mr. Mose, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. MacMath made a motion to approve the April 11, 2007 meeting minutes. Ms. Story seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

There were no comments for items not on the agenda.

4. Member Reports

Mr. Zilla stated that one of the items that the MPO Expansion Subcommittee has discussed is communication among members and how staff can share information with members and their constituents. A suggestion was made to include member reports on MPO agendas. The reports will provide an opportunity for each member to share information about one or two current topics in their municipality or planning region.

CATA

Mr. Mose reported that CATA's most significant issue right now is the state funding situation. In other areas of the Commonwealth, transit systems are being faced with major service cutbacks and fare increases because the state has not addressed transit funding for some time. CATA is about a year behind some of these other systems related to the funding crisis because they had the advantage of additional federal funds that came in through SAFETEA-LU. However, if the Legislature and the Administration are not able to craft some sort of funding solution by the next fiscal year, CATA will also be faced with very difficult choices due to lack of funding.

Spring Township

Mr. MacMath reported that the Board of Supervisors elected to schedule a public hearing for the new zoning ordinance and map on July 2, after over two years of hard work. Also, the Weis Market complex subdivision is nearing approval with minor transportation and stormwater issues to be addressed.

State College Borough

Ms. Story referred to the Fraser Street realignment and said that the Borough is still working with the development group for Fraser Center. She said the project is currently behind schedule.

Benner Township

Mr. Weikel said that work is continuing on Benner Pike, which has impacts on the businesses along the corridor. In addition, Benner Township is coordinating with Spring Township related to the construction of Cleveland Brothers.

Centre County

Mr. Price reported that staff has worked with the Upper Bald municipalities over the past year to form a regional council of governments. He said the group is now looking at fire protection services and equipment sharing. He noted that the Upper Bald Eagle area is the one area without representation on the Technical Committee and he hoped that this would be one of the offshoots of the council of governments.

Mr. Jacobs stated that County staff continues to coordinate transportation and land use activities. They are working with the Centre Region staff to develop corridor studies, particularly in the Route 550/64 area. Staff is also trying to coordinate potential development activities with needed transportation improvements.

Centre Region

Mr. Crum reported that the regional municipalities have adopted a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Ordinance. Requests to expand the Growth Boundary or to complete significant up-zonings will receive increased regional review. From a transportation standpoint, applicants will have to prepare detailed applications that include analysis of impacts on the transportation network, bicycles, pedestrians and transit.

Harris Township

Mr. Weener stated that the Planning Commission recently forwarded the Official Map to the Board of Supervisors. The draft map includes bikeways, walkways and roads that Harris Township hopes will part of the future development of the Township. He said that the public visioning process will start within the next couple of months.

Penn State University

Mr. Holmes reported on construction projects that will take place this summer that will affect the roadway network. The first is scheduled in July, and will involve the closing of Park Avenue between Bigler and Shortlidge Roads. That project will get utilities from the central part of campus to the law school construction site. There will be no east-bound traffic along Park Avenue and west-bound traffic will be controlled by flagmen. From July to the end of September, the University will be doing a complete re-build of Porter Road from the bottom of the Stadium West parking lot south to College Avenue.

Bellefonte Borough

Ms. Hannegan said that the Borough is working toward adopting new zoning ordinances. She said they hoped to have that done by mid-summer. They are also working with the other municipalities in the Nittany Valley Region to develop a shared service agreement. She said that there are no development proposals as yet for the Bush House site. The Borough is working toward developing guidelines for fire detection and suppression systems in historic buildings. This is a highly respected project by the state and is a huge issue for Bellefonte.

PennDOT District 2-0

Ms. Rusnak said that she was working with the 2007 TIP, trying to keep projects moving forward. The State Transportation Commission hearings are scheduled for August, so she will be updating the 2009 TIP and evaluating bridge projects.

Ms. Michael said that PennDOT has let projects on Port Matilda Mountain and I-80, including the stretch between Milesburg and Bellefonte. Porter Road was just let and she hoped that the Fox Hollow/Park intersection will be let in July. She said that the betterment project in Wingate on Route 220 and the Park and Ride lot at Old Fort continues. She noted that bid prices appear to be leveling off.

PennDOT Central Office

Mr. Nanovic said that he is very pleased with what is going on with the Centre County MPO. The Federal Highway Administration in Washington is demanding a lot of new things. One of the new requirements is the Public Transit and Human Services package that is due at the end of May. He is

extremely pleased with the MPO staff for getting this completed. He also thanked MPO members for working with the staff to get the job done.

Mountaintop Planning Region

Ms. Barbin said that she has gone to the Supervisors meetings to discuss a tie-in with transit service. She mentioned that Devil's Elbow will be repaved this summer, making it difficult to get to work in the Centre Region.

Penns Valley Planning Region

Mr. Hankinson reported that Penns Valley is working on a possible rail trail corridor. There is a rise in this movement and he thought that a study may be funded to look at converting the old railroad beds throughout Penns Valley.

Moshannon Valley Planning Region

Mr. Knowles reported that the big project right now is the Front Street Streetscape project. The contractor is currently working on the sanitary sewer and water lines. The big item of interest is the proposed interchange on I-80 in Rush Township. The MPO has taken a "hands-off" position, although it is a transportation issue and not a political one. There is a lot of interest in Moshannon Valley to get this interchange done.

5. Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Kausch stated that a Coordinated Plan is required for every transit entity in order to access three sources of federal funds: Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC), New Freedom and Section 5310. The plan is an approved project on the current work program funded with supplemental planning funds.

The Plan consists of four main elements, including a comprehensive inventory of public and private human service providers, gaps in the network that would negatively impact the target populations, candidate projects to address the identified gaps and a prioritized list of projects.

The deadline for adoption and submission of this plan is May 31. Mr. Kausch reviewed the timeline for completing the plan. He stated that a Draft Coordinated Plan is out for public review (April 20-May 18). This consists of the foundation information, with basic demographic information on the target populations. Staff has also constructed an inventory of public, private and human service providers. The providers include CATA, the Centre County Office of Transportation Services (CCOT), intercity bus services and taxi companies. Staff is relying on the stakeholders to provide information about what human service agencies offer for their clients. The draft Plan also contains a list of candidate projects from existing documents, including the LRTP, the TIP and agency strategic plans.

Mr. Kausch reviewed candidate projects under each program. For the Section 5310 Program, vehicle replacements for both CATA's Centre Ride service and CCOT's van service are included. For the New Freedom Program, CCOT is proposing a project that would expand their services within their existing hours of service to better connect persons with disabilities to essential services. For JARC, CATA has several potential projects suited to providing access to jobs. Most of these are proposed commuter bus lines.

CCMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Page 5

There will be a series of three stakeholder meetings during the month of May. The first was held on May 1, with 16 people in attendance. Originally, staff had envisioned a three-part series of meetings, but that has evolved into three separate stand alone sessions. So far, staff has learned that most human service agencies rely on CCOT and CATA for transportation services. Unmet needs include critical connections and corridors, but there are also a number of policy and operational issues. Mr. Kausch said that participants want to be involved in the planning process and will do what they can to support transit projects.

Mr. Kausch said that all the MPO members have copies of the draft Coordinated Plan. He asked that comments be forwarded to him before the public comment period ends on May 18. Mr. Zilla added that with the compressed timeframe, there will be no formal recommendation to the Coordinating Committee, but any comments are welcome.

Mr. Mose stated that this is a superb document given the time allowed to complete it. He thanked Mr. Kausch for his dedication to getting this done. He encouraged members to look at the document in depth, saying that there was good information on the level of employment, household income and other census information. As suspected, the greatest need is where transit services are the lowest. He said that we do a good job of providing transit service to the student housing and to Penn State and downtown, but not as good a job at providing essential services to people with low incomes and disabilities. He hoped this served as a catalyst for conversation at the elected official level about how to address this.

6. 2007-2010 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Administrative Actions

Mr. Zilla said that administrative actions do not require action by the MPO, but a table was provided listing recent actions for information purposes. He pointed out that several actions were related to the Route 504 Wingate Betterment. He said that the Spring Mills Bridge continues to deteriorate and there have been emergency funds put into the project.

7. Announcements

Mr. Zilla reviewed upcoming meetings. In June, the key item will be the recommendation to the Coordinating Committee about adoption of the Long Range Transportation Plan 2007 Update.

PennDOT District 2-0 is in the process of developing a Regional Operations Plan (ROP), with the purpose of identifying what can be done with the existing transportation system to make it operate more efficiently. One of the key projects that might come up in our area is a regional transportation management center. In a couple of months, a mini center will be open at the District 2-0 office. Ms. Michael suggested that the MPO could meet in Clearfield in the fall to tour this facility.

Mr. Zilla said that there were a series of conferences held a couple of years ago about coordinating land use and transportation. As an outgrowth of that, the seven economic development entities in the state are leading regional efforts to come up with strategic plans related to this issue. Mr. Zilla encouraged members to attend these meetings. He reviewed some of the objectives which include:

- More land use education opportunities for elected officials and school children
- Changes to the Municipalities Planning Code to strengthen regional approaches to land use planning
- Development of a regional Capital Improvement Program so that people know what is happening with infrastructure items

CCMPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Page 6

- Greater use of GIS systems to identify sites for economic development
- Coordination between all the entities that are involved in this type of issue

A list of contact information for MPO staff was included with the agenda. Mr. Zilla asked that members email or call staff to supply contact information so that it can be distributed on meeting summaries and agendas.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Z. Shingler
Recording Secretary