

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

**Wednesday, January 13, 2010  
9:30 a.m.  
Patton Township Municipal Building**

**Minutes**

**Voting Members**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Brent Brubaker    | Patton Township  |
| Bob Jacobs        | Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (CCPCDO) |
| Sue Hannegan      | CCPCDO   |
| Kent Baker, Chair | College Township   |
| Jim May           | Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)                           |
| Amy Story         | State College Borough  |
| Dave Modricker    | Ferguson Township  |
| Ray Hankinson     | Penns Valley Planning Region                                     |
| Michele Barbin    | Mountaintop Planning Region                                      |
| Hugh Mose         | Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)                      |
| Paul Weener       | Harris Township  |
| Bill MacMath      | Spring Township  |
| Susan Steele      | Halfmoon Township  |
| Karen Michael     | PennDOT District 2-0   |
| Doug Weikel       | Benner Township  |
| Frank Hampton     | PennDOT Central Office   |

**Non-Voting Members**

|               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Dallas Gallo  | Bellefonte Borough             |
| Kathy Dimpsey | Federal Highway Administration |

**Others Present:**

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Randy Albert  | PennDOT District 2-0 |
| Vickie Rusnak | PennDOT District 2-0 |
| Louwana Oliva | CATA                 |
| Tom Zilla     | CRPA                 |
| Trish Meek    | CRPA                 |
| Greg Kausch   | CRPA                 |
| Mike Bloom    | CCPCDO               |
| Lyssa Cromell | CRPA                 |

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

A round of introductions was made for the benefit of the new Committee members. Mr. Zilla introduced two new members: Ms. Susan Steele, Halfmoon Township Manager, and Ms. Kathy Dimpsey of the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Zilla also informed the Committee that Mr. Jan McDonald would be representing the Moshannon Valley Region in 2010. Mr. Mose introduced CATA's new Assistant

General Manager, Ms. Louwana Oliva, who will be overseeing day to day operations, maintenance, and capital projects.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

*Motion was made by Mr. Jacobs and seconded by Mr. MacMath to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2009 CCMPO Technical Committee meeting as presented. The vote in favor was unanimous.*

**3. Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizens' comments.

**4. 2009-2012 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment**

Mr. Zilla reported that PennDOT and MPO staff are proposing that \$435,000 in unobligated funds in the Pavement Restoration Line Item of the 2009-2012 TIP be used to undertake a study of the stormwater drainage system in the Atherton Street corridor. The drainage system under Atherton Street is very old, and there have been incidents of cave-ins and sinkholes in the roadway. This is a major safety concern, because some sections of Atherton Street carry up to 33,000 vehicles per day. The four affected municipalities in the Atherton Street corridor (Patton, Ferguson, and College Townships and the Borough of State College) have jointly submitted the Atherton Street Stormwater Reconstruction Project as a candidate project for the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Zilla stated that there is some debate over who is financially responsible for repairing the road when the underlying drainage system collapses, and that this issue goes beyond the Atherton Street corridor to other curbed sections of state roads throughout the county.

Ms. Michael explained that a State Transportation Advisory Committee task force determined that stormwater drainage systems in curbed sections of state highways are the responsibility of the local municipalities. However, since PennDOT is responsible for the roadway itself, there is a need to determine a strategy for making the necessary repairs.

Mr. Zilla has requested that PennDOT compile a list of similar sections of state roads in Centre County, so that the needs of the other municipalities can be addressed in the LRTP 2040. Mr. Zilla also suggested the need for a line item in future TIPs to set aside funds for these types of repairs.

Mr. Baker pointed out the need for a statewide effort to examine the legal aspects of this issue and told the Committee he plans to compile an issues memo recommending such a study. He identified two main issues which need to be addressed:

1. The definition of maintenance versus capital replacement – capital replacement is not within the funding mechanism of the municipalities or the TIP.
2. The difference between private or municipal permitted projects and those built with state funds – there is an assumption that municipalities should take over the maintenance costs of roads built with state funds.

In response to a question from Mr. Weener, Mr. Zilla stated that the proposed study would examine the stormwater drainage system in the Atherton Street corridor from Valley Vista Drive in Patton Township to Villa Crest Drive in College Township. Harris Township would not be included in the study because the drainage system does not run beneath the roadway. Ms. Meek added that a collapsed section of the

bike path in Harris Township had been replaced through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program using PennDOT materials.

Ms. Story expressed her appreciation to Ms. Michael and Ms. Rusnak for their efforts in helping to address this problem.

*Motion was made by Ms. Story and seconded by Mr. Modricker that the Technical Committee recommend to the Coordinating Committee that the Highway Element of the 2009-2012 TIP be amended to shift \$435,000 in funds from the Pavement Restoration Line Item to the Atherton Street Stormwater Drainage System Study. The vote in favor was unanimous.*

#### **5. PennDOT Local Bridge Retroactive Reimbursement Strategy**

Ms. Rusnak explained that funds may be available in the current TIP for retroactive reimbursement for local bridge projects. This strategy allows a municipality to pay for the design and construction of a bridge project “up-front” and then be reimbursed for 80% of the cost with state funds from the TIP as they become available.

Ms. Rusnak introduced Mr. Randy Albert, PennDOT District 2-0, who distributed a packet of background information, *Retroactive Reimbursement of Local Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Projects*, and provided a PowerPoint presentation illustrating bridge projects that had been completed using this strategy.

Ms. Rusnak concluded by saying that the Draft 2011-2014 TIP includes a line item for retroactive reimbursement for local bridge projects beginning in 2013.

#### **6. Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2040**

Mr. Bloom gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project ranking process for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). To date, there have been 117 candidate projects submitted, totaling just under \$5 million in requests. Submissions have been received from 22 of 35 municipalities, PennDOT, CATA, and PSU; it is anticipated that the public comment period will generate additional project requests.

The Project Ranking Committee has begun ranking candidate projects based on the eight weighted criteria established by the Coordinating Committee in June 2009. The initial results of the technical ranking will be presented in March, and a first draft LRTP project list will be presented in April, at which time policy adjustments may be made by the Coordinating Committee.

Mr. Bloom then presented the revenue assumptions for the fiscal restraint analysis. Base highway and bridge allocations are expected to total approximately \$686 million, not including transit, spike, earmarked, Appalachian Highway Development, or Interstate Maintenance funds.

Mr. Zilla told the Committee that the fiscal constraint analysis will continue during the next few months, and that the revenue assumptions could change as a result of potential actions relating to I-80 tolling and the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill.

A public meeting will be held at the College Township Municipal Building on Thursday, January 28, 2010 from 5:00-8:00 p.m., with a presentation at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to solicit additional input on candidate projects from elected officials and citizens.

**7. FY 2010-11 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Zilla explained that the First Draft 2010-11 UPWP lists the work tasks and actions for the CCMPO for the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) and must be adopted by the Coordinating Committee by February 28, 2010. Guidance from PennDOT, indicates that there is no increase in base funding for FY 2010-11 and the amount of supplemental planning funds available for new projects has not yet been established. PennDOT has identified the need to strengthen the integration of land use and transportation planning, develop performance measures for the LRTP and TIP, and focus on system preservation and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Mr. Zilla briefly reviewed the key tasks in the FY 2010-11 UPWP. The Final Draft UPWP will be presented for the Committee's review at the February 10, 2010 meeting.

**8. FY 2009-10 UPWP**

Mr. Zilla stated that the termination date for two supplemental planning funds projects originally approved in FY 2007-08, Task VII.A. – Coordination of Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Transportation Planning and Task VII.B. – Assessment of Public Transportation Services in Centre County is March 31, 2010.

Because of staffing shortages at the CRPA during 2008 and 2009, Task VII.A. did not advance. As a result, under the direction of PennDOT, MPO staff is requesting that the unexpended balance (approximately \$46,000) be shifted out of the FY 2007-08 UPWP to the FY 2009-10 UPWP to fund the transportation study for the Halfmoon/Patton Land Area Plan.

In response to a question from Mr. Baker regarding the impact of this shift on the budgeting of local matching funds, Mr. Zilla explained that in the COG budget process, local shares are not tied to specific projects.

*Motion was made by Mr. MacMath and seconded by Mr. Brubaker that the Technical Committee recommend to the Coordinating Committee that the FY 2009-10 UPWP be amended to include supplemental planning funds shifted from Task VII.A. in the FY 2007-08 UPWP. The vote in favor was unanimous.*

**9. Announcements**

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on February 10, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the College Township Municipal Building.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the January 13, 2009 MPO Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyssa Cromell  
Recording Secretary