

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

**Wednesday, June 9, 2010  
9:30 a.m.  
College Township Municipal Building**

**Minutes**

**Voting Members**

Kent Baker	College Township
Dave Modricker	Ferguson Township
Susan Steele	Halfmoon Township
Brent Brubaker	Patton Township
Amy Story	State College Borough
Bill MacMath	Spring Township
Sue Hannegan	CCPCDO
Jim May	Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)
Ray Hankinson	Penns Valley Planning Region
Michele Barbin	Mountaintop Planning Region
Irv Hoy	Lower Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region
Hugh Mose	Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)
Vickie Rusnak for Karen Michael	PennDOT District 2-0
Dean Roberts	PennDOT Central Office

**Non-Voting Members**

Dallas Gallo	Bellefonte Borough
Kathy Dimpsey	Federal Highway Administration

**Others Present:**

Tom Zilla	CRPA
Trish Meek	CRPA
Greg Kausch	CRPA
Lyssa Cromell	CRPA
Tyler Stoner	PennDOT Central Office
Matthew Long	PennDOT Central Office
Casey Markey	PennDOT Central Office
Nick Malawskey	Centre Daily Times

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

*Motion was made by Mr. MacMath and seconded by Ms. Story to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2010 CCMPO Technical Committee meeting as presented. The vote in favor was unanimous.*

**3. Citizens' Comments**

There were none.

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

Ms. Meek presented the Final Draft Project Lists for the Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2040. She stated that the Coordinating Committee had approved several recommendations from the Policy Adjustment Subcommittee for adjustments to the technical ranking of projects, and that these adjustments had been incorporated into the Final Draft Project Lists. On June 22, the Coordinating Committee will consider approval of the fiscally constrained project lists for an Air Quality Conformity Analysis and public comment. The 30-day public comment period is tentatively scheduled to begin in July, and the Final Draft LRTP will be presented for adoption in September.

*Motion was made by Mr. Hankinson and seconded by Ms. Hannegan to recommend that the Coordinating Committee approve the Final Draft Project Lists for an Air Quality Conformity Analysis and public comment. The motion carried unanimously.*

**5. 2011-2014 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**a. Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Resolution**

Mr. Zilla explained that because Centre County has been designated as a "maintenance" area for ozone, the preparation of an air quality conformity analysis is required for the CCMPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report for the Final Draft 2011-2014 TIP shows that the forecasted emissions are lower than the budgeted amounts, and conformity requirements for ozone are satisfied. No public comments were received.

An Air Quality Conformity resolution is also required for submission of the TIP, and the draft 2010 Air Quality Conformity Resolution was included in the agenda packet for the Committee's review.

*Motion was made by Mr. MacMath and seconded by Mr. Hankinson to recommend that the Coordinating Committee approve the 2010 Centre County Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report and adopt the 2010 Air Quality Conformity Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.*

**b. Final Draft TIP**

Mr. Zilla reported that the public comment period for the Final Draft 2011-2014 TIP will conclude at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15, 2010.

Mr. Zilla then reviewed the project priorities for the 2011-2014 TIP. The focus is on Structurally Deficient (SD) bridges, and there are 21 bridge and box culvert projects on the Final Draft TIP. There are also line items for SD Bridges, Bridge Maintenance and Preservation, and Local Bridge Retroactive Reimbursement.

Full funding is included for the Route 350 Sandy Ridge S-curve, Route 550 Bishop Street Betterment, Route 150 Congested Corridors Program improvements, SR 3014 North Atherton Street Signal Improvements, SR 3018 Whitehall Road/University Drive Extension, and the Old Fort Park and Ride Lot.

Three projects are only partially funded on the 2011-2014 TIP and will need additional funding in the next TIP cycle. More funding is needed for the Route 322 corridor safety improvements (total shortfall of \$2.1 million; federal earmarked funding will be sought), Route 26 (Jacksonville Road) Betterment, and Route 26 Pine Grove Mountain Lower Escape Ramp.

Mr. Kausch then reviewed the project priorities for transit. The main focus is on operating assistance, followed by fixed route vehicle rebuilds and replacements, CATA's advanced technology initiative, new and replacement vanpool vans, paratransit vans for the CCOT, and the expansion of CATA's operations and maintenance facility. Mr. Kausch noted that the Transit Element requires a few minor revisions, because the funding sources for some projects have changed. The total amount, however, will remain the same.

Mr. Zilla reported on the public comments received to date. There have been two comments in relation to the 2011-2014 TIP. One from a Philipsburg area resident regarding commuter bus service between Philipsburg and State College, and one from a Rush Township resident regarding the status of the Route 350 S-curve project and the location of the truck pull-off at the top of Sandy Ridge.

Mr. Zilla then reviewed the adoption schedule for the 2011-2014 TIP. The CCMPO Coordinating Committee will consider adoption of the Final Draft 2011-2014 TIP on June 22, for submission to PennDOT by July 15, 2010. The State Transportation Commission will consider its approval in August, followed by the FHWA and FTA in September. It is anticipated that the 2011-2014 TIP will take effect on October 1, 2010.

In response to a question from Mr. Modricker, Mr. Kausch stated that for budgeting purposes, the life expectancy of a paratransit vehicle is five years, but typically the useful life is somewhat greater.

*Motion was made by Mr. Modricker and seconded by Ms. Story to recommend that the Coordinating Committee adopt the 2011-2014 TIP, with the necessary revisions to the funding sources in the Transit element. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **c. Procedures for TIP Modifications**

Mr. Zilla stated that the Procedures for TIP Modifications must be updated with each new TIP based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PennDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The procedures define "amendments," which require formal action, and "administrative actions," which do not. Most of the current revisions are based on format; the few policy element revisions were presented at the May 12, 2010 meeting.

*Motion was made by Mr. Mose and seconded by Mr. Hannegan to recommend that the Coordinating Committee approve the adoption of the new Procedures for TIP Modifications. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **6. Federal Transportation Planning Process Certification**

Mr. Zilla noted that with each TIP update, each MPO is required to certify that its planning process is in compliance with all applicable Federal regulations. Because the CCMPO is small, it is subject to self-certification. A draft Self-Certification Resolution was included in the agenda packet for the Committee's review.

*Motion was made by Mr. Hankinson and seconded by Ms. Barbin to recommend that the Coordinating Committee approve the resolution certifying the CCMPO's compliance with all applicable federal transportation planning regulations. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **7. Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program**

Ms. Meek reported that as part of the guidance for the development of the 2011-2014 TIP, the PennDOT Central Office indicated there would be no formal funding round for Transportation Enhancements (TE) projects in 2010. However, because all previously-approved TE projects in Centre County are advancing to construction, the CCMPO must allocate TE line item funds in years 2012, 2013, and 2014 (2011 TE funds have been allocated to the Centre Hall Streetscape project).

Ms. Meek reviewed the tentative schedule for the 2010 TE application cycle. A draft application and evaluation criteria will be developed in consultation with the existing TE Review Committee. The application period is expected to run from October through December 2010, with project selection in March 2011.

Mr. Hankinson inquired about the types of projects for which TE funds can be used. Ms. Meek replied that a list of eligible categories as defined by federal law will be provided as the process moves forward.

In response to a question from Mr. Roberts regarding the amount of TE funding available, Ms. Meek stated there is \$315,000 in 2011; \$318,000 in 2012; \$331,000 in 2013; and \$344,000 in 2014.

Mr. Zilla pointed out that the future availability of TE funds is subject to federal transportation funding reauthorization. Ms. Meek added, however, that these projects would still be eligible for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.

Ms. Meek noted that in order to undertake larger projects, municipalities may partner with state agencies such as the DCNR.

Mr. Zilla credited Ms. Meek for working with project sponsors to make sure all available funds are utilized.

## **8. Project Update**

Ms. Rusnak provided an update on Centre County projects that are scheduled to go out for bid during the current calendar year.

Mr. Modricker asked whether any PennDOT paving projects would involve roads in Ferguson Township. In response, Ms. Rusnak offered to provide a map, which Mr. Zilla will distribute.

In response to a question from Ms. Hannegan regarding the pave and mark project on State Route 144, Ms. Rusnak stated that some of the damage was likely related to the natural gas drilling industry.

Mr. Modricker pointed out that because of a change in funding sources, the new estimate for the Old Gatesburg Road project from Science Park Road to Blue Course Drive is \$4 million. In response to a question from Mr. Baker, Mr. Zilla clarified that this is a local road that was added to the federal aid system in order to qualify for Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) funding.

**9. Announcements**

The MPO Coordinating Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building.

Mr. Zilla explained that at its June 22 meeting, the Coordinating Committee plans to discuss taking a formal position on the transportation funding issue. Information regarding potential revenue sources, as well as the State Transportation Commission's *Transportation Funding Study*, will be posted on the CCMPO website on Thursday, June 10. The testimony and presentations given by CCMPO Chair Dan Klees and MPO staff at the June 1, 2010 Pennsylvania House of Representatives Transportation and Policy Committees' public hearing will also be included.

A public meeting for the Whitehall Road widening project will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2010 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building.

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at a location to be determined.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the June 9, 2010 MPO Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyssa Cromell  
Recording Secretary