



**CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
RESOLUTION 2023-2**

**A RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION  
FOR JAMES J. MAY ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 14 YEARS OF SERVICE  
BY THE CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, Jim began his tenure with the Centre Region Planning Agency (CRPA) on June 15, 2009, as the Planning Director and currently leads the regional, local, transportation, and sustainability planning programs as the administrator for the CRPA and is responsible for oversight of staff members who provide direct support to multiple COG and County committees, planning commissions, and municipal boards; and

**WHEREAS**, under Jim's direct leadership, an extensive update of the Centre Region Comprehensive Plan, a unique multi-municipal plan for the six Centre Region municipalities dating back to the 1960s, was completed and adopted in 2013, which included dozens of goals, policies, and objectives that help guide officials when making decisions that shape the future of the Centre Region; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim's efforts to prepare the 2013 Comprehensive Plan included closely related work to update the Regional Growth Boundary (RGB) and Sewer Service Area (SSA), which included a new Implementation Agreement that provided more detailed procedures providing greater flexibility to officials for amending the RGB and SSA, as well as the development of the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Program (CHIP) to ensure that Comprehensive Plan goals and policies were actively implemented through municipal and regional actions; and

**WHEREAS**, under Jim's leadership, the CRPA actively planned for a variety of successful programs by:

- Supporting and guiding the transition of a CRPA transportation planning position to be more focused on the planning and implementation of bicycle and pedestrian improvements, which led to the designation of the Centre Region as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists in 2012; the preparation of the 2015 Centre Region Bike Plan; the implementation of a popular community outreach and bike education program; and the development of multiple shared-use paths that have significantly expanded the Centre Region's capacity to sustain safe and efficient bike and pedestrian travel; and
- Successfully supporting and guiding the development of the Centre Region's first-ever Sustainability Program, and overseeing the growth of the program from the initial completion of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory to the preparation of the 2022 Centre Region Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, and then to the initial implementation efforts related to renewable energy; and
- Overseeing the shift of the Centre Region's Refuse and Recycling Program from the COG Administration office to the CRPA, to closely align the program to the Sustainability Planning Program; and
- Leading the CRPA through several significant challenges in the administrative arena, including the completion of a multi-year process to consolidate the former COG Transportation and Land Use Committee and Public Services Committee into one Land Use and Community Infrastructure Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim played a lead role in facilitating and preparing other unique reports and planning documents to address special requests from officials relative to a broad range of topics, such as the Economic Development Assessment of the Centre Region, Best Practices for Development Review and Permitting, the Centre Region Shared Land Use Study, State of Housing Report, Primary-Scale Solar Study and Toolkit, Planning Commissioner Handbook, Zoning Validity Challenges Handbook, Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, Wastewater Treatment and Beneficial Reuse Report, and completion of an operations-based Strategic Plan for the CCMPO; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim participated in the development of multi-municipal planning efforts including the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan, Halfmoon Township Small Area Plan, Dale Summit Small Area Plan, and helped to facilitate and coordinate the review and approval of multiple amendments to the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan, including expansion of beneficial reuse water into Harris Township, the Big Hollow Sewer Interceptor Overflow Mitigation Project, the Special Study for the Pennsylvania State University Water Reuse System, and the Calder Way Special Study; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim served as Secretary of the CCMPO Coordinating Committee, providing oversight of the transportation planning staff supporting the CCMPO; working with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Centre Area Transportation Authority, and other partners to implement hundreds of millions of dollars in transportation services and improvements across multiple transportation modes that will serve travelers in the Centre Region and Centre County for decades to come; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim provided strong leadership to the CRPA during the workplace disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, including guiding efforts to develop new operating procedures for the CRPC, the COG Committees supported by the CRPA, and the CCMPO Committees. Several major planning projects were completed by the CRPA and CCMPO on time and without major disruption while the staff was primarily working remotely during the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim has embodied honest and effective communication and teamwork that has been valued by elected officials and colleagues in the Centre Region due to his helpfulness, responsiveness, and overall good nature; and

**WHEREAS**, as Jim retires from his position as Planning Director, the Centre Region Council of Governments staff and the members of the General Forum wish to express their admiration and appreciation for his leadership, commitment, and years of service to the COG and the residents of the Centre Region.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the General Forum of the Centre Region Council of Governments, honors, thanks, and commends Jim for 14 years of service and guidance in the planning field, and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

**RESOLVED** this *twenty-third day of October 2023*, meeting in regular session.

Attest:

  
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Eric Norenberg  
Executive Director, Centre Region COG

By:

  
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Jesse Barlow  
Chair, Centre Region COG