Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO)  
Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting

Regular Items  
And  
Presentations for  
Transportation Enhancements Projects

Tuesday, January 25, 2011  
6:00 pm

Please Note the Location:  
Ferguson Township Municipal Building

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Citizen Comments: For items not on the agenda.

Action Items for Coordinating Committee Only

3. Election of Officers for 2011

4. Approval of Minutes: November 23, 2010 Coordinating Committee meeting.

5. FY 2010-11 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):  
   Time extension amendment for supplemental planning funds project  
   Action: Amend UPWP

6. FY 2009-10 UPWP:  
   Time extension amendment for supplemental planning funds project  
   Action: Amend UPWP

Presentations for Transportation Enhancements Projects

7. Overview of the 2010-2011 Transportation Enhancements Program  
   No action required – presentation only

   Trish Meek, Transportation Planner  
   Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)

8. Transportation Enhancements Project Presentations  
   No action required – presentations only

   a. State College Borough - Allen Street/University Drive Shared Bicycle/Pedestrian  
      Path Connection

      Amy Story  
      State College Borough Engineer
b. Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society - Rail Passenger Car Restoration

Andrew Richards
Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society

c. Ferguson Township – Pine Grove Mills Streetscape Phase 2
Option 1: SR 45 and SR 26; Option 2: SR 45

Dave Modricker
Ferguson Township Public Works Director

d. Bellefonte Borough – Bellefonte Waterfront River Walk

Ralph Stewart
Bellefonte Borough Manager

Don Holdeman
Bellefonte Borough Assistant Borough Manager

e. Howard Borough – Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail

Deborah Simoneck
Howard Borough Park and Recreation Committee

f. CATA – Beaver Avenue Streetscape Project – Public Art

Jacqueline Sheader
CATA Marketing Director

g. Patton Township – Circleville Path

Joe Price
Senior Planner, Centre Regional Planning Agency

h. State College Borough – State College Bicycle Ambassadors Program

Courtney Hayden
State College Borough Environmental AmeriCorps Member

9. Announcements

10. Adjourn

Next Coordinating Committee meeting:
Tuesday, February 22, 2011
6:00 pm
Centre Region COG Building
JANUARY 25, 2011 MEETING

ITEM 3

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Coordinating Committee should elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2011. In 2010, Dan Klees (College Township) served as Chair, and Jadine Reese (Upper Bald Eagle Valley Region) served as Vice-Chair of the Coordinating Committee.

Voting members of the Coordinating Committee include:

- Centre County Board of Commissioners, Jon Eich
- Centre County Board of Commissioners, Bob Jacobs
- Benner Township, John Elnitski
- College Township, Dan Klees
- Ferguson Township, George Pytel
- Halfmoon Township, Barbara Spencer
- Harris Township, Paul Rittenhouse
- Patton Township, Jeff Luck
- Spring Township, Dave Capperella
- State College Borough, Theresa Lafer
- Penns Valley Planning Region, Bob Corman
- Lower Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region, Richard Watters
- Upper Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region, Jadine Reese
- Moshannon Valley Planning Region, Mike Savage
- Mountaintop Planning Region, Ken Hall
- Centre Area Transportation Authority, John Spychalski
- Centre Regional Planning Commission, Ronald Buckalew
- PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg), Larry Shifflet
- PennDOT District 2-0 Office (Clearfield), Kevin Kline

Non-voting members of the Coordinating Committee include:

- Bellefonte Borough, Paul DeCusati
- Pennsylvania State University, Rob Cooper
- Federal Highway Administration, Kathy Dimpsey
- Federal Transit Administration, (open)

The Coordinating Committee should also appoint a Secretary. Traditionally, the Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA) Director serves as the CCMPO Secretary. Jim May, CRPA Director, was appointed as the Secretary in 2010.

Presented by: Jim May, CCMPO Secretary

Action: Election of officers and appointment of a Secretary for 2011.
FY 2010-11 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Time Extension Amendment for Supplemental Planning Funds Project

The CCMPO’s FY 2010-11 UPWP includes supplemental planning funds for:

- Task VII.A. – Update Travel Demand Model and Socioeconomic Forecast Data

The termination date for this task is June 30, 2011.

The consultant team of Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP (WRA) continues to complete work on the model update, which is focused on:

- Evaluating projects in the new Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2040
- Development of specific projects
- Assessment of projects for land use and comprehensive planning purposes
- Future air quality conformity analysis
- Implementing Linking Planning and NEPA initiatives for the new 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Providing information about performance measures for the LRTP and TIP

Because the modeling work is expected to continue through spring 2012 to accommodate development of the new 2013-2016 TIP, staff recommends that the termination date of the task be extended from June 30, 2011 to March 31, 2012, with no change in the funding amount.

Staff will not provide a presentation, but will answer questions. The Technical Committee has recommended that the Coordinating Committee amend the FY 2010-11 UPWP.

The Coordinating Committee should consider action to amend the FY 2010-11 UPWP to extend the termination date for supplemental planning funds Task VII.A.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

Action: Amend the CCMPO’s FY 2010-11 UPWP to extend the termination date for Task VII.A. from June 30, 2011 to March 31, 2012, with no change in the funding amount.
The CCMPO’s FY 2009-10 UPWP includes supplemental planning funds for:

- Task VII.A. – Moshannon Valley Park and Ride Study
  [funded through Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI)]

The termination date for this task is June 30, 2011.

Following an extensive consultant selection process that occurred over several months in 2010, the consultant team of McCormick Taylor Inc. (MT) was retained to complete the study, and work began in November 2010. A formal kick-off meeting was held in December 2010, and MT continues to complete tasks for the study.

The scope of services negotiated with MT shows that the project will be completed in late 2011, with the presentation of results potentially extending into early 2012. Because the study will not be completed until after June 30, 2011, staff recommends that the termination date of the task be extended from June 30, 2011 to March 31, 2012, with no change in the funding amount.

Staff will not provide a presentation, but will answer questions. The Technical Committee has recommended that the Coordinating Committee amend the FY 2009-10 UPWP.

The Coordinating Committee should consider action to amend the FY 2009-10 UPWP to extend the termination date for supplemental planning funds Task VII.A.

Presented by:  Tom Zilla, CRPA

Action: Amend the CCMPO’s FY 2009-10 UPWP to extend the termination date for Task VII.A. from June 30, 2011 to March 31, 2012, with no change in the funding amount.
Overview of Process

When the guidance for development of the 2011-2014 TIP was prepared in 2009, PennDOT indicated that a statewide application cycle for TE projects would not be held in 2010. However, in MPO/RPO areas where all previously-approved projects have advanced, TE funds from the 2011-2014 TIP may be utilized for additional projects, as determined by the MPO/RPO.

In September 2010, the Coordinating Committee approved a process and schedule for evaluating and making recommendations about funding for candidate TE projects in the 2010-2011 application cycle. The application process was initiated in early October, and the deadline for submission of applications was December 22. Nine (9) applications were submitted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Funding Requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellefonte Borough</td>
<td>Bellefonte Waterfront River Walk</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society</td>
<td>Bellefonte Rail Passenger Car Restoration</td>
<td>$295,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATA</td>
<td>Beaver Avenue Streetscape Project – Public Art</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferguson Township</td>
<td>Pine Grove Mills Streetscape Phase 2 – Option 1 SR45 and SR 26</td>
<td>$566,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferguson Township</td>
<td>Pine Grove Mills Streetscape Phase 2 – Option 2 SR 45</td>
<td>$229,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Borough</td>
<td>Howard Borough Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail</td>
<td>$267,950</td>
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<td>Patton Township</td>
<td>Circleville Road Path</td>
<td>$351,498</td>
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<td>State College Borough</td>
<td>South Allen Street/University Drive Shared Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Connection</td>
<td>$63,250</td>
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<td>State College Borough</td>
<td>State College Bicycle Ambassadors Program</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff will provide an overview about the evaluation process and schedule. The sponsors of the projects will then provide presentations.

Attached is:

- Centre County TE Program Evaluation Criteria

The Coordinating Committee should receive the staff report and sponsor presentations, and provide questions and comments.

Please refer to the attachments for more project information.

Presented by: Trish Meek, CRPA

No action required
JANUARY 25, 2011 MEETING

ITEM 8

2010-2011 TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS (TE) PROGRAM
PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

a. **State College Borough** - Allen Street/University Drive Shared Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Connection

b. **Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society** - Rail Passenger Car Restoration

c. **Ferguson Township** – Pine Grove Mills Streetscape Phase 2
   Option 1: SR 45 and SR 26;  Option 2: SR 45

d. **Bellefonte Borough** – Bellefonte Waterfront River Walk

e. **Howard Borough** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail

f. **CATA** – Beaver Avenue Streetscape Project – Public Art

g. **Patton Township** – Circleville Path

h. **State College Borough** – State College Bicycle Ambassadors Program
JANUARY 25, 2011 MEETING

ITEM 9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Future Meeting Dates

   a. Technical Committee: Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 9:30 am
      College Township Municipal Building
      - Election of Officers
      - FY 2011-12 UPWP
      - 2011-2014 TIP
      - Inventory of local transportation assets
      - Member reports

   b. Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 6:00 pm
      Centre Region COG Building
      - FY 2011-12 UPWP
      - 2011-2014 TIP
      - Presentation about Marcellus Shale impacts
      - Presentation from SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority
      - Membership subcommittee report

2. On January 6, 2011, PennDOT announced that 42 projects across the Commonwealth were approved for funding from the second cycle of the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI). For a complete list of the approved projects, please visit http://www.smart-transportation.com/pcti.html.

   One of seven candidate projects from Centre County was approved for funding. The State College Universal Transit Access Study sponsored by CATA was awarded $100,000. The study will focus on documenting the impacts, costs, and benefits associated with providing universal access to transit (no fare) in the community. Major tasks to be completed in the study include:

   I  Review CATA operating and ridership data
   II Define “universal access” relative to Penn State University users
   III Model CATA operating and ridership data under a universal access scenario
   IV Assess impacts to CATA human resources, rolling stock, and infrastructure
   V  Define the fiscal implications of a universal access system
   VI Assess impacts in the community (traffic volumes, travel patterns, land use, etc.)
   VII Define impacts to CATA operating policies and procedures
   VIII Conduct cost-benefit analysis
   IX If worth pursuing based on Task VIII, develop an implementation plan
   X  Final plan and report

   More information about the project, and about how the PCTI funding will be made available to CATA, will be provided by staff at a future meeting.
3. On January 12, 2011, Governor-elect Tom Corbett announced that Mr. Barry Schoch has been nominated to be the new Commonwealth Secretary of Transportation, succeeding PennDOT Secretary Allen Biehler. Mr. Schoch is currently a Vice President of McCormick Taylor, Inc., a transportation consulting firm based in Pennsylvania, and is very familiar with transportation issues in Centre County, having worked on the Route 322 Corridor O1, South Central Centre County Transportation Study (SCCCTS), and I-80 Toll Conversion projects.

4. On December 16, 2010, the attached correspondence was received from the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors requesting the CCMPO to revise the formula for distributing the local funding shares in the annual MPO Budget. The Coordinating Committee may discuss the request at its February 22, 2011 meeting.

5. Mr. Jeff Stover, Executive Director of the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority (JRA), will attend the February 22, 2011 Coordinating Committee meeting to provide a presentation about the JRA’s rail activities in Centre County and Central Pennsylvania. The JRA and its associated railroad operators continue to provide high quality rail service to many industries, which has played a key role in reducing truck traffic on the area’s roadways. In late 2010, the SEDA-COG JRA was awarded $10 million from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II program for rail and roadway improvements needed to address the rapidly increasing demand for rail services from the Marcellus shale industry.

6. In late December 2010, the U.S. Congress approved the extension of a Continuing Resolution (CR) that permits federal transportation funding to be spent for highway and transit projects. The legislation was signed into law on December 22, and extends the CR deadline to March 4, 2011. The CR authorizes federal funding to be spent at levels originally specified in the SAFETEA-LU transportation legislation, which expired on September 30, 2009. Congress and the Obama Administration are expected to work on a new long-term transportation authorization bill in spring 2011. As more information emerges from the ongoing discussions about a new bill, stakeholders have raised concern that the long-term economic outlook and the state of the federal budget may limit the level of funding in the next transportation authorization legislation. Staff will continue to coordinate with PennDOT and federal legislators to monitor the status of the new legislation, and will provide reports to the CCMPO as more information becomes available.

In a related matter, in January 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a new rules package that could affect transportation funding. The new package repealed a rule instituted in 1998, which required lawmakers to appropriate funds at the level authorized in transportation legislation. The 1998 rule was intended to ensure that gas tax revenues in the Highway Trust Fund were appropriated for transportation programs, and not used as a mechanism to help balance the federal budget.

There has been considerable debate about the impact of the new rules, but many organizations in the transportation industry have expressed concern that the new rules will permit the House Appropriations Committee and the full Congress to appropriate transportation funds at a level less than authorized. For example, although the December 2010 extension of the CR authorizes funding at the SAFETEA-LU levels, the development of a FFY 2011 appropriations bill under the new rules may include less funds than the authorized level.

U.S. Representative Glenn Thompson is aware of the concerns about the new rules, and indicated that he supports maintaining the integrity of the Highway Trust Fund by ensuring that user fees are directed to transportation programs. Rep. Thompson also indicated that he will continue to advocate for a full reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU in the new session of Congress.
7. PennDOT has developed and activated a new website that provides an online map and other information about projects on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for each MPO and RPO in the Commonwealth. The website is an excellent source of information about TIP projects. The link is:  
[http://www.dot7.state.pa.us/tip_visualization/?RegionID=CEN](http://www.dot7.state.pa.us/tip_visualization/?RegionID=CEN)

8. CCMPO staff contact information:

Centre Regional Planning Agency  
2643 Gateway Drive  
State College, PA  16801

Telephone:  814-231-3050  
Fax:  814-231-3083

Jim May, Director  
Tom Zilla, Principal Transportation Planner  
Trish Meek, Senior Transportation Planner  
Greg Kausch, Senior Transportation Planner  
Lyssa Cromell, Office Manager

[imay@crcog.net](mailto:imay@crcog.net)  
[tzilla@crcog.net](mailto:tzilla@crcog.net)  
[tmeek@crcog.net](mailto:tmeek@crcog.net)  
[gkausch@crcog.net](mailto:gkausch@crcog.net)  
[lcromell@crcog.net](mailto:lcromell@crcog.net)

Centre County Plng & Community Dev. Office  
420 Holmes Street – Willowbank Office Building  
Bellefonte, PA  16823

Telephone:  814-355-6791  
Fax:  814-355-8661

Bob Jacobs, Director  
Sue Hannegan, Assistant Director  
Mike Bloom, Senior Transportation Planner

[rbjacobs@co.centre.pa.us](mailto:rbjacobs@co.centre.pa.us)  
[shannegan@co.centre.pa.us](mailto:shannegan@co.centre.pa.us)  
[dmbloom@co.centre.pa.us](mailto:dmbloom@co.centre.pa.us)

On the web at [www.ccmpo.net](http://www.ccmpo.net).