

CENTRE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Tylka called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Mann.

Members Present: Eric Bernier, College Township; Mark Higgins, Centre County Board of Commissioners; Amber Concepcion, Centre County Board of Commissioners; Lisa Strickland, Ferguson Township; Frank Harden, Harris Township; Matt Herndon, State College Borough; David Veneziano, Lower Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region; Keith Reese, Upper Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region; Eric Rusnak, Moshannon Valley Planning Region; Jeanne Bacon, Mountaintop Planning Region; Doug Johnson, Nittany Valley Planning Region; Dick Decker, Penns Valley Planning Region; William Burnett, Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC); Nate Walker, PennDOT Central Office; Tom Prestash, PennDOT District 2-0; Gene Porochniak, FHWA.

Others Present: Mike Tylka, Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA); Jim Saylor, CRPA; Greg Kausch, CRPA; Anne Messner, CRPA; Marcella Hoffman, CRPA; Reagan Mann, CRPA; Liz Lose, Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (CCPCDO); Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker International; Kevin James, Michael Baker International; Eric Murnyack, PennDOT Central Office; Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office; Lori Miller, Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA); David Rishel, CATA; Rich Deen.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (00:02:22)

Mr. Tylka opened the floor for nominations for the Coordinating Committee Chair.

Motion was made by Mr. Burnett, seconded by Commissioner Concepcion to nominate Mr. Bernier for the 2025 Coordinating Committee Chair. No other nominations were made. The motion carried 13-0. (Commissioner Higgins was not present for this vote.)

Mr. Bernier opened the floor for nominations for the Coordinating Committee Vice-Chair.

Motion was made by Mr. Decker and seconded by Mr. Herndon to nominate Commissioner Higgins for the 2025 Coordinating Committee Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. The motion carried 13-0.

Mr. Bernier appointed Mr. Tylka as MPO Secretary with consent from the Committee.

SAFETY MOMENT: OLDER DRIVER AWARENESS (00:06:19)

Ms. Messner brought attention to older driver awareness, giving the Committee a brief overview, and providing an educational video to the Committee to review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (00:07:20)

There were no comments from the public.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS (00:07:40)

No new agenda items were requested.

CONSENT AGENDA (00:07:59)

a. Approval of Minutes – November 24, 2024, Coordinating Committee.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Mr. Burnett and seconded by Commissioner Concepcion. Motion passed 13-0.

STATE COLLEGE AREA CONNECTOR (SCAC) PROJECT (00:08:33)

Mr. James provided the Committee with an update on the SCAC project. As mentioned at the November meeting, the last public meeting was in August of 2024. A lot of feedback was gathered from that public meeting, and a summary report is in review with FHWA. There is anticipation of receiving approval in the near future to release the summary report to the public as well as a press release. CATA provided feedback in the report on ways to respond to certain transit-related input, and this information will be included as well. Additionally, the team has worked on refinement of the alternatives that were presented at the August public meeting and have updated the potential impacts. In December, Mr. James and his team met with the MPO Safety Subcommittee in relation to the western interchange near PA 45 and US 322. A single point urban interchange was presented at the meeting, with other alternatives also presented to the subcommittee. Follow up information will be provided through the Environmental Impact Statement Memo. It is anticipated that more information will be provided to the public in late spring and early summer to share the refined alternative information as well as a recommended preferred alternative to move forward with. Mr. James' team has worked with FHWA and other supporting agencies to update the project schedule to be in compliance for completion. Mr. James is looking to get the final Environmental Impact Statement and record of decision by July of 2026.

2025 CENTRE COUNTY MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE (00:15:16)

Mr. Murnyack presented the Committee with an update of major projects in Centre County. Mr. Murnyack provided information on several Active Construction Projects, including;

- SR80-B38 I-80 Bridge Replacements
- SR80-B18 Bellefonte Interchange
- SR26-147 Jacksonville Road Betterment
- SR45-TSA Pine Grove Mills Bike/Ped
- T-633 Lower Georges Valley Rd – Potter Run Bdg.

Mr. Murnyack went on to provide information on several projects in the design phase, including:

- SR322-RMB Rumble Strips
- SR3006-A04 Mill Race Structure in Bellefonte
- SR26-P53 Over Spring Creek, near Houserville Rd
- SR26-TSA College Twp TASA
- SR4005-A02 Bridge over I-80
- SR3014-154 Atherton Street Phase IV
- SR150-N40 Phoenix Ave Study in Bellefonte

- SR322-D10 State College Area Connectors (SCAC)
- SR45-STY SR 45 Study

The Committee offered questions and discussions on the following:

- Safety for bicycle paths, including signs and signals.
- Different components of the Presqueisle Street Bridge Project, and if there is still opportunity for input.
- The possibility of extending the Atherton traffic calming study all the way to Boals Ave.

Mr. Bernier thanked Mr. Murnyack for the update.

2025-2028 CENTRE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP) REVISIONS (00:41:26)

a) Centre County Concrete Preservation

Mr. Saylor presented the amendment summary for the Centre County Concrete Preservation on the TIP, also called the Sinking Slab Project that Mr. Murnyack mentioned, that would reallocate funding for I-99 locations back to the reserve line item. PennDOT applied for and received money through the interstate management program to complete work at the I-99 location. PennDOT is proposing to return the funding originally allocated to the I-99 location back to the Regional Poor Bridge/ Betterment line item.

Motion was made by Mr. Burnett and seconded by Commissioner Higgins to approve the TIP revisions as presented. The motion carried 14-0.

b) 322 Rumble Strip Project

Mr. Saylor presented the amendment summary for the 322 Rumble Strip project that adds additional funding to address more locations (SR 26, SR 144, SR 504, Alt US 220). PennDOT went back and reviewed additional data to identify these other locations to install the rumble strips.

Motion was made by Mr. Reese and seconded by Mr. Burnett to approve the TIP revisions as presented. The motion carried 14-0.

2025 CENTRE COUNTY MPO COMMITTEE WORKPLAN (00:51:06)

Mr. Saylor presented an overview of the 2025 CCMPO Workplan to the Committee. The workplan is a high-level outline of what the CCMPO anticipates accomplishing in 2025. The workplan consists of table overviews of the accomplished 2024 tasks, the 2025 meeting schedule, and major plan updates for 2025, by plan and month. Other components in the workplan include major work areas like safety planning, planning studies, transit planning, agenda items by meeting for the Coordinating and Technical Committees, as well as roughly five opportunities for public comment. When public comment periods arise, information will be shared ahead of time with the Committees. Lastly, possible focus areas for the Technical Committee meetings was presented. This allows the Technical Committee members to suggest items they would like to focus on more. This is a rough outline of what the CCMPO will be doing over 2025.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2055 UPDATE (00:55:38)

Mr. Funkhouser presented the Committee with an LRTP 2055 update with two specific items including use of the MPO travel demand model as well as GIS mapping tools. Mr. Funkhouser highlighted some of the data sources that could be integrated into the LRTP. One of the items is a

demand travel model that had been used to forecast traffic volumes, travel time, and travel patterns for the SCAC. INREX is a provider of travel time data, including travel speeds and congestion. PennDOT has purchased INREX for statewide use. Another tool being used is Replica, which brings together all these data sources to allow different ways to analyze the data and extract it. Mr. Funkhouser stated that the INRIX data source will be very valuable to LRTP, specifically using it to analyze congestion in the area. Mr. Funkhouser provided a map of 2024 Average Weekday Congestion in the area, highlighting hotspots. The Committee was provided with a link to the online mapping tool to see how the different data is shown. Another visualization provided through a graph was Saturday Football Weekend congestion by date, showing specific hotspot times. The last graph provided was a 2024 Regional Daily Delay Totals, showing congestion on certain days and months. Some notable hotspots with significant results are students coming back from holiday breaks. The next steps for data integration with the LRTP is to identify what needs to be included (congestion, highlighting traffic growth, impacts on travel) and identifying what can be future action items in the LRTP.

Mr. Funkhouser briefly presented the National Highway Freight Network Map, showing how Centre County is connected and being served to the network as well as the USA Freeway System. PennDOT receives a little over \$50 million a year to help support these systems in Pennsylvania. Mr. Funkhouser visualized the Annual Average Daily Traffic to the Committee, along with visualizations of Electric Vehicles in the County, Federal Aid Roads, and Functional Classification. Mr. Funkhouser briefly reviewed the LRTP schedule, stating that it is on schedule. Looking ahead to upcoming tasks, a majority of time will be spent on developing strategic directions, developing a financial plan, and project prioritization over the next several months. Financial guidance reports for the LRTP anticipated to come out in the spring. These numbers will provide a forecast the amount of revenue that the MPO will receive.

The Committee offered no comments or questions.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE UPDATE (01:09:38)

Ms. Hoffman reported that the Projects Committee met on January 30, 2025, for its reorganizational meeting. The 2025 Chair and Vice Chair are Commissioner Concepcion from Centre County and Mr. Rishel, Interim CATA CEO and Executive Director, respectively. The Projects Committee also reviewed its 2025 work plan, which includes the 2025 Committee meeting schedule, expected reports and action items for each meeting, a proposed schedule of activities, and opportunities for input on funding/planning programs. The Projects Committee also reviewed and discussed the initial results of the project prioritization exercise. Staff used the Committee's input from the August and October meetings to weigh the criteria in each project category and conducted an initial scoring exercise to ensure the data associated with each criterion was adequate to score each project. Staff scored sample projects in the following categories: Safety-Congestion, Technology, Major Highway-Capacity Adding, Resiliency, and Transit-Rail-Aviation. The active transportation matrix is dependent on data from the Centre County Active Transportation Plan, and staff are still working on gathering the data. In addition, staff presented the draft Bridge Criteria Matrix to the Projects Committee at its January meeting. Staff will work on scoring bridge projects for review at a future meeting.

Overall, the Projects Committee believes that the projects are scoring adequately and accurately; however, the Committee provided several comments for staff to consider related to changes to the matrices. There were several minor edits to the scoring mechanisms, but more notably, the Projects Committee directed staff to create a separate matrix for study specific

projects. While scoring projects, staff noticed that study projects scored considerably lower than construction projects, making prioritizing studies difficult. In addition, the Projects Committee directed staff to review the list of projects and set aside the projects that were “stale” or had not “moved” in several Long Range Transportation Plan updates. Staff will review the project list and work with the municipalities or sponsors of the “stale” projects to either renew the projects with updated data or remove the project from the list altogether.

Mr. Hoffman also presented the Committee with a grant agreement update.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A): Staff continue working with the Federal Highway Administration to develop and execute a grant agreement for the Centred on Safety Planning Grant to enhance and expand the Centre County Active Transportation Plan. Because of the freeze on federal grant programs, staff expects a delay in the obligation of these funds.

Bridge Investment Program (BIP): Staff worked diligently with Centre County, PennDOT, and a consultant team to write a grant application for the SR 4005 Snow Shoe Bridge replacement project. The application was submitted on November 1, 2024. Staff expects award announcements to take place in mid-2025 or later.

SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) UPDATE (01:23:25)

Ms. Messner provided the Committee with an SS4A update. There is an RFQ posted on the MPO website to work through the SS4A grant awarded last year. The two main components are to develop sidewalk inventories in the borough and borough like areas. Many of the boroughs do not have inventory, and Ms. Messner stated staff feels this is a good way to facilitate the work. These locations will receive communication from Ms. Messner in the upcoming weeks to determine if they would like to opt into this project. The second part of the RFQ is reviewing and analyzing the highest types of crashes in Centre County, lane departures. PennDOT Central office is currently reviewing several locations and staff would like to expand upon that to determine where else safety counter measures can be implemented elsewhere. The following is the upcoming RFQ schedule for selection of a consultant.

- RFQ Released: Wednesday, January 22, 2025
- Proposals Due: Friday, March 7, 2025, 2:00 pm
- Review by Evaluation Committee: Week of March 16, 2025
- Interviews/Discussions (if selected): Week of March 23, 2025
- Recommendation to COG Finance Committee: April 10, 2025
- COG General Forum Recommendation for Approval: April 28, 2025
- Contract Start Date: Week of June 1, 2025
- The Selection Committee is looking for a Coordinating Committee member to participate. Frank Harden volunteered.

A Selection Committee was formed to review RFQ submissions and the Committee is looking for a Coordinating Committee member to participate. Frank Harden volunteered.

The motion was made by Mr. Decker and seconded by Mr. Burnett to appoint Mr. Harden to the Selection Committee. The motion carried 14-0. (Commissioner Higgins was in attendance.)

DRAFT NATIONAL MULTIMODAL NETWORK (01:31:55)

Mr. Saylor presented the Committee with the draft National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN). The NMFN is a network of highways, railroads, waterways, marine ports, and airports that are critical to freight movement, as well as domestic and international supply chains. The only mode designated through Centre County is highway. The Department of Transportation is accepting comments on the designation through February 27, 2025. Current freight networks included in Centre County are Interstate 80, Interstate 99, portions of SR 26, SR 144 and 322; no airports or railroads are included. Staff recommends removing SR 144, and adding US 322 from Interstate 99 to SR 144 to the NMFN.

The following discussions ensued on the Draft National Multimodal Network:

Motion was made by Mr. Reese and seconded by Mr. Decker to approve the as presented. The motion carried 14-0.

MEMBER REPORTS (02:06:23)

Mr. Rusnak reported that Ms. Messner and Mr. Saylor came to Philipsburg to see features that contribute to flooding on 322 and Route 52, specifically the impact of abandoned mine runoff.

Mr. Reese reported that Ms. Messner and Mr. Saylor came to the 322 Reese Hall intersection, a blind turn that has been contributing to safety concerns.

Mr. Veneziano reported that Boggs Township was awarded a DCD Multimodal Grant on February 25 for its Curtin Hollow Road Curve Improvement Project.

Mr. Harden reported that Harris Township's Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) grant funds have been obligated, and the Township hopes to have the bicycle and pedestrian crossing signals installed by early spring or summer. A proposed project was submitted for the medical center on Warner Boulevard and they are looking to access Circle Drive to make it easier for travelers to access Atherton Street.

Mr. Burnett reported the new light at Geisinger in front of Grays Wood has been installed and it is functioning well for the surrounding businesses.

Commissioner Higgins reported that \$185,000 of liquid fuels money was distributed in December to Ferguson, Halfmoon, Patton, and Potter Townships. \$971,000 from the \$5 fee for local use funds was committed to projects in Hanes, Snowshoe, Spring, and Worth Townships. The County also committed \$686,000 to the Bellefonte Borough Railroad Street Bridge, the only way in and out of the Sunnyside neighborhood, and provided additional funding for the Mill Street Bridge in Howard.

Commissioner Concepcion reported that the Commissioners provided a letter of support for the CCMPO's PROTECT federal grant submission, which has since been delayed.

OTHER BUSINESS (02:12:17)

The next meeting of the Coordinating Committee will be held on April 22nd, 2025 in the COG General Forum at 6:00 P.M.

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Mr. Saylor noted item four on the announcements, calling for administrative action.

The MPO will be hosting an MPO 10 Session for new and returning members on March 26.

Ms. Messner noted that applications are being taken by DCNR till April 1st for Community Partnership Grant.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the February 25, 2025, CCMPO Coordinating Committee Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reagan Mann

Recording Secretary