

CENTRE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 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 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; Frank Hampton, PennDOT Central Office; Tom Prestash, PennDOT District 2-0.

Others Present: Mike Tylka, Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA); Jim Saylor, CRPA; Greg Kausch, CRPA; Anne Messner, CRPA; Marcella Hoffman, CRPA; Reagan Mann, CRPA; Pam Adams, CRPA; Richa Rimal, Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (CCPCDO); Kevin James, Michael Baker International; Eric Murnyack, PennDOT Central Office; Mark Schultz, PennDOT D-2; Kelly Benner, Potter Township; Justin Long, Potter Township Business Owner; Randy Benner, Potter Township; Jack Tanis, Potter Township Supervisor; Rich Deen; Matt Nulton.

APPROVAL FOR A MEMBER OR SECRETARY TO EXECUTE DUTIES OF CHAIR (00:02:43)

Motion was made by Mr. Herndon and seconded by Mr. Hampton to approve Mr. Tylka as acting Chair for the April 22, Coordinating Committee meeting. Motion passed 10-0

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (00:03:16)

Mr. Tylka introduced Richa Rimal to the Committee as the new Centre County Planning and Community Development Office Transportation Planner.

SAFETY MOMENT: OLDER DRIVER AWARENESS (00:04:03)

Ms. Messner brought attention to National Work Zone Awareness week giving the Committee a brief overview, providing an educational video to the Committee to review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (00:05:00)

There were no comments from the public.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS (00:05:10)

No new agenda items were requested.

CONSENT AGENDA (00:05:19)

- a. Approval of Minutes – February 5, 2025, Coordinating Committee.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Mr. Decker and seconded by Mr. Herndon. Motion passed 10-0.

STATE COLLEGE AREA CONNECTOR (SCAC) PROJECT (00:05:43)

Mr. James representing PennDOT D-2 presented the Committee with an update on the SCAC. Mr. James announced that the next public meeting is finalized for May 8 from 4 to 8 pm at the Wyndam Garden Hotel in Boalsburg with a press release and other information having been released. The PennDOT team will share updates and refinements to the three alternatives that were presented back in August, that are the North, Central and South Alternatives as well as sharing the recommended preferred alternative. Mr. James also shared that the PennDOT team recently met with a group of business owners from the Potter Township planned commercial zoning district on March 20 to discuss the status of the project to review the information on the interchange where businesses are located.

Public Comment on the State College Area Connector

Mr. Long from Walker and Walker Equipment, a business owner from Potter Township spoke to the Committee on behalf of the members of the Potter Township businesses for sustainable development throughout 322 access. Mr. Long asked that the CCMPO recommend to PennDOT to reintroduce the interchange to the SCAC project, that was removed. Mr. Long stated there are currently 130 acres zoned commercial in that district that PennDOT did not take into consideration due to them being undeveloped and having no plans currently to develop. Mr. Long asked what it would take to prove the feasibility of an interchange in the PCI district along with seeing an update on the traffic study that took place. Mr. James corrected Mr. Long's statement that the traffic study was done in 2022 and 2023. Mr. Long stated that he would like CCMPO to make the recommendation for PennDOT that the interchange be placed back into the plans for the PCI district.

Mr. Saylor reiterated that the CCMPO is a stakeholder not the final decision-making body for what SCAC alternative moves forward. The project team is commissioned to identify the best alternative that meets the purpose and needs of what was identified early in the project process. The comments from the CCMPO early in the process were essentially follow the process and trust where it leads you to present the most constructive alternative. Any comments the CCMPO provides is under the oversight of the Committee members. If the future economic development of the area was going to be a consideration, it had to have been identified early in the process, and they were not identified by stakeholders and members of the public. Moving several steps back carries a risk of funding needs and consequence to other projects.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE (00:21:44)

Mr. Funkhouser from Michael Baker presented the Committee with the LRTP update. The LRTP is intended for a final plan to be brought to the Coordinating Committee in September, with the draft coming in June. Mr. Funkhouser stated that the draft report is moving along with its status. Key comments, also being called "hot topics" given were adding safety as a key tenant, along with adding the State College Area Connector, the I-80 and I-99 High Speed Interchange, Active Transportation Plan and Vision Zero as well as the roll out of Electric Vehicles. The feedback is from the LRTP Subcommittee that was received by April 17. Mr. Funkhouser moved onto the congestion data, that uses the big data sources and combines it with the LRTP as a piece of the report. The data is used to develop the region's travel demand model and to support road bay assessments.

The data being used is from the INRIX travel time mapping tool. The travel time index is used to help measure congestion and feed into the hotspot analysis being done. Mr. Funkhouser also showed the initial output of the Counties' congestion hotspots, some hotspots including Science Park Road, North Atherton and more.

Ms. Messner noted that an item she has been working on is the project list for the LRTP with the intent being to maintain what is already on the 12 year program. Ms. Messner went onto highlight what has historically been line items. These include Betterment/ Pavement/Restoration, Bridge, Safety Line Item and Technology which would like to be maintained for anticipated needs. Two new line items that are being introduced are Active Transportation with the idea of roughly 250 thousand being set aside for projects that may need supplemental funding, the other is Federal Aid Routes. Ms. Messner also gave a brief overview of the working project list for the UPWP, with the Benner Pike Corridor Study being submitted and waiting to hear if funding will be granted. If for any reason these grants fall through, these projects would like to be backed up on the UPWP with the intent to keep them alive and moving.

Ms. Messner also gave an overview of the project request forms that have been submitted by the Townships. Some of the project requests include one bridge, Park Avenue Widening, SR-322 Curves with the largest being the Airport Connector Road. Next steps in the LRTP include continuing to revise the draft, refining the PAMS and BAMS list, an Agency Coordination meeting on April 23 that is a required meeting to go over the larger projects and what environmental impacts would be. Staff would also like to introduce an Action Plan where a schedule is set with the life of the LRTP. Another part that is missing but will impact some project listing is the Revenue Forecast Financial Guidance that will be received from PennDOT. The last step is the public review period that is looking to be started June 30 with an open house during that review period.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE UPDATE (00:35:35)

Ms. Hoffman presented a Projects Committee update. The Projects Committee last met on March 19 and continued their discussion and review of the project prioritization process. The second round of scoring results was presented, and the Committee was ultimately satisfied with a few minor changes to be made. Active Transportation projects are still under development by staff in collaboration with municipalities and stakeholders, and they will be scored at a later date for review by the Projects Committee.

The Projects Committee also reviewed the initial scoring results for local and state bridges. Based on the Committee's comments from the January meeting, staff weighed the criteria and scored a small number of local and state bridge projects. There were several comments related to the scoring mechanisms, so staff will adjust these, re-score the projects, and present the updated results at the May Projects Committee meeting.

Lastly, the Committee reviewed the initial scoring results of the study project category, but no changes were requested. Ms. Hoffman is working on scoring these bridges to put together a bridge bundle for the 2026 application under the federal bridge investment program. It was determined at the January meeting that the study projects did not fit in with the other categories, with the study projects now having their own matrix. The Projects Committee reviewed and discussed several supplemental planning fund requests for year two of the 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Each project request was prioritized through the study project matrix. Given the limited funding available and the number of supplemental planning fund requests, the Projects Committee was tasked with prioritizing the requests for year two. In terms of the Federal Grant Programs, Safe

Streets and Roads for All has been left in the UPWP list but could come off with the uncertainty of the Federal Government despite the grant being awarded. There is also a possibility of a new grant agreement. Staff believe that there is a possibility the PROTECT program may reopen later this year to accept new applications; however, staff were unable to submit the original PROTECT application as initially planned with FHWA closing it to review. A majority of the PROTECT application is completed. PennDOT has its own PROTECT program at the State level, so staff narrowed down the initial three phase plan and submitted to PennDOT at a State level on February 28.

SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL UPDATE (00:40:14)

Ms. Messner provided a brief update on Safe Streets and Roads for All, with the RFQ being posted in January and closing in March, with anticipation with a June start date. A Selection Committee has met and reviewed the two proposals and it is now going through the COG contracting review process in terms of selecting the recommended team. Finance Committee received the recommendation presentation on April 10, the Executive Committee on April 21, it will move into the COG General Forum to move forward with the selected firm on April 28. At that point it is anticipated to begin the process of contract negotiations and put the contract together.

As part of the grant submission, there is a requirement to have a group engaged in the project. Staff is looking to expand the Safety Subcommittee to meet the requirement to meet the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Reese and seconded by Mr. Rusnak to approve using the Safety Subcommittee as the advisory body for the grant and expand the committee size to one Borough and one emergency services representative for the life of the grant. The motion carried 11-0. Commissioner Concepcion was present during the vote.

EV SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE (00:45:03)

Ms. Adams provided an update on the Electric Vehicle Subcommittee, that is comprised of ten people. The EV Subcommittee was formed in 2024 with the purpose of putting logistic and productive infrastructure to assist with growth. There has been a lot of stakeholder and consumer outreach with the intent to use this process and plan for future grants and an EV Readiness Plan. PennDOT has put out a request that all RPO's and MPO's be able to provide information to help with the next phase of NEVI, National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program. PennDOT is looking at funding for 2026 for more priority community charging, where it makes sense to put charging. Centre County is projected to receive about 2 million. Ms. Adams touched on the community input that has taken place so far including over 40 stakeholder interviews, a municipal survey, and an EV landing page. The municipal survey was sent out in Fall of 2024, with hearing from about a third of respondents. Key insights taken away from the municipal survey include more opportunities for education on EV's, as well as concerns of costs, management, security and safety of charging stations. Key insights taken from the stakeholder interviews include little knowledge of EV's, benefits to the economy of towns, more accessibility and acknowledging funding challenges. Ms. Adams went to show the Committee a map of all of the registered EV's by zip code, as well as NEVI charger locations. PennDOT also provided EV trip origins, travel growth, chargers and employment locations. This data along with community input will help determine the best locations to add these EV charging stations. Mr. Adams also spoke on the EV Workshops taking place, occurring on April 16, April 30 and May 7 all around the county. The goal of this is to get community members, elected officials and stakeholders interested in helping prioritize these EV's projects. These workshops will include some background knowledge as well as case studies ending in mapping exercises. Ms.

Adams gave a timeline of what will be happening with all of this input. After the initial data is presented, May will be used to prioritize the charging locations with the EV Subcommittee, June will have presented recommendations to the Technical and Coordinating Committees and in July PennDOT will receive the EV charging priorities.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE (01:05:05)

Ms. Messner presented the ATP update to the Committee. The ATP has an action plan with the idea that staff move various actions forward and complete through the life plan that. A few things to highlight, the ATP was adopted in November 2024, there is a Vision Zero goal of 22 percent by 2034, there is data for county and municipal use available now, the plan also works toward the Safe Streets and Roads for All action plan as well as strategic actions being taken by staff. The next steps of the ATP include working on action plan items. Steps that are already being worked on are including the safety moments in agendas, applying for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant and receiving award, creating a high injury network map and work with PennDOT to address lane departures and continuing to address VRU locations. A few other items on the list of things to do include, safety education and awareness, working with the community to increase safety awareness, educating municipalities on funding opportunities, and continuing to maintain the Safety Subcommittee. 2025 actions to be taken are a little more in depth, but include encouraging municipalities to install bike racks, developing model procedure for maintenance of bicycle facilities, developing a checklist to share with municipalities for land development and subdivision review processes, develop performance measure to monitor the of the ATP implementation, continue to incorporate crash data into the TIP and work with LTAP to host educational sessions to make roads safer.

MEMBER REPORTS (01:15:49)

Mr. Harden reported several serious accidents on 322. There will be a discussion on this corridor in June with the Safety Subcommittee.

Commissioner Concepcion reported that the new community services building is being wrapped up, which is the old Centre Crest Nursing Home that will hold multiple functions now.

OTHER BUSINESS (01:18:06)

The next meeting of the Coordinating Committee will be held on June 24, 2025 in the COG General Forum at 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the April 22, 2025, CCMPO Coordinating Committee Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reagan Mann

Recording Secretary