

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

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

Voting Members

Eric Bernier	College Township
Theresa Lafer	State College Borough
Frank Harden	Harris Township
Lisa Strickland	Ferguson Township
Barbara Spencer	Halfmoon Township
Pamela Robb	Patton Township
Mark Higgins	Centre County Board of Commissioners
Michael Pipe	Centre County Board of Commissioners
Doug Johnson	Nittany Valley Planning Region
Dick Decker	Penns Valley Planning Region
Keith Reese	Upper Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region
Jon Eich	Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC)
John Spychalski	Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)
Tom Zurat	PennDOT District 2-0
Larry Shifflet	PennDOT Central Office

Non-Voting Members

Rob Cooper	Pennsylvania State University (PSU)
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Others Present

Tom Zilla	Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)
Jim May	CRPA
Trish Meek	CRPA
Greg Kausch	CRPA
Marcella Hoffman	CRPA
Pam Adams	CRPA
Anne Messner	Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (CCPCDO)
Louwana Oliva	CATA
Matt Wise	Senator Corman's Office
Dean Ball	PennDOT District 2-0
Rob Jaconski	PennDOT District 2-0
Frank Hampton	PennDOT Central Office
Ford Stryker	Ferguson Township resident
Kevin James	Michael Baker International
Lori Cole	Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.
Cindy Kunes	Congressman Thompson's Office

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bernier called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and turned the floor over to Ms. Meek, who conducted a roll call of Committee members to ensure they could hear and be heard.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Dr. Spychalski and seconded by Ms. Lafer to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021 Coordinating Committee meetings, as presented. The motion carried 15-0 (Mr. Veneziano and Mr. Hall were not in attendance).

3. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

4. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program

The Coordinating Committee received a presentation from MPO staff regarding the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. The TA Program provides funds to construct pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to public transportation, create safe routes to school, preserve historic transportation structures, provide environmental mitigation, and create trail projects that serve a transportation purpose, while promoting safety and mobility.

PennDOT opened an application cycle for TA funds in June 2021, and applications must be submitted by October 15, 2021. Candidate projects in Centre County will be provided to the CCMPO for review shortly after the submission deadline. Comments must be provided to PennDOT Central Office by January 7, 2022. MPO staff recommends that the following process be utilized to facilitate the review process.

1. Form a TA Review Committee comprised of members from PennDOT District 2-0, PennDOT Central Office, CCPCDO, and the CRPA; and two members of the Technical Committee representing entities that do not submit a TA application.
2. The TA Review Committee will review, rank, and provide comments about applications using the PennDOT statewide evaluation criteria.
3. The Technical Committee will review the TA Review Committee's recommendations and provide recommendations to the Coordinating Committee.
4. The Coordinating Committee will approve recommendations and MPO staff will submit comments to the PennDOT Central Office by January 7, 2022.

MPO staff recommended that of the two Technical Committee members to serve on the review committee, one should represent a municipality within the Centre Region and one should represent a planning region outside of the Centre Region. During the September Technical Committee meeting, Mr. Bloom from College Township volunteered to serve as the representative for the Centre Region and Mr. Lively from the Upper Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region volunteered to serve as the representative from outside the Centre Region.

Motion was made by Dr. Spychalski and seconded by Ms. Robb to approve the approve the process and provide comments about candidate TA projects in Centre County and form a TAR Review Committee. The motion carried 15-0.

5. Pennsylvania Interstate Management (IM) Program

The Coordinating Committee received a presentation from Rob Jaconski, PennDOT District 2-0 Design Services Engineer, regarding PennDOT's Interstate Management (IM) Program, specifically for District 2-0 in Centre County.

Mr. Jaconski reviewed the pavement conditions in Centre County and noted that there are very small pavement sections in Centre County that are red, which indicates a higher need of repair. Mr. Jaconski presented PennDOT's needs for the interstate and stressed the importance of safety on the interstate system, including high friction surfaces, uneven bridge approaches, and substandard I-80 interchange geometry. In addition, operational needs include the installation and upgrade of ITS, addressing pavement rehabilitation,

completing the fiber optics network, upgrading RWIS devices with automated notifications, and using integrated corridor management for incident management routes.

Mr. Jaconski went on to present the current and programmed projects in District 2-0:

- Paving project on I-99 north at exit 163 (Bellefonte exit) - current
- I-80 A18 Local Interchange project at Jacksonville Road/Route 26 - current
- I-80 A18 Jacksonville Road/Route 26 Betterment Project – Priority #1 programmed
- I-80 B18 High Speed Interchange to link I-80 and I-99 – Priority #1 programmed
- I-80 B38 Replacement of two bridges over State Route 1010 – Priority #2 programmed
- I-80 B56 Three bridge preservations in District 2-0 – Priority #3 programmed
- I-80 B43 Highway and bridge preservation, ITS installation/replacement – Priority #5 programmed
- I-99 B02 Highway and bridge preservation, ITS installation/replacement – Priority #6 programmed
- I-80 B50 Mill and overlay, concrete patching, and ITS replacement – Priority #7 – programmed

Mr. Jaconski then reviewed the priority projects in District 2-0 that have not yet been provided funding for design:

- I-99 B01 Highway and bridge preservation, concrete patching, ITS work – Priority #8
- I-80 B49 Highway and bridge preservation and reconstruction of Snowshoe interchange – Priority #12

In response to a question from Mr. Bernier, Mr. Jaconski explained that the IM Steering Committee has representatives from each district, although not all districts participate. In addition, planners from PennDOT Central Office and planners who distribute funding monies also sit on the Steering Committee. Each district shows their needs and the monies are divided out based on needs and asset management.

In response to a question from Mr. Eich, Mr. Shifflet stated that PennDOT did receive money related to Covid-19 impacts; however, there were stipulations that only allowed PennDOT to advance projects that were already planned for construction.

6. 2023-2026 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Coordinating Committee received a presentation from MPO staff regarding the financial guidance and project priorities for the new 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Zilla briefly reviewed the TIP development milestones, with adoption of the new TIP to take place in June 2022. Mr. Zilla also reviewed the Centre County TIP allocation for both the Highway and Bridge and Transit categories. For the highway and bridge side, Centre County will see a 2.8% increase in funding. For the transit side, Centre County will see a 9.3% increase in funding. Mr. Zilla then reviewed the highway and state bridge project priorities for the TIP:

- Route 144 drainage improvement
- Atherton Street Drainage/Repaving Section 154 (Westerly Parkway to vicinity of Scenery Drive)

Ms. Messner, CCPCDO Senior Transportation Planner reviewed the new safety improvement projects that have been discussed over the past several months by the CCMPO Safety Subcommittee and PennDOT District 2-0. These projects could include the Benner Pike Corridor between College Avenue and Shiloh Road; however, there are several land development projects in the pipeline which include various improvements to this area, but it remains to be seen whether these improvements will progress safety conditions in this corridor. The Subcommittee also discussed eight locations in Centre County where there have been fatalities or serious injuries due to a lane departure. In addition, Ms. Messner communicated that there are two safety projects that should be considered as priorities: Route 26/150 Intersection safety improvement and the Route 150/Phoenix Avenue Intersection improvement. Ms. Messner then reviewed two local bridge projects that are candidates for funding from PennDOT's Road MaP Program.

Mr. Kausch then reviewed transit priorities as they relate to the new TIP:

- CATA operating assistance
- Vehicle replacement to maintain a state of good repair
- Fleet expansion to address new and emerging markets
- Advance public transportation systems (APTS)
- CATA facility upkeep/modernization
- Revenue and non-revenue vehicle maintenance

In response to a question from Ms. Lafer, Ms. Messner explained that when she began to pursue Road MaP funding, there were 10 bridges categorized and reviewed for funding. Five of those bridges became part of the bridge bundle through County funding. After bridge inspections were completed in July, there were a total of 13 bridges in Centre County that needed to be addressed.

In response to a question from Ms. Strickland regarding funding for a traffic signal near the intersection of SR 26 and 45 in Pine Grove Mills, Mr. Zilla explained that because a traffic study has not yet been completed to show there is a need for a full traffic signal, funding for that specific project cannot be added to the new TIP.

7. State College Area Connector (SCAC) Project

The Coordinating Committee received a presentation from the State College Area Connector (SCAC) consultant team on the latest activities for the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study for the SCAC Project. PennDOT's consultant team developed a range of alternatives to address the transportation purpose and needs in the PEL study area. Kevin James, PennDOT's project manager from Michael Baker International, provided a brief presentation regarding the range of alternatives that came from the PEL Study. There are three alternative categories: upgrade the existing alternative, a build alternative on the Route 322 corridor, and a build alternative on the Route 144 corridor. Within the two build alternatives, there are several potential corridors and interchanges that will be studied to address the transportation purpose and needs in the PEL study area.

Preliminary alternative improvements were posted to the SCAC project website and displayed during the public meeting on September 22 and 23 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Boalsburg. The public meeting included information about environmental and community features, the range of alternatives studied to date, and preliminary alternative improvements. The public meeting was held in an open house format with PennDOT and project team members available at individual stations to explain the information, answer questions, and receive comments. Mr. James communicated that at the public meetings, over 840 attendees signed in and generated 210 comment cards. The initial key comment areas included traffic/truck, community resources, wetland and waterways, agricultural areas, and the timing of the study and future projects.

8. Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The Coordinating Committee received a presentation from MPO staff regarding the first draft of the 2022-2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP lists certain policy actions that must be taken by the CCMPO and lists the work tasks to be completed by the CRPA, CATA, and the CCPCDO on behalf of the MPO. Mr. Zilla reviewed the base funding amounts that will be allocated for federal and state highway funding as well as federal transit funding, which equates to about a 2.7% increase over the current UPWP.

Mr. Zilla then reviewed the proposed special studies that MPO staff would like to include in the new UPWP. He stated that to be considered for funding for special studies and projects, the candidate projects must be in the adopted UPWP, projects require a 20% local match, projects usually require a consultant, and the project must be completed within the UPWP timeframe. MPO staff are proposing to include an operations-based Strategic Plan for the MPO at a preliminary cost of \$75,000 with a local match of \$15,000. The Strategic Plan would require a match from the MPO operating budget and would be divided between the 2022 and 2023 budgets.

The Coordinating Committee offered no comments for staff to consider. Members will see a final draft of the UPWP at the November meeting.

9. CCMPO Draft Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Budget

Mr. Zilla stated that preparation of the CCMPO's annual operation budget for 2022 is underway and provided a brief presentation regarding the CCMPO's revenues and expenditures for the 2022 budget.

Mr. Zilla noted that contributions from Centre County Government and the six municipal funding partners were calculated based on the CCMPO's approved local share funding formula. Municipal contributions will increase by 3.1%, and the County's contribution will decrease by 1.5% in CY 2022. This reflects the increase in PennDOT funding from the new 2022-2024 UPWP and includes additional local matching funds for the CCMPO Strategic Plan special study. In addition, Centre County's contribution on behalf of 29 municipalities in 6 rural planning regions reflects the commitment of one transportation planning position to the CCMPO, in addition to a cash allocation.

Mr. Zilla then provided key notes about expenditures within the budget. Personnel (salary and benefits) costs reflect a 6.9% increase due to cost-of-living increases, merit awards, and personnel expenses for a period of transition for the new Principal Transportation Planner. In addition, the expenditure budget reflects a substantial decrease in pension costs. Mr. Zilla noted that the Strategic Plan special study revenue and expenditures will be divided across the 2022 and 2023 CCMPO budgets.

10. Member Reports

Ms. Robb communicated that Patton Township will be hosting a free Children's Safety Fair on October 9 to promote building positive experiences with police officers, fire personnel, and emergency services.

11. Announcements

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 using hybrid meeting technology at the COG building. The next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 using hybrid meeting technology at the COG building.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the September 28, 2021 Special CCMPO Coordinating Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcella Hoffman
Recording Secretary