

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

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Voting Members**

Ray Stolinas	Centre County Planning & Community Development Office (CCPCDO)
Ron Seybert	Ferguson Township
George Harrigan	Harris Township
Rose Ann Hoover	Halfmoon Township
Alexandra Castrechini	Patton Township
Sam Robbins	State College Borough
Mark Lively	Upper Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region
Michele Merrow	Moshannon Valley Planning Region
Rick Dillon	Nittany Valley Planning Region
Louwana Oliva	Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)
Jim May	Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC)
Frank Hampton	PennDOT Central Office

**Non-Voting Members**

Rob DeMayo	The Pennsylvania State University (PSU)
Gene Porochniak	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

**Others Present**

Jim Saylor	Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)
Anne Messner	CRPA
Greg Kausch	CRPA
Marcella Hoffman	CRPA
Xochi Confer	CCPCDO
Kevin James	Michael Baker International
Lori Cole	Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Seybert called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Election of Officers**

Mr. Saylor opened the floor for nominations for the Technical Committee Chair

*Motion was made by Mr. Lively, seconded by Mr. Hampton to nominate Mr. Seybert for the 2023 Technical Committee Chair. No other nominations were made. The motion carried 10-0 (Mr. Stolinas, Mr. Gribble, Ms Oliva, Mr. Franson, Ms. Barbin, Mr. Myers, Mr. Lomison, and Mr. Ball were not in attendance).*

Mr. Seybert opened the floor for nominations for the Technical Committee Vice-Chair.

*Motion was made by Mr. May and seconded by Mr. Harrigan to nominate Mr. Lively for the 2023 Technical Committee Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. The motion carried 10-0.*

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*Motion was made by Mr. Lively and seconded by Mr. Harrigan to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022 Technical Committee meeting, as presented. The motion carried 10-0.*

Mrs. Hoffman then conducted a roll call of Committee members to ensure they could hear and be heard.

**4. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

**5. New Agenda Items**

No new agenda items were requested.

**6. Special Announcements**

**a. Dr. John Spychalski Retirement**

Dr. John C. Spychalski retired from his position as Ferguson Township's representative to and Chair of the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Board of Directors, effective December 31, 2022. In so doing, he also leaves his appointment as CATA's representative to the CCMPO Coordinating Committee. Though Dr. Spychalski leaves a substantial legacy of transportation knowledge and project advancement for the good of Centre County, equally important is his commitment to thorough and thoughtful debate of the issues at hand throughout his tenure.

The CCMPO Coordinating Committee intends to formally recognize Dr. Spychalski for his contributions at its regular meeting on February 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The CCMPO express its sincere gratitude and wish him only the best in his next chapter!

**b. Xochi Confer – CCPDCO's New Senior Transportation Planner**

The CCMPO welcomes Xochi Confer as the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office's new Senior Transportation Planner! Xochi specializes in County wide transportation planning and projects, including but not limited to, Centre County Liquid Fuels Applications, Centre County Bridge Bundle, and the Road MaP Program. A proud graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Business Logistics, Xochi is a familiar face in Centre County having 20+ years of experience working with townships, boroughs, and sewer and water authorities in Centre County and around the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She has served on several local committees including the MPO Technical Committee. Xochi has experience working on planning and zoning, budgeting, and administration as well as transportation and infrastructure rehabilitation and improvement. She looks forward to collaborating with our transportation partners to meet the transportation needs of Centre County. Xochi began her duties on Monday, December 12! Welcome aboard Xochi!

**7. State College Area Connector (SCAC) Project Status Report**

The Technical Committee received a report from Mr. James regarding the status of the State College Area Connector (SCAC) project draft Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. He explained that the draft PEL will be finalized shortly, with a goal to hold a 30-day public comment period for the report beginning in mid-February. Comments received during this comment period will be addressed and necessary changes will be made to the draft PEL study prior to finalization of the document. Mr. James stated that after the PEL study has been finalized, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process will begin, which will work through the three alternatives that have been recommended to move forward in the PEL Study. The NEPA process will narrow the alternatives into one final recommended alternative to move forward into a project for final design and construction. PennDOT will provide a formal presentation to the cooperating agencies to go over the draft study and comments on February 22, 2023.

**8. 2023-2026 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Revisions**

**a. Funding for the I-99 NB and SR 322 WB Safety Projects**

The Technical Committee received a presentation from Mr. Saylor regarding \$200,000 in funding for 2 safety projects to install Solar Powered Chevron Signs at 2 locations. The TIP includes a line item with \$350,000 in funding from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) unallocated to any particular project. PennDOT proposes to allocate \$200,000 from this line item to fund the two safety projects. Because this is federal funding, the CCMPO must formally approve the revisions.

Mr. Saylor addressed several questions regarding the origin of the funding, but the Technical Committee had no specific comments regarding the revision.

*Motion was made by Mr. Lively and seconded by Ms. Oliva for the Technical Committee to recommend that the Coordinating Committee approve the revisions to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion carried 12-0 (Mr. Stolinas and Ms. Oliva were in attendance for this vote).*

**b. Funding for the 2025 Centre Bridge Preservation Project**

The Technical Committee received a presentation from Mr. Saylor regarding a proposal from PennDOT to allocate \$250,000 to add a project to apply epoxy coatings to 2 recently completed bridges. The coating will extend the useful life of the bridges, and the optimum time to apply the treatment is soon after completion. The funding comes from the Bridge Improvement Program line item in the TIP that is not allocated to any particular project. The CCMPO must formally approve revisions that add a project to the TIP using federal funds.

*Motion was made by Mr. Lively and seconded by Mr. Harrigan for the Technical Committee to recommend that the Coordinating Committee approve the revisions to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion carried 12-0.*

**c. Funding for the Pedestrian Countdown Signals Project for Vulnerable Road Users**

The Technical Committee received a presentation from Mr. Saylor regarding funding for the installation of Pedestrian Countdown Signals at seven locations in Centre County. This funding is a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that included several changes to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Among the changes was a requirement that in states where 15% or more of the total annual fatalities were Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs), a minim of 15% of HSIP funds must be programmed for the next federal fiscal year for projects that improve safety for VRUs. 16.75% of the fatalities in PA for the previous federal fiscal year involved VRUs, triggering this provision.

The funding for this measure is proposed to come from the statewide HSIP set-aside. The signals identified in Centre County include:

- SR 322 with 9th Street in Rush Township
- SR 322 with SR 504 (Black Moshannon Road) in Phillipsburg Borough
- SR 26 (East College Avenue) with Ramp A-1 (University Drive Ramp) in State College Borough
- Allegheny Street with Linn Street in Bellefonte Borough
- Allegheny Street with SR 550 (Bishop Street) in Bellefonte Borough
- SR 550 (Bishop Street) with Wilson Street in Bellefonte Borough
- SR 26 (East College Avenue) with SR 144 (Main Street) in Spring Township

*Motion was made by Mr. Hampton and seconded by Mr. Lively for the Technical Committee to recommend that the Coordinating Committee approve the revisions to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion carried 12-0.*

**9. Performance Based Planning and Programming**

**a. Annual Update of PM1 Safety Performance Measure Targets**

The Technical Committee received a presentation from Ms. Messner regarding the annual update of PM1 Safety Performance Measure Targets. In 2017, PennDOT developed initial performance targets for the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). PennDOT is required to update the PM1 safety targets annually, and the CCMPO has 180 days to either support PennDOT's statewide targets or establish its own quantifiable targets. The CCMPO has supported PennDOT's targets each year from 2018 through 2022 because the MPO does not have the staff resources and technical capacity to establish and monitor its own quantifiable targets.

Ms. Messner reviewed the data for Centre County's fatalities and serious injuries and also reviewed the Centre County MPO Supporting Values (Targets) for All Years table that shows each year's baseline and targets. The targets are based on a calculation that uses a rolling five-year average that is adjusted annually.

Pennsylvania did not meet the 2021 targets; therefore, it will be required to program funds towards improving safety. Because of this outcome, the PennDOT Central Office is placing a higher emphasis on systemic safety improvements that have greater probability of reducing fatalities and serious injury crashes.

With no discussion, *motion was made by Ms. Oliva and seconded by Mr. Lively to recommend that the Coordinating Committee select the option to “plan and program projects that contribute toward the accomplishment of the established PennDOT targets”.* The motion carried 12-0.

#### **b. Annual Report about CATA Safety Performance Measures**

The Technical Committee received a report from Mr. Kausch regarding CATA’s annual Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and performance targets. Mr. Kausch noted that performance measures are required by the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) to support safety and reliability of service, while moderating purchases and maintenance costs. He went on to say that CATA maintains its own PTASP, and the Centre County Office of Transportation (CCOT) is exempt from these requirements since they do not receive federal formula funds. The PTASP covers two categories and several sub-categories:

- Safety events, which include fatalities, injuries, and other major safety events.
- System reliability, which includes the average distance in miles between major mechanical failures by mode: fixed route, contracted, and vanpool services.

Mr. Kausch stated that the previous year’s targets for safety events were zero for fatalities, injuries, and other major safety events, and CATA had no fatalities, injuries, or other major safety events in 2022. The targets for 2023 remain the same as the 2022 targets. Mr. Kausch then reviewed the actual performance for system reliability, and then presented the targets for 2023 based on improved data sourcing, tracking, and methodology: fixed route: 15,952 miles; contracted service: 59,359 miles; and vanpool: 301,965 miles.

### **10. CCMPO Public Participation Plan**

The Technical Committee received a presentation from Mr. Kausch regarding the updated Public Participation Plan. MPO staff has prepared an updated draft PPP that not only links to the CCMPO Title VI Program, adopted in June 2022, but also reflects changes in public participation processes, tools, and requirements to better reflect the current operating environment. The updated PPP includes, among other components:

- An updated list of MPO voting and non-voting members, including a current map of Centre County planning regions;
- Current Centre County demographic information;
- A revised and expanded list of interested parties;
- An updated list of outreach techniques, most notably including new provisions for online/hybrid meetings, and social media postings;
- Targeted outreach strategies for disadvantaged populations;
- List of recent outreach activities;
- Response to public comments and a summary of the public comment period and meeting; and
- Selected elements from the USDOT Publication “Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making” (October 2022)

A 45-day public comment period for the PPP was held between October 17 and December 6, 2022, with a public meeting conducted on November 15, 2022. Limited public comment was received.

With no comments or questions, *motion was made by Mr. Lively and seconded by Mr. May for the Technical Committee to recommend that the Coordinating Committee approve the updated Public Participation Plan.* The motion carried 12-0.

## 11. Centre County Sectional Cycle Maintenance

The Technical Committee received a detailed presentation from Pete Kempf, the Centre and Clinton County Maintenance Manager regarding Centre County's sectional cycle maintenance for 2023. The presentation included the following details:

- Centre County's cyclical maintenance preservation activities
  - These activities include: pipe flushing, pipe replacement, shoulder cutting, side dozing, patching, crack sealing, and seal coating.
- Sectional Cycle Maintenance
  - This task allows crews to complete all the cycle maintenance activities but limit the activities to specific geographic regions. This ensures that all activities are planned and completed, creates efficiencies by completing the activities with the same crews, and reduces mobilizations.
- Ideal Low-Level Preservation Program
  - This task allows for future paving project preparation.
- High-Level Roadway Network
  - Centre County has 219.95 miles of high-level roadways, excluding interstates. To ensure appropriate quality of these roadways, 18.33 miles of roadway must be paved each year to keep up with the 12-year paving cycle requirements.

Several clarifying questions asked by Committee members regarding the paving process and funding were addressed by Mr. Kempf. No action is needed for this item, as it is for informational purposes only.

## 12. MPO Strategic Plan

Mr. Saylor reported that since the November MPO meeting, the Michael Baker International team facilitated a half-day retreat on December 5, attended by 25 MPO members, stakeholders, and staff. The retreat included small group discussions in three main topic areas with reports out to the main group. MPO members who attended the focus group or the retreat have been invited to a virtual meeting to review a draft outline for the strategic plan, tentatively scheduled for February 24. The draft in question will not be a polished plan. The intent of the review is to confirm areas of interest and for potential implementation, and to confirm that the team captured and understands the major concerns for the plan. After that confirmation, the team will begin work on refining the outline into a draft plan to be considered for the April MPO meetings.

## 13. Centre County Active Transportation Plan Draft Scope

The Technical Committee received a brief presentation from Ms. Messner regarding updates to the Centre County Active Transportation Plan (ATP) project scope. The update includes a county overview, further detail on the analysis, county-wide engagement tasks, issue identification and project listing information, and further details on implementation strategies and recommendations. Ms. Messner stated that once funding is secured, it is anticipated the work will begin in August 2023 and conclude no later than December 31, 2024. Technical Committee did not offer staff any comments for consideration.

## 14. Member Reports

Mr. Lively reported that Taylor Township is working on a grant to repave Mountain Road and Port Matilda is working on drainage projects.

Mr. Harrigan communicated that Harris Township has received approval to move forward with the Mary Elizabeth Street culvert project. The bid for this project will be going out shortly and the construction will start after the end of the school year.

Mr. May reported that the CRPA is coordinating with other entities on the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Special Study Amendment for the Calder Way Sewer Main Replacement in State College Borough. The original study was denied due to potential downstream surcharges in the build out of the University Area Joint Authority (UAJA) sewer system. The amended study is currently going through the approval process.

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Ms. Merrow communicated that the Moshannon Valley Region will be working this spring and summer to pave several dirt roads in the southern portion of Philipsburg Borough. In addition, Rush Township's Casanova Road project will kick off this year. It includes 10 miles of overlay and full depth reclamation of portions of the road. The Township is working with several entities to plan for a closure of the road this summer.

**15. Announcements**

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at the Centre Region COG building via hybrid meeting technology.

**16. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the February 8, 2023 CCMPO Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcella Hoffman  
Recording Secretary