

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

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

Voting Members

Ray Stolinas	Centre County Planning & Community Development Office (CCPCDO)
Ron Seybert	Ferguson Township
Don Franson	College Township
Peggy Johnson	Harris Township
Doug Erickson	Patton Township
Sam Robbins	State College Borough
Mark Lively	Upper Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region
Vicki Rusnak	Moshannon Valley Planning Region
Robert Zeigler	Penns Valley Planning Region
Noah Soriano	Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)
Mike Tylka	Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC)
Frank Hampton	PennDOT Central Office
Eric Murnyack	PennDOT District 2-0

Non-Voting Members

Rick Ward	The Pennsylvania State University (PSU)
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Others Present

Jim Saylor	Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO)
Anne Messner	CCMPO
Greg Kausch	CCMPO
Marcella Hoffman	CCMPO
Pam Adams	CCMPO
Reagan Mann	Centre Regional Planning Office
Brian Funkhouser	Michael Baker International
Kevin James	Michael Baker International
Peyton Trussell	Michael Baker International
Mark Schultz	PennDOT District 2-0
Richa Rimal	Centre County Planning & Community Development Office (CCPCDO)
Xochi Confer	CCPCDO
Cindy Kunes	Congressman Glen Thompson Office
Jake Tanis	Potter Township
Scott Burk	PCI Business Owner
Diana Prough	PCI Business Representative
Matt Nulton	JMT
Lori Cole	JMT

1. Call to Order

Mr. Tylka called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with a round of introductions acting as roll call.

2. Special Announcements (00:00:05)

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

3. Safety Moment: National Work Zone Awareness Week (00:00:18)

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.

4. Public Comments (00:00:25)

There were no comments from the public.

5. New Agenda Items (00:00:35)

No new agenda items were requested.

6. Consent Agenda (00:00:44)

a. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Seybert and seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the minutes of the February 2025 Technical Committee meeting, as presented. The motion carried 11-0.

7. State College Area Connector (SCAC) Project (00:00:58)

Mr. James representing PennDOT D-2 presented the Committee with an update on the SCAC. Mr. James announced that they are in the process of setting up and finalizing the next public meeting, anticipated for early May, with a press release and more information coming soon. 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. Burk representing the businesses of Potter Township planned commercial zoning district spoke to the Committee. Mr. Burk stated that during their meeting with PennDOT they were led to believe there would not be an interchange anymore and that it would be placed at Potters Mills and Harris Township, and that the business traffic would have to travel from these exits. Mr. Burk states that he was to believe there was not an economic feasibility study done for the SCAC and has since created a coalition for the business in the Potter Township PCI district to have a feasibility study completed. Mr. Burk stated they have let PennDOT know they oppose the decision to not have an interchange there as it is the life of the PCI district. Mr. Burk believes that there needs to be some sort of interchange access to the PCI district as they have 150 acres of undeveloped land that is zoned commercial and was advised that the interchange at Potters Mills was not designed as a permanent interchange. Mr. Burk asked on behalf of the Potter Township business owners to be on the agenda at the upcoming Coordinating Committee meeting to discuss this further.

Mr. Saylor spoke on behalf of the CCMPO, replying that this SCAC item will be on the Coordinating agenda and public comments will be allowed then with the same opportunity. Mr. Saylor replied to Mr. Burk stating that the CCMPO does not have a defined role as a decision maker in this process of the SCAC for the decision of alternatives. He also

explained that the MPO works with the public and stakeholders to receive these comments to take into consideration and pass along. Mr. James clarified that the current interchange at Potters Mills is permanent.

8. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update (00:13:55)

Ms. Messner and Ms. Trussell from Michael Baker presented the Committee with the LRTP update. Ms. Trussell stated that the draft report is moving along with its status, the Subcommittee has had an opportunity to look at that and provide feedback with comments coming back in a week. Key comments 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 by April 17. Ms. Trussell 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. Ms. Trussell 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.

It was also noted the Project Technical Support for CCMPO staff for Model Runs and RITIS training as staff is continuously at capacity in what staff can cover. Ms. Messner also gave an overview of the project request forms that have been submitted by the Townships. There is 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.

9. Projects Committee Update (00:32:40)

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.

10. Safe Streets and Roads for All Update (00:38:42)

Ms. Messner provided a brief update on Safe Streets and Roads for All, thanking the Selection Committee. They have met and reviewed proposals and it is now going through the COG contracting review process in terms of selecting the recommended team. Finance Committee will receive a presentation, and it will move into the COG General Forum to move forward with the selected firm. 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. Seybert and seconded by Ms. Johnson 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 13-0. Mr. Franson and Mr. Zeigler were present for this vote.

11. EV Subcommittee Update (00:43:15)

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 these 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 received the EV charging priorities.

12. Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Update (00:57:20)

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 others 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.

13. Member Reports (01:05:10)

Mr. Hampton reported the STC 12 year update is open right now with the public comment until the 30th of April. A public forum for that will be going on tomorrow evening, April 10, for those who want to provide any kind of response back to the STC, the State Transportation Commission.

14. Announcements (01:06:17)

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Mr. Saylor pointed out item 2 in the announcements on the agenda packet, the TIP revisions.

Mr. Saylor noted Ms. Messner will be working with DCNR on a Public Trails Forum at Boalsburg Fire Hall on April 10.

PennDOT D-2 will be holding an outreach session for the PennDOT connects program on May 1.

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on June 11, at 9:30 a.m.

15. Adjourn

The April 9, 2025 meeting of the Technical Committee was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.