

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

Wednesday, June 11, 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
Dave Lomison	Centre County Office of Transportation
Peggy Johnson	Harris Township
Doug Erickson	Patton Township
Sam Robbins	State College Borough
Vicki Rusnak	Moshannon Valley Planning Region
Robert Zeigler	Penns Valley Planning Region
Miran Yang	Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)
Pam Adams	Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC)
Frank Hampton	PennDOT Central Office
Eric Murnyack	PennDOT District 2
Noah Soriano	Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)

Non-Voting Members

Rick Ward	The Pennsylvania State University (PSU)
Gene Porochniak	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Others Present

Jim Saylor	Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO)
Anne Messner	CCMPO
Greg Kausch	CCMPO
Marcella Hoffman	CCMPO
Reagan Mann	Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)
Mark Schultz	PennDOT District 2
Leigh Woolridge	PennDOT District 2
Daniel Szekeres	Michael Baker International
Kevin James	Michael Baker International
Peyton Trussel	Michael Baker International
Richa Rimal	Centre County Planning & Community Development Office (CCPCDO)
Xochi Confer	CCPCDO
Cindy Kunes	Congressman Glenn Thompson Office

1. Call to Order (00:00:08)

2. Approval of a Member or Secretary to Execute duties of Chair (00:00:11)

This agenda item was skipped, due to Mr. Seybert being able to attend the meeting.

3. Special Announcements (00:00:15)

Mr. Seybert announced Pam Adams as the new and incoming Agency Director of the Centre Region Planning Agency, having assumed the role effective May 16th upon the departure of Mike Tylka. Ms. Adams is also the Coordinating Committee representative and Secretary for the Centre Region Planning Commission.

4. Safety Moment: Summer Driving and Road Trip Tips (00:01:06)

Ms. Messner brought attention to these tips on proper vehicle care and planning for summer trips from the National Transportation and Highway Safety Administration.

5. Public Comments (00:01:30)

There were no comments from the public.

6. New Agenda Items (00:01:49)

No new agenda items were requested.

7. Consent Agenda (00:02:06)

a. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Lomison and seconded by Mr. Zeigler to approve the minutes of the April 2025 Technical Committee meeting, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. State College Area Connector (SCAC) Project Update (00:02:34)

Mr. James, representing PennDOT D-2, presented the Committee with an update on the SCAC. The second scoping public meeting was held on May 8th, 2025, in Boalsburg at the Wyndam Garden Hotel. It was highly attended, with more than 425 attendees. At the meeting, updates were shared about the three alternatives: the north, central, and south alternatives. There were flyover videos and 3D CAD models presented for attendees to interact with, which were well received and helped people to better visualize the options. Prior to the May 8 public meeting, PennDOT announced its recommended preferred alternative, the central alternative, to move forward for further design.

Feedback from the community was welcomed, as well as enhancement recommendations to the central alternative recommended option. It was requested that PennDOT follow up with the property owners, business owners, and area leaders to share and gather more information. There will be a summary report for the public meeting, including all comments received. Most of the questions received were regarding the right-of-way acquisition process. Currently, the project is at the stage of the environmental clearance process, where a record of decision is needed for the recommended preferred alternative before proceeding with any right-of-way acquisitions.

Mr. James also reported that on Monday June 16, 2025, the second consulting parties meeting will be held at the Boalsburg Fire Hall for the consulting parties who requested to participate in the project's cultural resource assessment and assess how the project would affect historic properties and cultural resources throughout the area. Information will be provided on the determination of the effects of each alternative presented, and feedback received from the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Next steps include holding another meeting to discuss the mitigation strategies for the effects that have been determined at this point.

The PennDOT team has continued to work on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and will be ready for public comment at the end of this year or early 2026. There will be a 30-day comment period, which will allow interested parties to provide comments on the draft EIS. A final EIS will be drafted and

submitted in summer of 2026, to obtain a record of decision from the Federal Highway Administration, which would close out the environmental impact process.

Lastly, the PennDOT team is working with the permitting agencies to begin the waterway permit process. There are continued conversations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to start that process. There is a requirement for a federal decision on the permitting process within 90 days of a record of decision.

There was discussion of Route 45 and conversation of it being designated as a PA Byway and having an impact on the SCAC. There is a separate study for the Route 45 corridor, which came from the Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study. Route 45 was identified to see what improvements can be made, as it is separate from the SCAC project and shouldn't be impacted. Anything on Route 45 that has a direct connection to the SCAC will be considered, including the interchange on Boal Ave.

At the previous meeting, there were discussions from owners in Potter Township who were concerned about the interchange. PennDOT did meet with the owners and had additional conversations with Potter Township officials about a midpoint interchange closer to the central business district in Potter Township. The project is moving forward as scheduled without that midpoint interchange and conversations are ongoing on its possibility in the future.

Mr. Saylor indicated the MPO was copied on a letter from the Potter Township supervisors, PennDOT, and the project team outlining their concerns. This letter will be shared with Technical Committee members. It was also called out to plan agricultural vehicles in the design of the roundabouts for the SCAC project.

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

Ms. Messner provided the Committee with an update on the final draft LRTP 2055, which will be considered for adoption at the September Coordinating Committee meeting. Ms. Trussell, of Michael Baker, reviewed the major items that have been added to the plan since it was last presented:

- Goods movement detailed throughout Centre County
- Most recent release of Freight Analysis Framework (FAF) data from FHWA
- Revenue forecast provided from PennDOT D-2 and Central Office
- Additional areas of attention:
 - Bus Rapid Transit
 - Connected and automated vehicles
 - Park and ride facilities
 - Micro-mobility devices (electric scooters or electric bikes)
- Air quality conformity report

FHWA requires MPOs to document the amount of revenue that the MPO could reasonably expect to receive over the life of the plan horizon, out to the year 2055. Last month, PennDOT released the financial guidance documentation, which provides the amount of revenue the MPO could expect to receive through the 12-year program period. It is forecasted to be around \$582 million over the life of the plan. Any revenue beyond the 12-year program period of 2036 is assumed to be flat out to the year 2055, estimated at around \$18.5 million each year, which is a conservative forecast due to the potential for new revenue that may be available from the motor license fund or the federal government.

Another major element is the air quality conformity report, which is coordinated with the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) to review the projects that would be considered air quality significant. These include: the I-80/I-99 High Speed Interchange Project in Bellefonte, the State College Area Connector, and the Park Avenue widening project. Most projects within the plan do not have an impact on air quality.

Ms. Messner stated that the 30-day public comment period will begin on June 30 and run through July 31. The public open house will take place on July 22 from 3:00 pm to 4:40 pm and 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the General Forum Room. After the comment period concludes, public comments will be reviewed, and the final draft plan will be presented to the Coordinating Committee for consideration of adoption at its September meeting.

The Committee offered no comments for consideration.

Motion was made by Mr. Hampton, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to release the LRTP for the 30-day public comment period on June 30, 2025, and hold the Open House on July 22, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (00:26:44)

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) lists the work tasks to be completed by the CRPA, CATA, and the CCPCDO on behalf of the MPO. The 2025-2027 UPWP was adopted in November 2024 and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

As part of the development of the 2025-2027 UPWP, the CCMPO requested supplemental planning funds for the following work tasks:

- Benner Pike Corridor Study
- Rail Passenger Access Study

CCMPO staff were notified in May that both efforts have been funded, and that work on the efforts may proceed after notice to proceed is received as part of a fully executed work order agreement.

There are 3 projects left on the list to submit for year 2, however, 2 of those 3 are related to the SS4A grant. They have not been obligated yet, as we are waiting for them to be finalized. The last remaining item to submit for in year 2 is the SR 322 Moshannon Valley Safety Study.

Year Two Possible Submissions:

- Benner Pike Corridor Study
- Rail Passenger Access Study
- Passenger Rail Access Study
- Sidewalk Gap Analysis Study (SS4A Grant)
- County-wide Flooding Vulnerability Study
- SR 322 Moshannon Valley Safety Study
- Comprehensive Assessment of Lane Departures (SS4A)
- Technical Support for CCMPO Staff for Model Runs and RITIS Training

The Technical Committee should receive the staff presentation and provide input to staff about candidate

special studies and priority work tasks that should be considered for funding in year two of the FY 2025-27 UPWP.

Motion by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Hampton to provide comments to MPO staff on the proposed year two studies and to advance the SR 322 Moshannon Valley Safety Study. Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the rail passenger access study that it could be beneficial to have something like HighwayRevolt.org or Jeremy Thompson from Ferguson Township to weigh in on this.

11. 2025-2028 Centre County Transportation Improvements Plan (TIP) Revisions: (00:35:58)

The 2025-2028 Centre County TIP was adopted by the CCMPO in June 2024 and took effect on October 1, 2024.

The TIP includes a line item with \$504,000 in funding from the Highway Safety Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2025. PennDOT personnel propose allocating \$50,000 to a project to install surface mount delineators and perform shoulder widening on the section of US 322 transitioning from four lanes to two lanes around the Earlstown Road (SR 45) Interchange in Harris Township. To expedite installation, PennDOT will utilize Department Forces.

The CCMPO must formally approve a revision of the TIP to program the new project using Federal funds.

a. Highway Safety Improvement Program – \$50,000 for SR-322/MN Expressway Surface Mount Delineators

Mr. Saylor provided the Committee with a brief report on the proposed TIP revision. The first amendment would allocate \$50,000 from the regional safety line item that is not currently allocated to any particular project to a project that will install roundabout surface mount delineators on U.S. 322 at the eastern end of the Mount Nittany Expressway, where it goes from four lanes to two lanes in Harris Township. The delineators would be placed in the center to reduce crossovers and head-on collisions. County maintenance forces will be utilized for installation to keep the costs low and to shorten the project timeline.

Motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Hampton, to recommend the Coordinating Committee to approve revisions to the 2025-2028 TIP and approve the safety project for US 322. Motion carried unanimously.

b. PROTECT PROGRAM – \$1.38 million for the Centre County Resilient Routes Study

Mr. Saylor provided a brief report of the TIP amendment to include \$1.38 million for the Centre County Resilient Routes Study. Mr. Saylor stated that as discussed in previous meetings, staff submitted a scaled-back version of Phase 1 for \$500,000, which PennDOT awarded earlier this year. Following that approval, PennDOT Central Office determined that additional funding was available and after further information was submitted for phases 2 and 3, PennDOT allocated \$1.38 million for all three phases. This enables the MPO to complete the project in its entirety: identifying the areas of repeated and significant vulnerability to severe weather, developing and prioritizing projects to address those areas, and starting the process to develop solutions and program projects through the first steps of the permitting process. The funding from

this would be administered through the TIP by a district engineering agreement. This amendment would allow the funds to be allocated by the end of the current fiscal year and start the study as quickly as possible.

Motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Hampton to recommend to the Coordinating Committee to approve the PROTECT project for the 2025-2028 TIP revision. Motion carried unanimously.

12. 2027-2030 Centre County Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Introduction (00:41:05)

Preparation for the 2027-2030 TIP has started. CCMPO staff hope to present a Preliminary Draft TIP to the CCMPO Committees in November 2025, and a Final Draft TIP in February 2026. A 30-day public comment period will be held in late spring, and adoption is planned for June 2026.

Financial Guidance indicates moderate funding allocation increases for both the Highway/Bridge and Transit portions of the TIP.

Action requested for input about the project priorities and provided an overview of where each project has progressed currently.

Carry-Over Projects

Projects with construction on the current TIP that need construction shown on the new TIP

2026 Centre County Bridge Preservation (110368)	Bridge over Trib Wallace Run (109581)
West Maple Street RR Upgrade (121373)	SR 4005 over I-80 (88217) (Snowshoe)
SR 2011 over Penns Creek (120550)	

Design Projects Going to Construction

Projects with construction shown in FFY 2027 or 2028 of the current TIP and need construction phase carried over to new TIP

SR 26 over SEDA-COG/Nit & Bald Eagle (88169)	SR 1009 over Lick Run (116791) (Howard Township)
SR's 26,45 & 3011 Bridge Preservations (119880)	Atherton /University/E. Branch Rd. Intersection (121321)
SR 144 Potter Run Concrete Arch (116739)	SR 3030 over Branch Dix Run BOX
SR 150 Holt Hollow Run Bridge (88222) (Boggs)	SR 3036 over Mulligan Run
SR 150 & Phoenix Avenue Intersection (106365) (Bellefonte)	2027 Centre Bridge Preservation
SR 322 Sinking Creek Bridge (88349) (Potter)	

Design Projects Requiring Construction Phase

Projects with Preconstruction Phases shown in FFY 2027 or 2028 and need construction phases programmed on the new TIP

SCAC	SR 445 Bridge Restoration (115653)
Centre County VRU Project 2026 (119318)	SR 2006 Hayes Run Bridge BOX (93268)
SR 45 Branch Pine Creek Bridge (88333)	SR 2010 Trib to Muddy Run BOX (93332)
SR 144/192 Centre Hall Drainage Improvement (120568)	Atherton Street Phase IV (101961)
SR 150 Drainage Pipe (120171)	SR 3021 Steele Hollow Rd Bridge
SR 150 Logan Branch Bridge (88362) (Tied to Phoenix Avenue)	

Line-item Priorities

Retroactive reimbursement item for local bridges (\$750,000 every other year)	Pedestrian mobility improvements (\$250,000)
State Bridge Preservation projects	Safety item for needs not yet identified

Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Priorities

Construction for Atherton/University/Branch Road Intersection	Bishop Street School Zone Sign Upgrades
	TASA project completion line item

Projects to Consider for Design Phases:

New projects developed from studies, subcommittees and other sources that require a design or study phase to move forward.

Local Bridge BIP Project (Starting design on a project that includes one or more local bridges, may include state bridges, to prepare for a future BIP application)	High Tension Center Median Barrier Installation (HTCMB)
	SR 322 Corridor Short Term (Harris Twp)
	Atherton Street Phase IV
CATA ADA Stop Assessment Study Implementation.	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation funding

Implementation for Ongoing Studies:

Study projects that will need implementation funding, but are not likely to be complete in time to inform this update

PROTECT Study Implementation Projects	Independent Safety Needs on SR 45 Implementation
Benner Pike Corridor Study	

Transit Priorities:

Transit projects were drawn from several planning documents and confirmed with operators.

Waddle Road at Toftrees Avenue Park and Ride Facility	Intermodal Transportation Hub
Public Transit between Nittany Intervalley Region and State College (Transit Needs Analysis or Strategic Plan for the Nittany Valley)	Passenger Rail Service Connection
	Implementation for Pending Strategic Plan Update

Other Priorities:

Projects and needs that were considered but are not likely to be able to be programmed to fiscal constraint or project timelines.

Park Avenue Design (State College Borough & College Township)	Local Federal Aid Routes line-item
SR 26 Design for Resurfacing (State College Borough)	Airport Connector Road

Mr. Saylor asked for input about project priorities to move forward with in the future.

There was discussion regarding SR 192 for consideration for a project in the future, where the horse and buggy crash recently occurred. Mr. Hampton noted to county and municipal officials as reminder that input is needed within the next few months, as the draft needs to be completed by December.

13. EV Subcommittee Update (00:57:15)

Ms. Adams provided the Committee with a presentation on the EV Infrastructure Readiness Subcommittee and the draft report on priorities for charging use types and optimal locations and communities. Ms. Adams gave a brief overview of the history of the Committee and the work it has completed to date, including the EV workshops that were held in April and May.

The Subcommittee has been gathering community input and analyzing existing travel data to plan for the growth in EV charging infrastructure in a logistical and productive manner. The community input consisted of the municipal survey that took place last winter, 34 stakeholder interviews, and three listening sessions/workshops in April and May. The Subcommittee used this data to identify high-travel roads and priority locations and destinations for EV charging infrastructure and developed a report to submit to PennDOT’s National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program, in which PennDOT received \$171.5 million in federal funds to install public EV charging stations across the state. PennDOT must first use this funding towards building a network of fast charging along major roadways, which are primarily interstate highways. However, PennDOT will allocate funds to community charging efforts as well.

The EV Subcommittee developed a report that identifies the five priority charging use types and the priority community zones in Centre County that PennDOT should consider providing funding to install charging infrastructure. The five priority charging use types were identified utilizing the survey, stakeholder input, and workshop input.

These priorities are as follows:

1. Destination charging (parks, recreation, events)
2. Public parking lots in cities and towns
3. Parking for multi-family/high density housing on street
4. Shopping centers (retail/grocery)
5. Lodging

The Subcommittee recommended the following location priorities for PennDOT to consider:

- Tier 1/Top Priorities:
 - State College Borough
 - South Atherton Street (322 zone)
 - Centre Hall
- Tier 2 Priorities:
 - Port Matilda
 - Millheim (along Route 45)
 - State College/Bellefonte area (focusing on those without access to their own garage)

Motion by Mr. Hampton, seconded by Mr. Ziegler for members to provide input on the report and if the report should be recommended to the Coordinating Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Projects Committee Update (01:10:33)

Mrs. Hoffman provided an update on the Projects Committee tasks and grant application efforts.

- February 28: CCMPO submitted a revised Phase 1 application to PennDOT's PROTECT program.
- April 10: PennDOT approved and funded Phase 1.
- Early May: Staff updated and resubmitted full proposal for all 3 phases after learning of potential additional PROTECT funds.
- PennDOT awarded \$1.38M for all 3 phases of the Centre County Resilient Routes study.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) – Bellefonte EMS & HAAS Alert Safety Cloud

Bellefonte Emergency Medical Services (EMS) approached the MPO staff regarding the SS4A grant awarded to the Centre Region COG last September. They are seeking our help to apply for the grant, as they are not an eligible entity under the SS4A requirements. The CCMPO focuses on transportation safety and sees value in collaborating with Bellefonte EMS to enhance post-crash care through a demonstration project. This initiative aims to analyze new technologies that provide advanced digital alerts to improve safety at crash sites and reduce the risk of secondary incidents.

CCMPO staff verified our ability to collaborate with Bellefonte EMS to submit a grant application by June 29, 2025. The SS4A program supports funding for post-crash care improvements and encourages collaborative efforts. Since CCMPO has the only county-wide draft Action Plan, no conflicts exist with Bellefonte EMS's project. If awarded, Bellefonte EMS will manage the grant narrative and project, while CCMPO will handle invoicing, reporting to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), and reimbursements. An MOU will be required to finalize the partnership. The project is estimated to require 15 hours of staff time quarterly during the grant period, with awards expected in fall 2025 and completion by spring or summer 2028.

Mrs. Hoffman also mentioned that staff assisted Patton Township Police Department with its SS4A application. Since the MPO is the holder of the county-wide action plan, collaboration with Centre County applications is necessary to ensure the project can support the overall action plan. Patton Township Police submitted an application to install license plate readers along the North Atherton corridor for more efficient incident detection, traffic pattern analysis, and rapid law enforcement response. Patton Township Police is an eligible entity, so if awarded, it will manage the grant and all reporting and financial requirements to FHWA. The final report will be included as an appendix to the overall Centre County Action Plan.

Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Grant Application for FY 2026

Mrs. Hoffman communicated that staff has not yet received any information about the Bridge Investment Program application that was submitted last year for the Snow Shoe Bridge over I-80. Because these types of grant applications are complex and require more time to develop, staff need to begin developing an application for this year's grant application round. If the Snow Shoe Bridge over I-80 application is unsuccessful, staff would like to revise and resubmit for this year. If the bridge project is awarded, funding on the TIP could be reallocated to fund other projects.

Following the Projects Committee's direction, staff have begun developing a local bridge bundle for this year's application. However, these local bridge projects require further development before submission. Staff are currently awaiting bridge inspection reports to work with the County to allocate funds to start a preliminary engineering phase for the Eagleville Road Bridge and Stahl's Lane Bridge to submit for next year's application. While the BIP does not mandate preliminary engineering completion for application submission, it is encouraged to define the project scope.

If the SR 4005 Snow Shoe Bridge application is successful, staff requests to develop an application to replace the SR 144 Concrete Arch Culvert over Potter Run in Potter Township this year. This bridge is near the old intersection of US 322 and SR 144 (prior to the Potters Mills Gap project). This project is important to complete ahead of the SCAC project, as it is a direct route for local residents to access US 322 and SR 144. The structure will be replaced with a reinforced concrete box culvert, and the construction phase will have some complexities based on the layout of the project area, the classification of Potter Run, and the arch culvert itself. The total cost of the project is a little over \$4 million. As with the Snow Shoe Bridge, if funds are awarded, the current TIP funds will be reallocated to other projects, including local bridge projects.

Motion by Mr. Lomison, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to recommend to the Coordinating Committee for staff to utilize consultant funds to revise and resubmit the SR 4005 Snow Shoe bridge over I-80 project for the FY 2026 round if it is not successful, or to develop an application for the SR 144 concrete arch culvert over Potter Run to submit by November 1, 2025 if the Snow Shoe Bridge application is successful. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Member Reports (01:18:23)

Mr. Seybert announced the TASA project in Harris Township/Pine Grove Mills has started construction, and the completion date is estimated for mid-August.

16. Announcements (01:19:00)

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday September 10, at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Saylor provided updates on the following:

- Item 6 – Centre County Development Office provided an update on local bridge activity and is a resource to stay up to date on those projects.
- Item 10 - announced that in May 2025 Ron Buckalew, a previous long-time member of the CRPC who represented the Commission on the MPO Coordinating Committee for many years, passed away. Ron's contributions and extensive history of public service to Centre County were an asset during his time of service.
- Item 13 – The Elmwood Street Bridge is closed for most of this summer, which is a rehab bridge funded in the TIP.

Ms. Adams provided updates on the following:

- Effective June 5, it is now prohibited to use handheld devices while driving.
- Event on June 18, Summer Biking in the Centre Region at the Bike Den.

17. Adjourn (01:21:00)

The June 11, 2025, meeting of the Technical Committee was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabrielle Lauder
Recording Secretary