

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

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

Voting Members

Ron Seybert	Ferguson Township
Don Franson	College Township
Peggy Johnson	Harris Township
Doug Erickson	Patton Township
Mark Lively	Upper Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region
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
Mark Schultz	PennDOT District 2

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
Gabrielle Lauder	Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)
Kevin James	Michael Baker International
Peyton Trussel	Michael Baker International
Richa Rimal	Centre County Planning & Community Development Office
Lori Cole	Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson (JMT)

1. Call to Order (00:00:01)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

2. Safety Moment (00:00:38)

Anne Messner reported on Rail Safety Week occurring this September 15 to 21, 2025.

3. Public Comments (00:01:08)

There were no comments from the public.

4. New Agenda Items (00:01:12)

No new agenda items were requested.

5. Consent Agenda (00:01:23)

a. Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2025, Technical Committee Meeting

There were two edits brought forth prior to the vote. The first edit was brought forth by Mr. Hampton on page 3 in the first sentence of the second full paragraph changing “city highway” to “PA Byway”. The second edit was brought forth by Mr. Lively on page 2 in the first sentence changing “Mr. Lively” to “Mr. Seybert”.

Motion was made by Mr. Seybert and seconded by Mr. Hampton to approve the minutes of the June 2025 Technical Committee meeting, with the proposed edits made. Motion carried unanimously 10-0.

6. State College Area Connector (SCAC) Project (00:02:43)

Mr. James presented an update on the SCAC project. The SCAC Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Study was finalized in June 2023, and FHWA has formally accepted the report. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to submit an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project has been published.

As part of the development of the EIS, work continues on the refinement of alternatives recommended in the PEL. On July 23, 2025, the project team announced changes to the north and central alternatives to reduce potential impacts. The central alternative remains the recommended preferred alternative. PennDOT expects to release a draft of the EIS later this year, and to conduct a public hearing for the document.

The team conducted a plans display as part of the 2025 Grange Fair and provided an updated newsletter. The second scoping public meeting was held in May in Boalsburg. It was well attended and a summary report with responses to the questions was developed and is currently in final review with FHWA. It should be ready to publish in the project website soon and a press release will be sent out as well.

Discussions between PennDOT, municipal officials, Harris Township and Potter Townships have been ongoing through late June and early July to discuss the recommended preferred alternative and the potential impacts to the Section 4F resource of the Potter Township Athletic Complex ball fields. As part of the Section 4F evaluation, there will be a slight minor adjustment after the public meeting, to avoid the direct impact to those ball fields and minimize the overall impact to that resource and the agricultural resources adjacent to those fields. There was a follow-up meeting on July 10th with Potter Township and a response letter on July 21st to update them on the course

of action moving forward. The adjacent property owners were involved in this discussion prior to the press release update and project website update.

The second and third consulting parties' meetings took place. The third consulting parties meeting was held August 26th in Boalsburg at the Fire Hall from 6pm-8pm and was also accessible virtually via Microsoft Teams. There was information provided and good feedback on mitigation strategies for the effects on the historic resources within the project area. This feedback has been incorporated into the draft programmatic agreement as part of the Section 106 coordination for the project related to the historic resources.

The Draft EIS document and all supporting documents have been developed and are currently in review with FHWA as well. The Draft EIS will be reviewed with the technical staff and then legal review. Once those are complete, it will be ready to release for public comment and the public hearing. This should occur either later this year in 2025 or early next year in 2026. The Section 404 permit has been submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the Section 401 Water Quality Certification with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The review processes have started, due to the federal decision requirement for the waterway permit or the Section 404 permit. Federal decision is required within 90 days of the record of decision. The record of decision, which is the finalization of the environmental review process for the Draft EIS, is anticipated for next summer. Within 90 days of that is when there needs to be a decision from the Army Corps on the waterway permit, which is why it was submitted at this point based on the recommended preferred alternative.

Mr. Seybert inquired if there was any feedback received from Potter Township on the potential future interchange. It was clarified that there currently has not been any further communication from Potter Township to PennDOT or the CCMPO.

7. Fiscal Year (FY) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Revisions (00:09:02)

Mr. Saylor presented the FY TIP revisions. 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 \$454,000 in funding from the Highway Safety Improvement Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2025. PennDOT personnel propose allocating all \$454,000 to a project to install high friction surface treatments (HFST) at locations on US 322 in Harris Township, SR 350 in Rush Township, and SR 455 in Penn Township.

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

Summary of Recommended Amendment to 2023-2026 TIP
<i>Where are the funds coming FROM?</i>

Project	Original Funding	Change	Revised Funding
Line Item Safety/SAF	\$454,000	-\$454,000	\$0
Where are the funds going TO?			
2026 Centre HFST – Lane Dep	\$0	\$454,000	\$454,000

Motion was made by Mr. Ziegler and seconded by Mr. Seybert to recommend the revisions of the TIP to the Coordinating Committee, to allocate \$454,000 to a project to install high friction surface treatments (HFST) at locations on US 322, SR 350, and SR 445. Motion carried unanimously 10-0.

Mr. Saylor presented the idea of a voting and virtual only meeting scheduled for each August, which would be set at the beginning of the year upon new appointments. This would allow for any pressing items to be addressed prior to their submission deadline at the end of each September, which is the end of the fiscal year for funding. Planning for a meeting would follow the Sunshine Act guidelines and prevent the potential need for future emergency voting meetings, as this will likely happen again during future September meetings. For this current item, it is moving forward at this regularly scheduled meeting and staff received permission from PennDOT explicitly to file paperwork as soon as the next meeting is completed.

It was decided to discuss the potential for an updated meeting schedule more during the strategic plan discussion later in the meeting.

**8. Public Comment Period Summary For:
2025 Centre County Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (Revised July 2025)
Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2055 (00:14:12)**

Ms. Messner presented the 2025 Centre County Air Quality Conformity Determination Report and the Long Range Transportation Plan 2055. During the June 2025 Technical Committee meeting a recommendation was made to the Coordinating Committee to proceed with the 30-day public comment period and Open House to receive public comments on the draft plan and air quality conformity analysis as well as to hold an Open House on July 22, 2025. During their June 24, 2025, meeting, the Coordinating Committee received the recommendation and approved moving forward with the 30-day comment period and Open House sessions on July 22, 2025.

Staff provided a brief presentation about the public comments and the Open House. Advertisements were sent to the Clearfield Progress, Lock Haven Express, and the Centre Daily Times notifying the public of both documents. A press release was sent to 67 broadcast and 25 media outlets, as well as posted on Facebook and shared 5 times. A notice was either emailed or mailed, depending on the preference to the Native American tribes and nations whose ancestors had at one time lived in Centre County. There were 38 comments received as responses. It was noted by Ms. Messner that the afternoon open house session generated more attendees than the evening one, which may be a consideration for the future in the Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Motion was made by Mr. Seybert and seconded by Mr. Ziegler to recommend approval of responses to comments for the 2025 Centre County Air Quality Conformity Determination Report and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2055 to the Coordinating Committee. Motion carried unanimously 11-0.

9. 2024 Centre County Air Quality Conformity Determination Report (00:19:37)

Ms. Messner presented on the 2024 Centre County Air Quality Conformity Determination Report. In 2018, the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated major portions of a rule impacting air quality conformity requirements for the 1997 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The ruling requires previous air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas to meet conformity requirements for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

This court decision designated Centre County as an “orphan” maintenance area since the County was in maintenance status for the 1997 NAAQS and was subsequently designated as an attainment area for the 2008 NAAQS. Although official attainment designations have yet to be made by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the 2015 NAAQS, Centre County is also in attainment with the 2015 standards.

In November 2018, EPA issued guidance for how transportation conformity determinations can be made in the orphan maintenance areas. The guidance allows conformity to be determined without the detailed regional emissions analysis that was typically performed in the past for the Centre County Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

An Air Quality Conformity Determination Report that meets the EPA’s guidance was completed in May 2025 for 2055 Long Range Transportation Plan. The preparation and approval of the Conformity Determination Report ensures that the 2055 LRTP meet federal transportation conformity requirements and are consistent with Pennsylvania’s State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Motion was made by Mr. Hampton and seconded by Mr. Seybert to recommend approval of the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report to the Coordinating Committee. Motion carried unanimously 10-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Seybert and seconded by Mr. Hampton to recommend approval of the Air Quality Resolution to the Coordinating Committee. Motion carried unanimously 11-0.

10. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update (00:23:50)

Mr. Funkhouser presented an update on the LRTP. The final Draft 2055 LRTP is now provided as part of the final steps to adoption for LRTP development process. As a reminder, performance-based planning is emphasized as part of plan development, as well as a listing of fiscally constrained projects in support of the implementation of federal performance measures. The plan also contains information related to forecasted revenue for the life of the plan, anticipating a flat level of funding beyond the 12-Year Program (or years 2038-2055).

Major work tasks on the update of the long-range transportation plan (LRTP) since the June 11

Technical Committee meeting have included the following:

- Projects from the draft LRTP were submitted to the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) to initiate the review process for the conformity document. The ICG ensures that our transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to air quality goals set under the Clean Air Act. The Conformity Analysis is included in the draft plan as Appendix G.
- As previously stated MPO staff administered a formal 30-day Public Review and Comment Period, which ran from June 30 to July 31 as well as held open house sessions on July 22, 2025. As part of this, MPO staff distributed draft plans on June 26 to locations throughout the county for public review.
- Comments were received from the public and reviewing agencies. The planning team reviewed all comments received and developed a recommended response and edits in the plan where applicable. These are included in the draft plan as Appendix I.

Motion was made by Frank Hampton and seconded by Ron Seybert to recommend to the Coordinating Committee to accept the LRTP 2055. Motion carried unanimously 11-0.

11. Review of Potential Transportation Systems Management Operations (TSMO) Projects (00:32:51)

Mr. Saylor presented a review of the potential Transportation Systems Management Operations (TSMO) Projects. In June 2025 PennDOT released guidance for the 2027 and 2028 Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Capital Funding Initiative. The program makes \$10 million of federal Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding available in FFY 2027 and 2028. This is a statewide funding round open to MPOs and RPOs to advance TSMO and ITS projects included in the four Regional Operations Plans (ROP) covering the state. The criteria shared prioritized the installation of new devices, deliverability, and encouraged collaboration between PennDOT District Offices, MPOs, and RPOs.

The application window opened shortly before the June Coordinating Committee Meeting and closed on August 31. CCMPO coordinated with District two staff and identified the following four projects for submission (in order of priority assigned):

- **ST12/TI-06: US 322, Phillipsburg to I-99 ITS** – The project would install cameras, a weather station, variable speed limit signs, flashing warning devices and message signs on US 322 between the Sandy Ridge and Port Matilda. (\$1,250,000).
- **LT-02: I-80/I-99 Fiber Backbone** – Project would install 11 miles of mainline fiber-optic backbone line, closing a current gap in facilities that extends from I-99 Exit 71 to the interchange with I-80. (\$3,000,000)
- **ST-04: I-80 ICM (Exit 147-158); IU-02 College Twp Signal Improvements; FA-35 US 322 ITS at College Ave Exit**—Project would add a CCTV camera at the College Ave. Exit

and upgrade signals at adjoining intersections to install preemption and command/control capability. (\$550,000)

- **FA-08: I-99 VSL** – Project would install variable speed limit signs along I-99 extending from Exit 61 (Port Matilda) to Exit 83 (Bellefonte). (\$1,200,000)

Due to the timeline of the application process, it was not possible to vet these candidates with the CCMPO committees, although an item about the opportunity soliciting member comments was included in the announcements for the June Coordinating Committee meeting.

Staff notes that timeline for the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) program may present a similar set of issues, with action required between the November and February meeting to prioritize applicants from the region. At the time of writing, no applicants had reached out for the required coordination meetings.

Mr. Seybert mentioned that it would be helpful to have a presentation on the ROP plan in the future, to better understand the entire picture. There was also an idea of having the Projects Committee review these project suggestions to move forward with funding, prior to submission from staff in lieu of a meeting prior to the deadline passing. Mr. Lively asked what types of projects other RPOs and MPOs are thinking of applying for. Mr. Saylor elaborated on other RPOs and MPOs that we collaborated with on the ROP would have the list of projects they're interested in pursuing in the ROP, however, the available state funding totals \$10M and we submitted \$7M of projects. We would be lucky if one of the projects was accepted, due to the competitiveness of the awards. Mr. Hampton agreed that he thinks the Projects Committee would be a good place to have the discussion, if needed in the future.

12. CCMPO Draft Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Budget (00:50:13)

Mr. Saylor presented the CCMPO Draft Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Budget. The CCMPO's annual operating budget is included as a distinct cost center in the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) calendar year budget.

Preparation of the CY 2026 Budget is underway. Staff will review the budget with the COG Finance Committee on September 11. The budget will also be reviewed by the local funding partners in October.

CRPA staff reported on the budget highlights:

- 2026 Budget includes continued funding for the Transportation Grant Specialist position and consulting support.
- Unspent consulting funds from 2025 will be rolled over in 2026
- Budget includes funding for 3 ongoing studies: Benner Pike Corridor Study, Passenger Rail Access Study, and the Safe Streets For All (SS4A)
- Does not include funding for the 322 Safety Study, and the request to support TDM updated and data access training. If COG municipalities and Centre County approve local match, the budget will be updated.

- Staff anticipates a slight increase in contributions from Centre County and Centre Region.

Discretionary Funding Efforts:

Grant Applications

- 2 Awards – Protect & SS4A = \$1,540,900
- 2 Submitted/Pending – Bridge Improvement Program (BIP) & SS4A = \$9,114,000
- 1 in Development – Bridge Improvement (BIP) = \$3M to \$9M

Consulting Assistance

- \$145,000 collected to fund assistance
- 2 Work Orders authorized (BIP & Protect):
\$72,525 authorized | \$23,414 spent | \$121,586 remaining

Requests for 2026

Budget Requests:

- SS4A Demonstration Grant with Bellefonte EMS (HAAS Alert Safety Cloud)
- 322 Safety Study (Matching Funds for SPR Request)
- Travel Demand Model and Data Access Training (PennDOT's RITIS Data)

Anticipated Grant Applications:

- Bridge Improvement Program for SR 4005 or SR 144

The HAAS Safety Cloud system would allow emergency response vehicles in the area to send alerts out via Waze or Google Maps apps, to notify other vehicles on the road of emergency responses or emergency vehicles. Bellefonte EMS does not have the ability to administer this grant so they are looking to work with both Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Messner for assistance with the process and filing federal reports.

Mr. Hampton clarified that, as always, PennDOT will abstain from local funding decisions. Mr. Ziegler declared support for the Passenger Rail Access Study. He also raised awareness of the need for better uniformity in street signage in the Penns Valley area, to increase access in an emergency to efficiently access addresses. Mr. Lively mentioned that uniformity decisions to pass ordinances along those lines is normally up to each municipality for oversight and the Port Matilda Fire Company (PMFC) pushed for ordinances requiring the uniform signage. Mr. Saylor added that staff may be able to reach out to other parties to assist Penns Valley with this conversation.

13. CCMPO Strategic Plan (01:09:19)

Ms. Hoffman presented the CCMPO Strategic Plan. In 2022, the Centre County MPO initiated the development of its first-ever operations-focused, organizational strategic plan. At the time, the MPO's current organizational model was established nearly 20 years ago as part of its transition from the Centre Region MPO to a countywide MPO. Since that time, numerous changes have occurred in the transportation planning and programming process at both the federal and state levels. The CCMPO sought to revisit its structure to ensure that membership within both committees (Technical and Coordinating) was not only an accurate reflection of the county's transportation interests, but also operating to their fullest potential. In June 2023, the CCMPO

Strategic Plan was adopted. A corresponding implementation plan was developed during the summer of 2023 and presented in September 2023 as CCMPO Bylaw amendments.

In November 2023, the Coordinating Committee took action to amend the CCMPO Bylaws as follows:

- Membership terms were extended from two to four years
- The appointment schedule was revised to be staggered so that not all members are appointed in the same year.
- The Projects Committee structure was developed, and a set of Bylaws was created.

Since then, staff have carried out several action items from the Strategic Plan; however, some remain. Staff will provide an overview of the actions from the adopted Strategic Plan that have been completed and those that have not.

One action item includes holding a joint meeting with the Coordinating, Technical, and Projects Committees. This has not yet been pursued, but staff would like the Technical Committee to consider a recommendation to hold a joint meeting in November.

CCMPO Strategic Plan 2023: <https://www.crcog.net/ccmpo-strategic-plan>

Mr. Lively asked how the joint meeting would run operationally. It was clarified that the meeting would occur during the Coordinating Committee's normal meeting time and would be facilitated by the Coordinating Committee chair and vice chair.

Motion was made by Mr. Seybert and seconded by Mr. Ziegler to recommend holding a joint meeting with all three committees (Technical, Coordinating, and Projects Committees) in November on Tuesday November 25, 2025 at 6:00pm. Motion carried unanimously 11-0.

There was discussion regarding a future August meeting as a vote only meeting. Mr. Lively supported the idea, as it would be simple to cancel it if there was no pressing business to attend to immediately. Advertising for the meetings was also discussed. The meetings for MPO have historically been advertised each month about 2 weeks prior to the meeting date. Other COG and CRPA meetings are advertised as a full schedule once at the beginning of the year and other advertisements are only submitted monthly if there are changes to that schedule. Mr. Hampton offered that it may be possible to advertise once at the beginning of the year and if the August voting only meeting is approved, it could be advertised as a contingency meeting in that annual advertisement.

Mr. Seybert asked how other MPOs and RPOs approach their meetings to meet deadlines. There are other MPOs and RPOs across the state that have contingency meetings in either July or August each year, due to TIP developments. Mr. Hampton added that the North Central MPO usually has a contingency meeting in July, if necessary, to meet TIP update deadlines. Mr. Saylor commented that the break between the June and September meeting is one challenge to meet the funding round for the end of the fiscal year. The other break between November and February is difficult, due to municipalities completing annual appointments and reorganizations in January, which

makes adopting the UPWP or having FHWA process it ahead of other submissions difficult.

Mr. Hampton offered the idea to potentially utilize an August meeting more permanently and then skip September, develop in October, skip November, and add a meeting in December so that there are only two months in between every time. Staff has considered that alternative schedule, although August may be challenging due to Grange Fair. December may also be challenging due to holidays and travel, as the COG General Forum regularly cancels their December meetings due to lack of a quorum.

Mr. Saylor remarked that the input on the strategic plan and its future direction for future project considerations is welcome and encouraged. Mr. Seybert believes this direction should come from the Coordinating Committee or through an annual joint meeting with both the Technical and Coordinating Committees.

14. Member Reports (01:33:34)

Mr. Seybert reported on the Transportation Alternative Set Aside (TASA) project in Ferguson Township, which is constructing bike lanes, sharrows, and sidewalk extension. This project is nearly complete.

15. Announcements (01:34:14)

Mr. Seybert reported that this meeting will most likely be his last meeting representing Ferguson Township. He will most likely be representing the State College Borough at the next meeting in November. There was discussion on whether Mr. Seybert would need to be reappointed to the committee. Due to it being the last meeting of the year and a joint meeting, this is not necessary.

Mr. Saylor reported the following announcements:

- Item 15 – There is a Department of Transportation request for information asking us to prioritize our priorities for reauthorization. Staff put together a brief set of comments, emailed them to the chairs of this committee, and submitted them to the Federal Register. Staff recommended similarly to projects and programs that have been successful for us that we want to see continue.
- Item 18 – The County Liquid Fuels program is open. The registration page is included in the agenda attachments for that. Ms. Rimal expressed that the CCPCDO office is thrilled to be able to share this information.

The Centre County Liquid Fuels Program 2026 is now accepting applications. Notifications were sent to all Centre County municipalities on August 22, 2025. The deadline for municipalities to submit requests is October 17, 2025, by 5:00 PM, either to the Centre County Planning Office:

Centre County Planning and Community Development Office
Attn: Liquid Fuels Applications
420 Holmes Street, Suite 340

Bellefonte, PA 16823 or by email at CountyTransportation@centrecountypa.gov.

- Item 19 – PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)'s Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grants workshop will be occurring on November 6, 2025. Register if it applies to your organization.

On November 6, 2025, DCNR will host 2025 Community Conservation Partnerships Program Statewide Annual Grant Workshop. This is a virtual workshop, and registration can be found here. <https://eventsreg.dcnr.pa.gov/register/CreateSingle/14107>

16. Adjourn

This meeting was adjourned at 11:09am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gabrielle Lauder
Recording Secretary

DRAFT