

**Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO)
Coordinating Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

6:00 p.m.

***PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION:
PATTON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING***

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes:** *June 28, 2016 Coordinating Committee meeting.*
3. **Citizen Comments:** *For items not on the agenda.*
4. **CCMPO Draft Calendar Year (CY) 2017 Budget**
Review draft budget
Action: Recommend approval of CY 2017 Budget
5. **Passenger Rail Service between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh**
Correspondence providing CCMPO's policy position
Action: Approve correspondence to PennDOT
6. **Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
Repurposing of earmarked funds - 2015-2018 and 2017-2020 TIPs
Action: Discuss potential projects that could receive repurposed funds
7. **Federal Transportation Rulemaking**
 - Final Rule for Metropolitan Transportation Planning
 - Proposed Rule for Performance Measures
 - Proposed Rule for MPO Coordination and Planning Area ReformPresentation about the rules and potential impacts to the CCMPO
No action required
8. **Member Reports:**
Reports from members about a significant item(s) of interest within their organization, municipality, or planning region. Limited to approximately one minute in length.
No action required
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjourn**

*Next Coordinating Committee meeting:
Tuesday, November 22, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Patton Township Municipal Building*

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ITEM 4

CCMPO DRAFT CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2017 BUDGET

Review Draft 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. Revenue and expenditures for the CCMPO's section of the COG budget are illustrated on the following attachment:

- DRAFT CY 2017 CCMPO Budget

Key items about revenue:

- Base federal and state funding from PennDOT is anticipated to remain the same in CY 2017.
- PennDOT provided \$56,000 in supplemental federal transit planning funds in the FY 2016-18 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which will be used in 2016 and 2017 to complete an assessment of the use of articulated buses by CATA.
- CATA has agreed to maintain its funding share at the current level.
- Contributions from Centre County Government and the six municipal funding partners were calculated based on the local share funding formula approved by the Coordinating Committee in May 2013 (*see table on next page for local shares*).
- Centre County's contribution on behalf of 29 municipalities in six rural planning regions reflects the commitment of one transportation planning position to the CCMPO, in addition to a cash allocation.

Key items about expenditures:

- Salary costs reflect a 0.70% cost of living adjustment, and up to a possible 1.5% merit increase. The overall increase in personnel costs is 6.3%. The increase is higher than in past years because a new "in-house" GIS Planner position has been created to replace the Centre Regional Planning Agency's previous GIS services contract with Penn State University. Thirty-five percent (35%) of the cost of the GIS Planner position is assigned to the CCMPO.
- Operating expenses reflect an overall 8% decrease. Staff notes that 14 of the 28 operating expense line items, including building rent, include fixed costs or costs established by formula that cannot be modified by staff.

An increase in GIS software costs is also reflected in operating expenses, as part of the transition of GIS services to an in-house position. However, overall there is a reduction in operating expenses resulting from termination of the GIS services contract with Penn State.

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CCMPO Budget - Local Revenue						
Local Partner	2013 Share	2014 Share	2015 Share	2016 Share	Proposed 2017 Share	% Change 2016-2017
CATA	\$26,935	\$29,912	\$29,912	\$29,912	\$29,912	0%
Centre County Total	35,776	48,241	120,543	\$110,251	\$132,262	+19.96%
<i>(cash contribution)</i>	<i>(35,776)</i>	<i>(35,776 base)</i> <i>(12,465 special)</i>	<i>(37,278)</i>	<i>(24,488)</i>	<i>(43,926)</i>	<i>(+79.38%)</i>
State College Borough	29,508	32,588	33,317	30,424	34,159	+12.28%
College Twp.	22,693	22,382	23,113	21,415	23,842	+11.33%
Ferguson Twp.	35,488	29,677	30,645	28,191	30,787	+9.21%
Halfmoon Twp.	5,840	4,529	4,628	4,259	4,745	+11.41%
Harris Twp.	12,144	10,475	10,795	10,097	11,453	+13.43%
Patton Twp.	28,300	23,347	23,962	22,331	25,616	+14.71%
Benner Twp.	7,342	8,647	8,728	0	0	0
Spring Twp.	13,585	0	0	0	0	0
CASH TOTALS	217,611	209,798	202,378	171,117	204,440	

The Coordinating Committee should review the Draft CY 2017 Budget and provide a recommendation to Centre County, the local funding partners, and the Centre Region COG to approve the Budget.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

Action: Recommend that the local funding partners (Centre County, municipalities, CATA) and the Centre Region COG approve the CY 2017 CCMPO Budget.

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ITEM 5

PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN HARRISBURG AND PITTSBURGH

Correspondence Providing the CCMPO's Policy Position

The Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail (WPPR), a grass-roots advocacy group, and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP), a nonprofit organization that develops and implements innovative programs to enhance Downtown Pittsburgh, have been working collaboratively to promote improvements in passenger rail service between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. The advocates are looking to increase the frequency of passenger trains from one to three per day between Pittsburgh and New York City.

In 2016, WPPR and PDP have been making presentations to counties, municipalities, economic and community development entities, and MPOs along the rail line between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. Although Centre County is not directly on the rail line, the advocates approached local stakeholders about support for the proposed improvements. Representatives of several local stakeholders met with the advocates in April 2016.

After a follow-up meeting with local stakeholders in July, the CCMPO Chair directed MPO staff to prepare draft correspondence to PA Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards restating comments that the CCMPO provided in 2015 about PennDOT's *Keystone West High Speed Rail Study*. The CCMPO's 2015 comments were generally supportive of passenger rail improvements between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

MPO staff will provide a brief presentation about this topic. **The Coordinating Committee should receive the presentation, discuss the draft correspondence (attached), and consider approving the submission of the letter to PennDOT.**

The following website provides more information about the WPPR/PDP efforts: <http://www.wpprrail.org/>

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

Action: Approve submission of correspondence to PennDOT about the improvement of passenger rail service between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

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ITEM 6

CENTRE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Repurposing of Earmarked Funds 2015-2018 and 2017-2020 TIPs

The new *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* included a provision to “repurpose” unexpended earmarked funds authorized in previous federal transportation bills.

PennDOT has been working with MPOs and RPOs to implement a strategy for repurposing earmarked funds in Pennsylvania. In Centre County, a total of \$2,111,218 in earmarked funding will be repurposed in three steps:

1. Add earmarked funding to an existing project on the 2015-2018 TIP. ***Step 1 was completed through an administrative action on the current TIP, as described below:***

Old Earmarked Project	Unobligated Funds	Earmarked Funds Added to
Western Inner Loop	\$105,318	Route 144 Section A12 Bridge over SEDA-COG JRA railroad line
North Atherton St. Signal Coordination	\$2,005,900	Route 144 Section A12 Bridge over SEDA-COG JRA railroad line

2. Shift funds from the Route 144 Section A12 project on the 2017-2020 TIP to a line item. ***Step 2 will be completed via an administrative action that will occur after the new 2017-2020 TIP goes into effect on October 1, 2016.***
3. Shift funds from the line item to an existing or new project on the 2017-2020 TIP. ***Step 3 is anticipated to occur in November 2016 or February 2017.***

PennDOT, MPO staff, and the Technical Committee identified several projects that could be recipients of the repurposed funds. Although projects should be eligible to utilize National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds from the Route 144 Section A12 Bridge project, the NHPP funds could be “swapped” with other types of funds that could be used for projects. Suggested projects include, but are not limited to:

- I-99 (west of Park Avenue Interchange) pavement restoration
- Atherton Street Drainage/Repaving project
- I-99/I-80 Exit 161 safety improvements
- New local bridge start
- Route 150/Phoenix Avenue intersection
- Route 26/Route 150 intersection (Howard causeway)

Several members of the Technical Committee favored committing funding to the I-99/I-80 Exit 161 safety improvements. Technical Committee members also recommended that the funds be committed for an existing project(s) and/or shorter-term project(s) for the purpose of expending the funding in the near future.

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MPO staff will provide a brief presentation. **The Coordinating Committee should receive the presentation, and provide input about potential projects which could use the repurposed funds.**

PennDOT, MPO staff, and the Technical Committee will use this input to help prepare a specific recommendation for presentation to the Coordinating Committee in November 2016 or February 2017.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA

Action: Identify potential projects that could receive repurposed funds.

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ITEM 7

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION RULEMAKING

Presentation about Rules and Potential Impacts to CCMPO

Since the passage of the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)* bill and its successor, the *FAST Act*, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration have been publishing a variety of rules to implement provisions in the bills.

In recent months, several key rules have been approved or proposed rules issued, including but not limited to:

- Final Rule for Metropolitan Transportation Planning
- Proposed Rule for Performance Measures
- Proposed Rule for MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform

At the meeting, FHWA and MPO staff will provide a presentation about key rulemaking and the potential impacts to the CCMPO of the requirements.

The following websites provide more information about the *FAST Act* and implementing rules:

- FHWA: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/>
- Federal Transit Administration: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/FAST.html>
- FHWA: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tpm/rule.cfm>

The Coordinating Committee should receive the presentation.

Presented by: Tom Zilla, CRPA
Matt Smoker, FHWA

No action required.

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ITEM 9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Future Meeting Dates

a. Technical Committee: Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 9:30 a.m.
College Township Municipal Building

- ⇒ Repurposing of earmarks on TIP
- ⇒ Functional Classification System update
- ⇒ Public Participation Plan
- ⇒ Performance measures

b. Coordinating Committee: Tuesday, November 22, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Patton Township Municipal Building

- ⇒ Repurposing of earmarks on TIP
- ⇒ Functional Classification System update
- ⇒ Public Participation Plan
- ⇒ Performance measures

2. The CCMPO's *Procedures for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications* allow project sponsors (typically PennDOT and CATA) to take administrative actions that change funding on the TIP without formal approval by the Coordinating Committee. The *Procedures* specify that the administrative actions be reported to the CCMPO for information purposes. Attached are administrative actions completed for the Highway and Transit Elements of the TIP since June 2016.

In this set of actions, there are a few items worth noting:

- \$1,313,564 was shifted to the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase of Section 152 of the Atherton Street Drainage/Repaving project. Additional funds are needed for the PE phase because of the complexity of the design of this section. Funds were shifted from excess funding on completed projects and from the Final Design phase of Section 152.
- \$874,472 was shifted to the SD Bridge line item from de-obligated funding on previously completed projects.
- \$345,500 was shifted to the Construction phase of the SR 3011 Branch Road Bridge over Slab Cabin run, which will allow an equivalent amount of funding for this project on the 2017-2020 TIP to be shifted to other projects.
- \$448,608 in additional Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding was provided to the Puddintown to Orchard Bikeway Connector project from the statewide TAP reserve.

3. No announcements have been made by PennDOT about the approval of Multimodal Transportation Program (MTP) and Transportation Alternatives Program funding for projects submitted in the most recent application cycles. Applications were submitted for a total five projects in Centre County.

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4. Press releases from PennDOT about roadway and bridge construction projects currently underway in Centre County are posted on the CCMPO's website www.ccmppo.net. MPO staff typically shares PennDOT's press releases with CCMPO Committee members and emergency response providers for projects in their respective areas of the County.
5. Notices about training courses from PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), as sponsored by the SEDDA-COG MPO, are posted on the CCMPO's website www.ccmppo.net.
6. The CCMPO has launched a Facebook page where you can find MPO meeting announcements, project updates, LTAP announcements, District 2-0 press releases, and select items from PennDOT's Facebook page. Please like and share our page at <https://www.facebook.com/centrecountympo/>.
7. Information about the natural gas industry in PA can be found at the following websites:
 - CCPCDO – <http://centrecountypa.gov/index.aspx?NID=210>
 - Penn State University Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension – www.naturalgas.psu.edu
 - Marcellus Center for Outreach & Research (MCOR) – www.marcellus.psu.edu
 - PA Public Utility Commission – http://www.puc.pa.gov/filing_resources/issues_laws_regulations/act_13_impact_fee.aspx
8. CCMPO staff contact information:

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