

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

**Tuesday, January 26, 2010
6:00 p.m.
College Township Municipal Building**

Minutes

Voting Members Present:

Dan Klees	College Township
Ron Buckalew	Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC)
Ray Hankinson for Bob Corman	Penns Valley Planning Region
Theresa Lafer	State College Borough
Michele Barbin for Ken Hall	Mountaintop Planning Region
Kevin Kline	PennDOT District 2-0
Paul Rittenhouse	Harris Township
Jeff Luck	Patton Township
George Pytel	Ferguson Township
Jon Eich	Centre County Board of Commissioners
Bob Jacobs	Centre County Board of Commissioners
Mike Savage	Moshannon Valley Planning Region
Jadine Reese	Upper Bald Eagle Valley Planning Region
Barbara Spencer	Halfmoon Township
John Elnitski	Benner Township
Frank Royer	Spring Township
John Spychalski	Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)
Larry Shifflet	PennDOT Central Office

Non-Voting Members Present:

Rob Cooper	Pennsylvania State University
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Others Present:

Jim May	Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA)
Tom Zilla	CRPA
Trish Meek	CRPA
Greg Kausch	CRPA
Lyssa Cromell	CRPA
Mike Bloom	Centre County Planning/Community Development Office (CCPCDO)
Hugh Mose	CATA
Karen Michael	PennDOT District 2-0
Ken Roan	Marion Township
Ray Gutshall	Marion Township
Brian McCauley	Marion Township
Rich Watters	Howard Borough
Bert Kisner	PennDOT (retired)
Mike Joseph	Centre Daily Times

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. May called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. A round of introductions was made for the benefit of staff and the new Committee members.

2. Election of Officers for 2010

Mr. May opened the floor for nominations for CCMPO Coordinating Committee Chair.

Mr. Elnitski nominated Mr. Klees as Chair of the CCMPO Coordinating Committee for 2010, seconded by Mr. Pytel. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. May then turned the meeting over to Mr. Klees, who opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Mr. Luck nominated Ms. Reese as Vice Chair of the Coordinating Committee for 2010, seconded by Mr. Elnitski. Mr. Pytel nominated Mr. Luck for Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Barbin. Mr. Buckalew nominated Dr. Spsychalski for Vice Chair (Dr. Spsychalski declined). Ms. Spencer moved to close nominations for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Elnitski.

Ms. Reese was elected Vice Chair of the CCMPO Coordinating Committee for 2010 by a vote of 9 to 8 (Ms. Reese abstained).

Mr. Klees asked for a motion to appoint Mr. May as Secretary.

Motion was made by Mr. Buckalew and seconded by Mr. Eich to appoint Mr. May as Secretary of the CCMPO Coordinating Committee for 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Spsychalski made a motion to approve the December 16, 2009 CCMPO Coordinating Committee meeting minutes, with a correction to the spelling of his name on page 3. Mr. Luck seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

5. 2009-2012 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Mr. Zilla reported there have been incidents of cave-ins and sinkholes related to the failure of the drainage system under the Atherton Street corridor. This is a significant issue because the Commonwealth's policy and legal statutes assign municipalities with the responsibility for making repairs to drainage systems on curbed sections of state roadways. There is some debate over who is responsible for repairing the roadway when the underlying drainage system collapses.

This is a major concern for the safety of the traveling public, and there are fiscal implications for the municipalities making the repairs. Four affected municipalities in the Atherton Street corridor (Patton, Ferguson, and College Townships and the State College Borough) have jointly submitted a project request for the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan which suggests that an engineering

study be done for a 6.5 mile section of the corridor from Valley Vista Drive in Patton Township to Villa Crest Drive in College Township.

In working with the municipalities to address this problem, PennDOT staff recommended that the study document the condition of the pipes and inlets, verify the location of utilities, and give a cost estimate for repairs to the drainage system. These repairs could then be coordinated with PennDOT repaving projects over the next several years.

This issue goes beyond the Atherton Street corridor to other curbed sections of state roadway throughout the county, and Mr. Zilla has asked PennDOT staff to map these curbed sections so that the concerns of other municipalities can be addressed in the new LRTP and future TIPs.

Mr. Zilla reported that the CCMPO Technical Committee is recommending that \$435,000 in unobligated funds in the Pavement Restoration Line Item of the 2009-2012 TIP be used to complete the study in the Atherton Street corridor.

In response to a question from Mr. Eich, Ms. Michaels stated that Harris Township would not be included in the study because the drainage system does not run beneath the roadway. A collapsed section of the bike path in Harris Township was previously addressed through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program.

Mr. Klees inquired as to whether it was within the purview of the MPO to steer funds toward a project of this type which involves individual municipalities. Mr. Kline responded that the purpose of the study is to define the scope and cost of the project and that the law allows PennDOT and federal funds to be used to fund upgrades to the drainage system as long as it is in conjunction with a major rehabilitation project.

Motion was made by Mr. Pytel and seconded by Mr. Buckalew that the Highway Element of the 2009-2012 TIP be amended to shift \$435,000 in funds from the Pavement Restoration Line Item to the Atherton Street Stormwater Drainage System Study. The vote in favor was unanimous.

6. PennDOT Local Bridge Retroactive Reimbursement Strategy

Ms. Michael explained that PennDOT's Municipal Services staff has been very proactive in promoting the retroactive reimbursement process for the rehabilitation of local bridges. Under the retroactive reimbursement program, the municipality pays for the design and construction of a bridge project "up-front." PennDOT works with the municipality to complete the project and then programs money to reimburse 80% of the cost as TIP funds become available. Reimbursement is not guaranteed.

Ms. Michael then provided a PowerPoint presentation on bridge projects that have been completed using the retroactive reimbursement process.

In response to a question from Mr. Elnitski regarding a bridge project in Benner Township, Ms. Michael stated that a one lane bridge is acceptable as long as it meets structural adequacy requirements and can carry legal loads. Ms. Michael offered to work with Mr. Elnitski after the meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Pytel, Ms. Michael stated that the 20% local share could consist of in-kind labor costs.

Ms. Lafer inquired as to the average cost of bridge projects using the retroactive reimbursement process. Ms. Michael responded that a box culvert starts at about \$40,000, but that it depends on the extent of the

project. Mr. Kline added that the use of prefabricated materials can save money by reducing the amount of labor involved.

In response to a question from Ms. Spencer regarding how long it can take for a municipality to be reimbursed, Ms. Michael stated that it can take a couple of years if it has to go through a TIP cycle, and she reiterated that reimbursement is not guaranteed.

Ms. Spencer then inquired as to how a municipality could gauge whether or not a bridge project would be reimbursed before the project started, to which Ms. Michael responded that PennDOT's Municipal Services staff would work closely with the municipality to determine if reimbursement were a possibility.

Ms. Reese pointed out that smaller municipalities may not want to risk taking out a large loan for a bridge project without knowing whether or not it would be reimbursed.

Mr. Zilla stated that the preliminary draft 2011-2014 TIP provides a \$375,000 line item for retroactive reimbursement for local bridge projects in 2012.

Ms. Michael added that PennDOT would like to have a line item for retroactive reimbursement projects in the TIP for each year.

Mr. Zilla responded that MPO staff will address incorporating such a line item as part of the new Long Range Transportation Plan so that funding can be carried forward into future TIPs.

Ms. Reese asked whether the project ranking criteria would come into play in determining which bridge project would be reimbursed first. Mr. Bloom responded that structural analysis information from PennDOT would have a greater influence on a project's ranking. Ms. Meek added, however, that local funding participation could also influence a project's ranking.

Mr. Luck asked if there would be fiscal constraint consequences for having a line item for retroactive reimbursement on the TIP, to which Mr. Zilla responded that the MPO would have to work with PennDOT staff to determine how much money should be devoted to local versus state bridges.

Mr. Klees pointed out that bridges can be replaced much more cost effectively using only state and local funding, rather than federal funding.

Ms. Michael concluded by saying that any municipality considering the retroactive reimbursement strategy should contact Mr. Randy Albert, Municipal Services Engineer for District 2-0.

7. Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2040

Mr. Bloom presented background information on the project ranking process for the LRTP 2040. To date, 116 candidate projects have been submitted by 22 of 35 municipalities, PennDOT District 2-0, CATA, and PSU; projects can be submitted up until February 5, and it is anticipated that the public comment period will generate additional project requests. A public meeting will be held at the College Township Municipal Building on Thursday, January 28, 2010 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The ranking criteria will be available at this meeting, but the technical ranking will not.

Mr. Bloom then presented the estimated costs, revenue projections, and assumptions for the fiscal constraint analysis. Base highway and bridge allocations are expected to total approximately \$686

million, not including transit, spike, earmarked, Appalachian Highway Development, or Interstate Maintenance funds.

Mr. Bloom reported that the Project Ranking Committee has begun ranking candidate projects based on the eight weighted criteria established by the Coordinating Committee in June 2009. The initial results of the technical ranking will be presented in March, and a first draft LRTP project list will be presented in April, at which time policy adjustments may be made.

Mr. Bloom then asked the Committee to consider amending the policy for preparing a candidate project list such that state bridge projects requested by PennDOT would no longer require municipal support.

In response to a question from Mr. Luck as to why the policy should be amended, Mr. Bloom stated that these projects have been identified by PennDOT as critical needs. Ms. Meek added that in 2007, the process of getting responses from all of the municipalities, which unanimously supported the state bridge projects, took about three months.

Mr. Klees clarified that this policy was put in place after the last LRTP project ranking process so that requests generated from the public meetings would not automatically be included on the candidate project list without being endorsed by the municipalities.

Motion was made by Mr. Luck and seconded by Mr. Eich to amend the CCMPO Process for Preparing a Candidate Project List such that item #4 would read: "Municipal support is required for projects requested by entities other than municipal governing bodies; with the exception of state bridge projects requested by PennDOT." The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Reese asked if project submissions from the 13 municipalities that had not made submissions as of yet would come in through the public comment period, and she expressed concern that some municipalities may not realize the importance of getting projects on the TIP.

Mr. Bloom responded that each of the municipalities were sent correspondence inviting them to submit projects, and he encouraged Committee members to reach out to the municipalities in their respective planning regions to educate them about submitting candidate projects for the LRTP.

Mr. Luck noted that the North Atherton Street Signal Coordination Project stops short of Valley Vista Drive in Patton Township, and he went on the record requesting that PennDOT provide the municipalities in the North Atherton corridor with access to real time data so that they can coordinate the signals at adjacent intersections.

In response to a question from Mr. Brian McCauley, Marion Township Planning Commission, Ms. Michael stated that the SR 26 Lick Run Bridge was not included in PennDOT's state bridge requests because the bridges requested were structurally deficient, and the SR 26 Lick Run Bridge is not. However, it was noted that the SR 26 Lick Run Bridge was requested for consideration in the LRTP 2040.

8. FY 2010-11 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Zilla explained that the 2010-11 UPWP lists the work tasks for the CRPA and actions for the CCMPO for the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) and must be adopted by the Coordinating Committee by February 28, 2010. Guidance from PennDOT indicates that there is no increase in base funding for FY 2010-11, and the amount of supplemental planning funds available for new projects has not yet been established. PennDOT has identified the need to strengthen the

integration of land use and transportation planning, develop performance measures for the LRTP and TIP, and focus on system preservation and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Mr. Zilla briefly reviewed the key tasks in the FY 2010-11 UPWP, which include: adopting and submitting the 2011-2014 TIP, adopting and submitting the LRTP 2040, completing the Assessment of Public Transportation Services, and planning and designing projects on the TIP.

Mr. Zilla reported that the Technical Committee had no comments at its January 13 meeting, and that if there were no substantive comments at this evening's meeting, the Coordinating Committee could take action to adopt the FY 2010-11 UPWP, contingent upon there being no substantive comments from the CRPC.

Mr. Eich pointed out the Bylaw Committee had tabled the examination of the MPO's membership composition, and he recommended this be taken up again in order to ensure all of the Centre County municipalities are represented. Mr. Klees responded that this discussion would be addressed independently of the UPWP, and that it would be added to the February agenda.

Motion was made by Mr. Eich and seconded by Mr. Buckalew to adopt the FY 2010-11 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) contingent upon there being no substantive comments from the CRPC.

In response to a question from Mr. Elnitski, Mr. Zilla stated that staff could address the question of MPO membership as part of its regular work tasks under the Administration line item.

Mr. Klees stated that he was reluctant to take up the question of MPO membership at this time because of concerns about the amount of staff time it would entail during the LRTP 2040 process.

Mr. Elnitski suggested that staff and/or a consultant make a recommendation regarding membership.

Ms. Reese also advocated hiring a consultant, and there was discussion as to whether supplemental funding could be used to do so.

Mr. Eich withdrew his original motion so that supplemental funding for an MPO membership study could be added to the draft FY 2010-11 UPWP for consideration at the February meeting.

Motion was then made by Mr. Savage and seconded by Mr. Buckalew to adopt the FY 2010-11 UPWP as presented, contingent upon there being no substantive comments from the CRPC.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. FY 2009-10 UPWP AMENDMENT

Mr. Zilla stated that funding for Task VII.A. of the FY 2007-08 UPWP – Coordination of Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Transportation Planning will expire on March 31, 2010. Under the guidance of the PennDOT Central Office, MPO staff is requesting that the FY 2009-10 UPWP be amended so that the unexpended balance (approximately \$46,000) could be used to fund the transportation study for the Halfmoon/Patton Land Area Plan.

Motion was made by Mr. Spsychalski and seconded by Mr. Buckalew to amend the FY 2009-10 UPWP to include supplemental planning funds shifted from Task VII.A. of the FY 2007-08 UPWP. The vote in favor was unanimous.

10. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 Appropriations (Addition to the Agenda)

Mr. Klees explained that this item was added to the agenda because the deadline for submitting earmark requests falls before the next regular Coordinating Committee meeting.

Mr. Zilla reported that Congress is currently accepting requests for earmarks for the FFY 2011 Appropriations Bill, and that this process involves submitting a request through U.S. Representative Glenn Thompson's office. The deadline for submitting requests is February 16, 2010.

Mr. Zilla explained the difference between Appropriations earmarks (annual legislation) and Authorization earmarks (5-6 year legislation).

As the result of previous earmark discussions, the Route 322 Corridor Safety Improvements project (\$8.8 million) was submitted for an Authorization Bill in May 2009 by the Centre County Board of Commissioners, with the strong support of the MPO. This project received an earmark of \$750,000 through the FFY 2010 Appropriations Bill, and is still being considered for the Authorization Bill.

Mr. Zilla asked the Committee to consider authorizing staff to submit a FFY 2011 Appropriations Bill earmark request for the Route 322 Corridor Safety Improvements project, or to support a submission by Centre County.

Motion was made by Mr. Buckalew and seconded by Mr. Rittenhouse to authorize MPO staff to submit a FFY 2011 Appropriations Bill earmark request for the Route 322 Corridor Safety Improvements project.

In response to a question from Ms. Spencer, Mr. Zilla stated that the \$750,000 earmark is in the Transportation section of the omnibus FFY 2010 Appropriations Bill.

Mr. Eich reported that the Centre County Board of Commissioners had designated the Route 322 Corridor Safety Project as the most likely transportation project for its earmark submission, and he asked the MPO to provide a letter of support.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Announcements

There will be a Technical Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the College Township Municipal Building.

There will be a Coordinating Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the College Township Municipal Building.

Mr. Klees pointed out that the College Township Municipal Building had undergone significant renovations in 2009, including a new geothermal heating system using UAJA Beneficial Reuse Water and a newly constructed Alpha Fire Company substation, and he invited the Committee members to tour the building following the February 23 meeting.

Mr. Klees welcomed Ms. Lyssa Cromell to her new position as CRPA Office Manager and thanked Ms. Amy Dugan for her service during the previous year.

Mr. Klees announced that the FHWA's representative on the CCMPO Technical and Coordinating Committees, Mr. Matt Smoker, was replaced by Ms. Kathy Dimpsey.

CCMPO Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Page 8

Mr. Klees announced that Marion Township's request for membership in the CCMPO would be included on the February 23 agenda, and he invited the representatives from Marion Township who were in the audience to speak.

Mr. Ken Roan, Marion Township Supervisor, reported that at its January 4, 2010 meeting, the Marion Township Board agreed to request membership in the CCMPO, and he reiterated the Township's request.

Mr. Zilla introduced Mr. Rich Watters, Howard Borough Councilperson, who was nominated to serve as the Lower Bald Eagle Valley's Coordinating Committee representative. Pending confirmation by the Lower Bald Eagle Valley municipalities, Mr. Watters will begin his tenure in February.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Luck moved to adjourn. There being no further business, the January 26, 2010 CCMPO Coordinating Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyssa Cromell
Recording Secretary