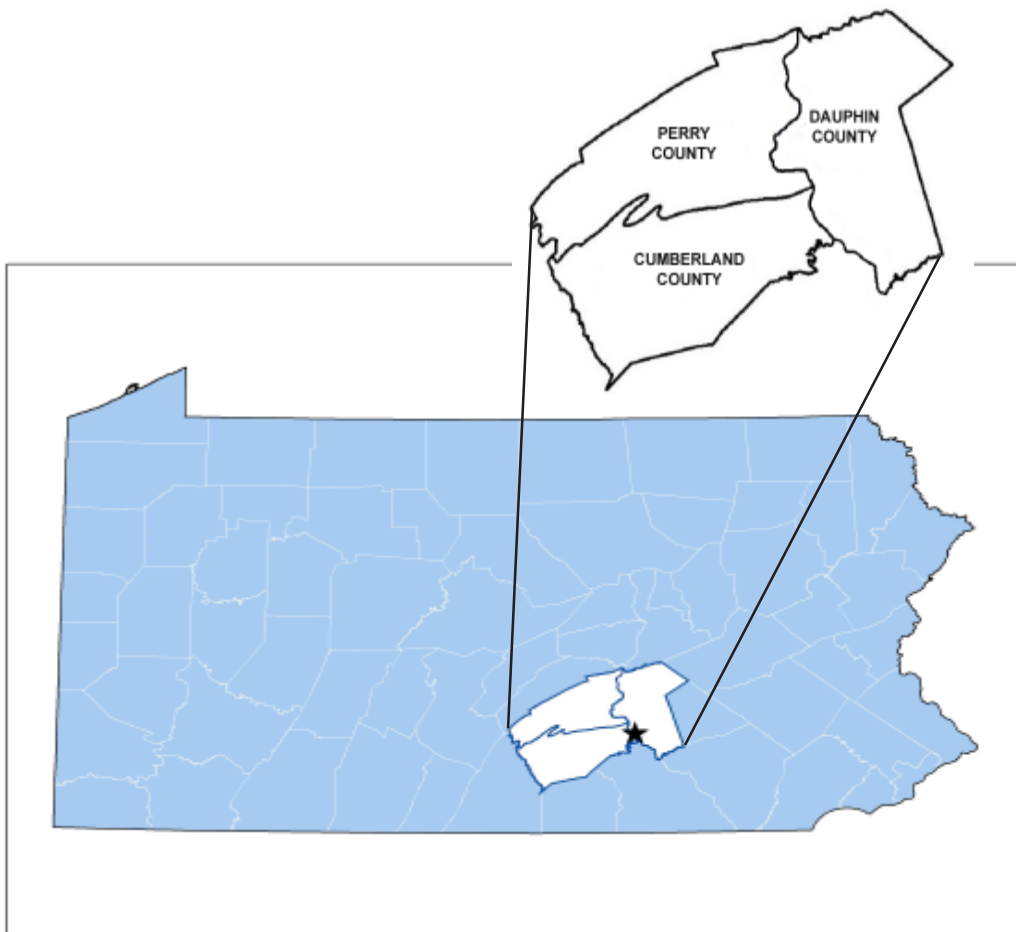


Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

2006

Annual Report

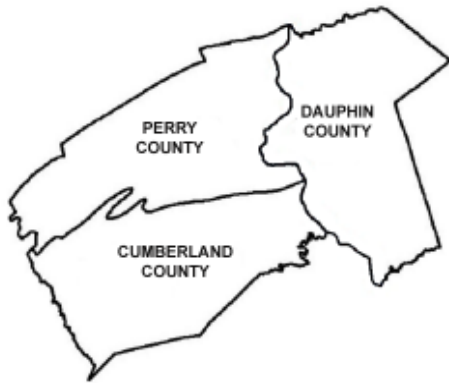


Serving the Tri-County Region – Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties

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TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



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112 Market Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-2015
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May 24, 2007

Dear Fellow Citizens:

We are pleased to present to you this Annual Report on the 2006 activities of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC). This report is provided as a service to the citizens of the Tri-County Region and to the general public at large. In particular, this report is intended to serve as an update to the respective county commissioners and county planning commission members on our activities and accomplishments throughout the past year. More detailed information about the Commission's activities is recorded in the official monthly meeting minutes- which are available on our website: www.tcrpc-pa.org.

Since the Commission's creation in 1966, the 1,625 square mile area comprising Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties has grown by an estimated 134,000 residents. Continuous development has occurred in an attempt to accommodate our region's growing populations- resulting in increasing proposals for additional residential, commercial and industrial infrastructures. The TCRPC and its staff continues to provide effective guidance to the respective county and local governments and others to resolve planning issues and minimize the various negative impacts of this development.

Under the leadership of Executive Director James Szymborski, the Commission staff has continued its effort to create an update to the Dauphin and Perry County Comprehensive Plans. In 2006, an update to the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan was drafted for consideration by County officials. The Perry County Comprehensive Plan was finalized in 2006 (and was officially adopted by the Perry County Board of Commissioners on Feb. 26, 2007). In 2006, staff also continued to provide direct technical planning assistance to the region's local governments through our Local Planning Assistance (LPA) Program. Indeed, staff attended 293 evening municipal planning commission meetings in 2006 in support of this program.

The TCRPC staff provide shared services to the three county planning commissions and the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). These shared services are provided effectively and efficiently, and at a substantially lower cost to the governments and citizenry of the region. We appreciate the support and assistance of the respective county boards of commissioners and are dependent upon their continued support. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary E. Lenker".

Gary E. Lenker, Chair
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Introduction

This 2006 Annual Report was prepared to provide a general description of the activities of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) during 2006. Similarly, the county planning commissions of Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties are required to submit an annual report highlighting their activities to their respective county boards of commissioners as required by § 207 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PA MPC) (Act No. 247 of 1968 as Reenacted and Amended). In Pennsylvania, certain planning activity and decision-making can only take place at the county planning commission level (as allowed by the PA MPC). The PA MPC also allows certain planning activity and decision-making to take place at a regional planning commission level if a cooperative arrangement between counties has been reached.

In 2006, the TCRPC completed its 40th year of continued planning activities since being established in July 1966. The TCRPC, together with its staff and member county planning commissions conducts a varied work program consisting of interrelated planning elements and sub-elements. The major planning elements include the County Planning Services Program, the Regional Planning Services Program, and the Regional Transportation Planning Services Program.

The Commission, serving as the Lead Agency for the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) pursues a vigorous transportation planning program. The 2006 transportation planning activities that were conducted by the TCRPC (based on the Federal Fiscal Year) are listed in the Transportation Planning Program section of this report. More detailed information about these activities is available in the 2006 HATS Annual Report.

Many of the Transportation Planning Program and County/ Regional Planning Commission Support Service activities detailed in this report were conducted in cooperation with various State agencies and the respective county planning commissions. Some planning-related work conducted by TCRPC is performed in direct support of our member county planning commissions and is reported as part of the respective county planning commissions' annual reports.

General planning service activities performed over the 2006 calendar year by TCRPC staff consisted of general office administration and management, municipal plan and ordinance reviews, assistance to the public and municipal agencies, interagency coordination, county and regional planning commission support, economic development activities, county subdivision and land development ordinance administration, intergovernmental review process activities, and Local Planning Assistance (LPA) Program services.

Through these activities, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission – with its combined office and staff – was able to provide its member county planning commissions, the 103 municipalities within the Tri-County Region, and the general public with valuable planning services effectively and in a cost-efficient manner.

Organization of the Commission

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission was established in 1966 by its three (3) member county boards of commissioners (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties) as allowed by § 1102 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act No. 247 of 1968 as Reenacted and Amended). The TCRPC's predecessor, the Cumberland/ Dauphin Regional Planning Commission, was established in 1965 (its predecessor, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Harrisburg, was established in 1956).

For purposes of determining Commission representation, the Tri-County Region is divided into ten (10) Plan-Development Sections comprised of the City of Harrisburg and three (3) groupings of municipalities within each county (see map opposite page).

The number of voting members is set at 31. Three (3) of the members are representatives from the respective county boards of commissioners (one from each board). The rest are appointed by the respective county boards of commissioners. Thirteen (13) are appointed based upon recommendations from the local governments of the respective Plan-Development Sections, twelve (12) are appointed based upon recommendations from the county planning commissions (four from each of the three counties), and three (3) are appointed to represent the broad spectrum of society of each respective county:

One (1) representative from each of the three (3) county boards of commissioners.....	3
Two (2) members from each of the three more-populated Plan-Development Sections, namely the Cumberland-East and Dauphin-Southwest Sections and the City of Harrisburg.....	6
One (1) member from each of the seven (7) less-populated Plan-Development Sections.....	7
Four (4) members from each of the three (3) county planning commissions.....	12
One (1) member representing the broad spectrum of society from each of the three (3) counties.....	3
Total membership.....	31

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission 2006 Membership

Chair:	Gary E. Lenker (Dauphin County Planning Commission)
Vice-Chair:	William C. Forrey (Cumberland County Planning Commission)
Secretary:	Paul D. Clark (Dauphin County Planning Commission)
Treasurer:	James H. Turner (Perry County Planning Commission)
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners:	Gary Eichelberger
Dauphin County Board of Commissioners:	Dominic D. DiFrancesco II (Skip Memmi, Alternate Appointee)
Perry County Board of Commissioners:	Edward R. Kennedy
Cumberland County Planning Commission:	Allan R. Williams
Cumberland County Planning Commission:	F. "Bud" P. Brown
Cumberland County Planning Commission:	Jackie Eakin
Dauphin County Planning Commission:	John A. Kerschner
Dauphin County Planning Commission:	Edward Carney
Perry County Planning Commission:	Wendy M. Brunner
Perry County Planning Commission:	Thomas A. Graupensperger
Perry County Planning Commission:	Robert E. Shaffer, Sr.
Cumberland County Member-at-Large:	Karen Best
Dauphin County Member-at-Large:	[Vacant]
Perry County Member-at-Large:	Richard E. Stees
Cumberland East Plan-Development Section:	Donald R. McCallin
Cumberland East Plan-Development Section:	Robert Edwards
Cumberland Central Plan-Development Section:	Brian P. O'Neill
Cumberland West Plan-Development Section:	Timothy D. Lush*
Dauphin Southeast Plan-Development Section:	Harold Kling*
Dauphin Southwest Plan-Development Section:	Dennis Heefner
Dauphin Southwest Plan-Development Section:	David Blain
Dauphin North Plan-Development Section:	James Bullock
Perry Northeast Plan-Development Section:	Robert Sharar
Perry West Plan-Development Section:	John Stokes
Perry Southeast Plan-Development Section:	Robert Rhoades
Harrisburg City Plan-Development Section:	Christopher A. Wonders
Harrisburg City Plan-Development Section:	Daniel C. Leppo

Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

Bruce Barclay, Chair
Gary Eichelberger
Richard L. Rovegno

Dauphin County Board of Commissioners

Jeffery T. Haste, Chair
George P. Hartwick III
Dominic D. DiFrancesco II

Perry County Board of Commissioners

John J. Amsler, Chair
Warren R. Van Buskirk
Edward R. Kennedy

*Passed away during 2006

**POLICY POSITION STATEMENT
OF THE
TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Purpose: The Tri-County Region has many desirable qualities including farmland, rural atmosphere, scenic beauty, open space, diverse employment, and overall quality of life. These attributes must be preserved in our comprehensive planning and decision making because they give our area its unique character. In addition, economic vitality is necessary to provide opportunities for the region's population growth. This economic vitality must continue in concert with the overall personal, environmental, and business desires for land use.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission endorses the following concepts:

1. There must be effective regional planning coordination, and cooperation in all aspects of land use and growth management. The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission must take the lead to accomplish such management.
2. A collaborative regional comprehensive plan must be developed and maintained for Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties.
3. Properly managed growth requires additional controls for the multi-county area. All governmental units must collaborate in effective land use decisions for the benefit of the metropolitan area and its fringe, not just their municipalities.
4. Zoning ordinances and other implementing measures must reflect the policies and goals of the respective county and regional comprehensive plans, and must reflect coordination between and among contiguous municipalities, counties, and their respective residents and elected officials.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission endorses the following policies:

1. Transportation
 - a. Create land use patterns that enhance community character, provide for a mix of residential, commercial, employment and recreational opportunities; and link these activities with appropriate transportation facilities.
 - b. Ease traffic congestion by better integrating transportation systems, encouraging changes in commuters' travel habits, and improving the efficiency of existing transportation facilities and services.
 - c. Promote cooperation among freight movement interests and develop an intermodal regional freight movement plan.
 - d. Seek access to, maintenance of, and efficiency and safety of the Region's transportation network.
2. Environment
 - a. Assure a clean and sustainable environment of the Region by integrating environmental protection objectives in all planning and regulatory activities.
 - b. Identify and preserve adequate open space within the Region. Citizens and units of government must be committed to the acquisition and maintenance of open space.
3. Agriculture
 - a. Recognize the importance of agriculture to the Region's economy and quality of life; and, recognizing that growth and preservation can coexist with sound planning, farmland preservation should be a policy goal equally as important as support of balanced growth and economic development.
4. Economic Development
 - a. Support the efforts of the Region's economic development agencies and organizations to ensure a diverse and competitive regional economy. Emphasis should be on high value-added industries that have minimal impact on the environment.
5. Housing
 - a. Support the development of an adequate supply of quality, affordable housing, located in accordance with regional land use and transportation goals.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Staff 2006

Executive Director	James W. Szymborski, AICP
Associate Director	Timothy P. Reardon, AICP
Staff Planner III	Omar A. Syed, AICP Jeffrey S. Kelly, AICP Diane M. Myers-Krug, AICP Janine M. Park
Staff Planner II	Carl “Chip” L. Millard III Alfred P. Sundara, AICP Jennifer Nolan Straub Brian W. Dickson Jason R. Finnerty
Staff Planner I	Sara M. Henke¹ Matthew C. Jones²
GIS Manager	Jessi B. Carter
Planning Technician III	George E. Hubley
Planning Technician II	Timothy R. Jones
Administrative Coordinator	Patty L. Buggy
Administrative Assistant	Donna L. Clay
Legal Counsel, Caldwell & Kearns	Carl Wass, Esquire

1 Resigned Feb., 2006

2 Hired April, 2006

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Dauphin County Veterans Memorial Building
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

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Fax: (717) 234-4058
planning@tcrpc-pa.org
www.tcrpc-pa.org



Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Staff

Standing (from left to right): Matthew C. Jones, Diane M. Myers-Krug, Timothy R. Jones, George E. Hubley, Omar A. Syed, Carl “Chip” L. Millard III, Jeffrey S. Kelly, Patty L. Buggy, Timothy P. Reardon, Jennifer Nolan Straub, Janine M. Park, Brian W. Dickson and Jason R. Finnerty.

Front row (from left to right): Alfred P. Sundara, James W. Szyborski, Donna L. Clay and Jessi B. Carter.

Subdivision and Land Development Plan Reviews - 2006

	Preliminary	Preliminary/ Final	Final	Total
Cumberland	30	63	129	222
Dauphin	30	113	115	258
Perry	7	57	86	150
Tri-County	67	233	330	630

The table above displays the number of subdivision and land development plans that were reviewed by TCRPC staff in support of the three (3) county planning commissions in 2006. Whenever a subdivision or land development plan is proposed within Pennsylvania, the municipal governing body must forward the plan to the respective county planning commission and wait to receive its review and comment before approving or disapproving the plan (or until 30 days expire post forwarding) as required by § 502(b) of the PAMPC. TCRPC staff perform this function on behalf of the three (3) county planning commissions.

Cumberland County figures do not include all subdivision and land development plans reviewed by the Cumberland County Planning Commission (CCPC) in 2006 as the CCPC is supported by both CCPC and TCRPC staffers through a cooperative arrangement.

Figures only represent those subdivision and land development plans reviewed by TCRPC staff and do not necessarily represent numbers of plans approved by the respective municipal governing bodies.

County/ Regional Planning Commission Support Services

The Commission's staff effort includes work providing specific planning services that are required by certain federal and State regulations. Some of these services are reported in the respective county planning commissions' annual reports. Other services are reported in more detail in this report. In 2006, TCRPC's County/ Regional Planning Commission Support Services included:

- Act 537 Sewage Plans and reviews
- Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans and reviews
- Annual Building Permit Survey
- Assistance to municipal agencies
- Assistance to State and national planning associations
- Assistance to developers/ subdividers
- Assistance to the general public
- Commission administration
- County comprehensive plans development
- County subdivision and land development plans administration
- County/ Regional Planning Commission annual reports
- Environmental Reviews
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program management
- Interagency activities (Affiliate Data Center, Greenway Support, Federal Flood Insurance Program, etc)
- Intergovernmental Review Process (Areawide Clearinghouse functions)
- Library maintenance
- Local Planning Assistance (LPA) Program
- Municipal comprehensive plans and ordinance preparation/ assistance
- Municipal outreach
- Municipal subdivision and land development plan reviews
- Municipal zoning and subdivision and land development ordinance/ amendment reviews
- Newsletter preparation
- Plat Microfilming
- Regional comprehensive planning/ regional growth management
- Regional economic development
- Sewage module reviews
- Stormwater planning
- Special studies
- Transportation planning
- Website development and maintenance

Local Planning Assistance (LPA) Program

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission provides direct technical planning assistance to participating municipalities through its Local Planning Assistance (LPA) Program. Services available through the LPA Program are provided on an annual agreement basis which may be arranged to begin at any time during the calendar year. Through the Program, TCRPC staff are available to attend the meetings of participating municipalities' planning commissions. Actual assistance provided varies according to the needs of each municipality. LPA services can include:

- Subdivision and land development plan reviews and recommendations
- Municipal planning commission annual report preparation
- Zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances review and recommendations for revisions
- Comprehensive plan review and recommendations for adjustments or updating
- Capital Improvement Program review
- Site/ Building Plan review
- Research on planning concepts or model ordinance provisions language
- Other tasks within the general framework of community planning

Local Planning Assistance (LPA) Program (continued)

During 2006, local planning assistance was provided by contractual agreement to 60 municipalities within the Tri-County Region. TCRPC staff assisted 54 of these municipalities [six (6) received assistance from Cumberland County Planning Commission staff].

Assistance was provided for a standard annual retainer fee of \$1,000. On-call assistance was available for \$500. During 2006, the Cumberland and Dauphin County Boards of Commissioners subsidized 100% of the Program retainer for participating municipalities within their borders.

TCRPC staff attended 293 evening meetings in support of the LPA Program in 2006. These meetings lasted a total of 754.5 evening hours, equivalent to 100 (7.5 hr) workdays.

The municipalities that participated in the LPA Program in 2006 are listed below.

Cumberland County:

Camp Hill Borough
Cooke Township
Dickinson Township
East Pennsboro Township
Hampden Township
Lemoyne Borough
Lower Allen Township
Lower Frankford Township
Lower Mifflin Township
Mechanicsburg Borough
Middlesex Township
Monroe Township
Mount Holly Springs Borough
Newburg Borough
New Cumberland Borough
Newville Borough
North Middleton Township
North Newton Township
Penn Township
Shippensburg Borough
Shippensburg Township
Silver Spring Township
South Middleton Township
South Newton Township
Upper Allen Township
Upper Frankford Township
Upper Mifflin Township
West Pennsboro Township
Wormleysburg Borough

Dauphin County:

Conewago Township
Derry Township
East Hanover Township
Elizabethville Borough
Halifax Township
Highspire Borough
Hummelstown Borough
Jefferson Township
Londonderry Township
Lower Paxton Township
Lower Swatara Township
Lykens Borough
Lykens Township
Middle Paxton Township
Middletown Borough
Millersburg Borough
Paxtang Borough
Penbrook Borough
Royalton Borough
South Hanover Township
Steelton Borough
Susquehanna Township
Swatara Township
Upper Paxton Township
Washington Township
West Hanover Township
Wiconisco Township
Williams Township

Perry County:

Duncannon Borough
Marysville Borough
Newport Borough

County/ Regional Comprehensive Planning

In 2006, TCRPC staff continued to work toward updating the 1992 Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan and the 1992 Perry County Comprehensive Plan. County comprehensive plans are supposed to be updated at least every ten (10) years as required by § 302(d) of the PA MPC.

In 2006, an update to the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan was drafted for consideration by County officials.

In 2006, TCRPC staff worked in cooperation with the Dauphin County Department of Parks and Recreation and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) to draft a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit a consultant to aid in development of a Dauphin County Greenways Study. This Greenways Study will supplement the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan. Those seeking information on the status of the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan Update may contact Staff Planner Janine Park (see page 8 for contact information). Those seeking more information about the developing Dauphin County Greenways Study may contact Staff Planner Matthew Jones.

In 2006, the Perry County Comprehensive Plan Update was finalized and scheduled for adoption consideration for early 2007. Prior to final adoption by the Perry County Board of Commissioners, TCRPC staff conducted three (3) public outreach meetings in order to solicit feedback on the document. One (1) meeting was held within each of Perry County's three (3) Plan-Development Sections. The West meeting took place in Toboyne Township; the Northeast meeting was held in Newport Borough; and the Southeast meeting was held in Penn Township. Public feedback on the document was mostly positive. All comments and concerns received by staff regarding the document were responded to in writing, and some input prompted editing of the document. TCRPC staff will be undertaking plan implementation activities in support of the 2007 Perry County Comprehensive Plan on behalf of the Perry County Planning Commission in the years to come. Those seeking more information regarding the 2007 Perry County Comprehensive Plan may contact Staff Planner Jason Finnerty.

All three (3) of the county comprehensive plans (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry) are based on the Land Needs Concept as recommended in TCRPC's 2003 Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP). The RGMP establishes the growth management strategy of the three (3) counties to the year 2020. The Land Needs Concept provides for future development focused logically- with emphasis on locating new development in areas where public service infrastructures already exist.

The 2003 RGMP identifies Community Service Areas (CSAs) where sewer, water, transit and transportation services/ infrastructures are already available- logical areas where new or infill development should occur to support the projected population. The TCRPC encourages municipal officials to adopt/ amend their ordinances to incorporate these considerations. By looking at their projected need rather than at total build-out, municipal officials can minimize additional dispersed development and maintain their community's special assets (agricultural lands, natural resources, etc). The TCRPC encourages developers in the Tri-County Region to develop in a manner that promotes efficient use of public infrastructure.

The 2003 RGMP is available for viewing at the TCRPC office in Harrisburg or online at www.tcrpc-pa.org. The 2007 Perry County Comprehensive Plan is available for viewing online at www.tcrpc-pa.org/perry.htm. A hard copy of the 2007 Perry County Comprehensive Plan may be viewed by appointment by contacting Staff Planner Jason Finnerty.



Jason Finnerty Presents a Draft Update to the Perry County Comprehensive Plan at an Outreach Meeting Held at the Penn Township (Perry County) Municipal Building on December 5, 2006

Affiliate Data Center (ADC) Activities

Working under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pennsylvania State Data Center (PSDC), the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission functions as an Affiliate Data Center (ADC) for the Tri-County Region. As an ADC, the Commission has agreed to furnish staff and office support to provide services in fulfilling census data requests and general technical assistance regarding census and other statistical products for all requestors on a cost-reimbursement basis; maintain a publicly accessible collection of Census Bureau publications and maps; refer inquiries to the PSDC when necessary; and participate in local training sessions concerning statistical products and census use techniques.

In return, the PSDC distributes Census publications to the Commission as they become available; conducts training sessions for Commission staff; and provides information on a regular basis regarding new products and services. Anyone seeking more information about the Commission's role as an ADC may contact Staff Planner Janine Park.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Activities

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technical Committee – which is comprised of GIS staff from Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties and the TCRPC – met quarterly in 2006 during the months of March, June, September, and December. These meetings afforded an opportunity for data sharing and software/ hardware set-ups to be coordinated. Directions for use of GIS metadata were also developed for TCRPC and Dauphin County GIS.

GIS software transition meetings were held for TCRPC staff in April and May. Meetings with Dauphin County GIS occurred throughout the year to facilitate the conversion of the Geomedia software-based TCRPC GIS to an ESRI software-based system, and to facilitate placement of TCRPC data on the Dauphin County Spatial Data Engine Server. Also, specific meetings on transportation and other TCRPC GIS data occurred to facilitate data translation.

In 2006, TCRPC GIS staff attended ESRI ArcGIS software training with Dauphin County GIS in October, and attended another ESRI seminar with Cumberland County Planning Commission staff that same month. TCRPC GIS Manager Jessi Carter also attended the annual Pennsylvania State GIS Conference, and attended meetings hosted by the Susquehanna Economic Development Association Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) in Lewisburg.

Major projects completed by TCRPC GIS staff during 2006 include:

- Upper Paxton Township/ Millersburg Borough Comprehension Plan maps
- Perry County Comprehension Plan map revisions
- Dauphin County Existing Land Use and Future Land Use Maps
- Duncannon Borough street grid/ Zoning Map
- Marysville Borough Zoning Map
- Regional Transportation Project maps
- Transportation Improvement Program maps
- Dauphin County Agricultural Easements and Securities maps converted to be tax parcel-based
- Capital Area Transit (CAT) bus route publications maps
- Census-based Environmental Justice maps
- Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (SRTP) map updates
- Dauphin County location of subdivision activity maps (monthly)

Transportation Planning Program

The following is a listing of Transportation Planning Program activities conducted by the TCRPC staff in 2006 on behalf of the HATS MPO (more detailed information about these activities is available in the 2006 HATS Annual Report):

MPO Administration

[meetings, minutes, notices, advertising, monthly progress reports, Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), annual report]

- Held seven (7) Technical and seven (7) Coordinating Committee meetings – prepared agenda, agenda packet, notices; attended meetings; prepared meeting minutes

Transportation Planning Program (continued)

- Conducted Coordinating Committee agenda briefings
- Processed Electronic State Transportation Improvement Program (eSTIP) reports documenting HATS actions
- Produced UPWP
- Prepared and distributed HATS annual report
- Prepared monthly progress report
- Attended seven (7) transportation staff meetings
- Provided support for four (4) HATS Legislative Subcommittee meetings
- Prepared and conducted two (2) phone ballots
- Prepared and updated resolutions and general MPO documentation/ filings/ data back-ups

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Public Involvement/ Outreach

[information requests, newsletter, partnerships with other groups, land use connections, educational outreach efforts, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Planning Partners]

- Updated and maintained HATS webpage
- Prepared three (3) newsletters
- Attended three (3) Planning Partners meetings– administrative and technical
- Coordinated meeting and discussions with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Discussed priority safety projects and statewide safety plan with PennDOT Central and District Offices
- Tracked Transportation Funding and Reform Commission activities and information; prepared HATS testimony and final report review
- Coordinated efforts and information sharing with other MPOs [York, Lancaster, Lebanon and Adams Counties; Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC); Northern New Jersey] and other Planning Partners– PennDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Harrisburg Regional Chamber and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED)
- Provided informational support in municipal project development and funding options
- Prepared and distributed HATS position statements, as directed
- Prepared draft HATS region PennPlan 2000-05 achievements summary in consultation with PennDOT; reviewed final PennPlan report
- Participated in development of PennDOT Mobility Plan - reviewed Mobility Plan draft
- Attended Mobility Plan outreach sessions for Planning Partners, highway safety, environment, trucking/ logistics, and bicycle/ pedestrian issues
- Coordinated air quality project information with Lebanon County (LebCo) MPO
- Prepared and held three (3) outreach activities in Strawberry Square, Harrisburg
- Developed flyers for translation and distribution
- Summarized comments from public outreach events at Strawberry Square
- Prepared responses to public comments received
- Developed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) summary booklet and coordinated distribution
- Coordinated Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Task Force efforts; conducted five (5) RTP Task Force meetings; prepared and distributed meeting notes
- Participated in linking planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities
- Attended five (5) Agency Coordination Meetings (ACM)
- Coordinated RTP web online access
- Prepared for and participated in PennDOT's NEPA Technical Advisory Committee; met with consultant as needed
- Attended four (4) Walnut Street Corridor Steering Committee and related public meetings
- Coordinated HATS transportation program efforts with respective county comprehensive plan development

Congestion Management Process

[short range transit; Congestion Management Systems (CMS) corridors, studies and plan updates; Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP); ridesharing; Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS); Elderly & Handicapped (E&H) planning]

Transportation Planning Program (continued)

- Assessed HATS Congested Corridor Improvement Program participation and coordinated the Program with PennDOT
- Coordinated Congested Corridor Improvement Program project information with the Lebanon County (LebCo) MPO
- Coordinated FHWA bottleneck initiative with the FHWA and PennDOT
- Provided administrative support for the Cumberland-Perry Counties Task Force; attended quarterly meetings and prepared follow-up correspondence
- Attended National Highway Institute's *Transportation Systems Management and Operations* training course
- Participated in monthly South Central PA ITS Regional Advisory Panel (RAP) activities
- Discussed and coordinated issues with various ITS/ Operations professionals
- Attended Capital Beltway Task Force meeting and review information
- Attended FHWA ITS/ Operation training course
- Provided administrative and technical support for St. John's Church Road Study
- Provided input on PA 39 and PA 743 corridor issues
- Completed Short Range Transit Plan report and distribution
- Prepared website version of report and conducted ongoing maintenance
- Prepared Annual Public Transportation Report
- Provided administrative support for the Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (SRTP); attended monthly SRTP Board meetings
- Participated in coordination of development of an online transit trip-planning system for the four (4) SRTP partner transit agencies
- Participated in development of Commuter Benefit Programs
- Provided input for discussions regarding proposed Cumberland County Transit Study and scheduling strategies
- Attended quarterly Capital Area Transit (CAT) Shared-Ride Advisory Committee meetings
- Attended yearly Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association (PPTA) Conference
- Discussed with county (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry) paratransit providers ways to improve the region's paratransit services
- Reviewed Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) Section 5310 grant applications
- Reviewed existing information about Share A Ride carpooling/ vanpooling programs
- Reviewed and interpreted data on fixed route ridership, levels of service, car versus bus costs, etc
- Maintained CAT schedule information, existing Park & Ride, and identified major services, employment centers, and apartment complexes to be studied with respect to public transportation

Intermodal Management Systems

[long range transit, CORRIDORone regional rail, freight, goods movement, bicycle/ pedestrian (bike/ ped), park & ride, alternate modes and connectivity]

- Provided administrative support for the Bicycle/ Pedestrian Task Force, including preparation of and attendance at quarterly committee meetings
- Provided oversight of a consultant conducting a sidewalk inventory project, including data evaluation and testing; coordinated workshops and outreach to municipalities
- Provided staff support for the Regional Goods Movement Study (RGMS) including meeting participation and preparation, correspondence, data validation meetings with the consultant, and public presentations
- Reviewed and commented on RGMS report
- Participated in FHWA's *Talking Freight* web seminar regarding truck parking issues
- Participated in a PennDOT Bureau of Aviation Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority (SARAA) planning session for Harrisburg International Airport (HIA) and Capital City Airport (CCA)
- Participated in Amtrak Keystone Corridor Clearance Study meetings; reviewed final report
- Reviewed and commented on a CORRIDORone Preliminary Engineering (PE) Document
- Attended CORRIDORone Project Review Committee meetings
- Participated in statewide Modal Integration Workgroup
- Reviewed and commented on an I-81/ I-76 Freight Village Conceptual Plan
- Reviewed the I-81 Widening Report regarding rail alternatives

Transportation Planning Program (continued)

Data Development & Support

[RTP document, model, Air Quality (AQ) Analysis, GIS, Census/ Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP), data analysis, research, Highway Performance Management System (HPMS)/ Physical Condition Inventory (PCI)]

- Provided staff support for five (5) RTP Task Force meetings including overall schedule, agenda preparation, meeting notes and follow-up with HATS Committees; incorporated the RTP Task Force's direction into the document
- Reviewed and applied Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requirements and proposed federal planning rules
- Prepared a public involvement and transportation survey summary report
- Compiled results of a HATS survey; incorporated Mobility Plan survey with RTP effort
- Prepared a commuter workflow report
- Updated the public involvement database
- Compiled census information regarding environmental justice; developed and analyzed 'degree of disadvantage' data
- Prepared environmental justice/ public participation analysis documentation
- Drafted and edited the RTP document
- Developed a list of unprogrammed projects
- Developed program budgets
- Updated revenue projections and balanced project costs; coordinated Transportation Enhancements (TE) budget and project costs
- Coordinated transit funding projections and balanced projects with CAT financial capacity information
- Distributed the draft RTP document to Task Force and HATS committees for review
- Updated a data/ trend summary report for RTP
- Sent RTP packet to PennDOT for approvals
- Prepared and presented RTP to the Agency Coordination Meeting (ACM) group
- Performed three (3) air quality conformity analyses [particulate matter of 2.5 parts per million (PM_{2.5}), TIP, RTP]; prepared documentation, coordination, consultation, and public review
- Identified significant air quality projects for AQ analysis; coordinated with the PA Air Quality Working Group as part of interagency consultation
- Attended quarterly PA Air Quality Working Group meetings
- Reviewed PM_{2.5} 'hot spot' regulations
- Conducted AQ analysis to identify potential hot spot projects
- Ran AQ project reports
- Coordinated AQ analysis and documentation with the LebCo MPO and PennDOT
- Coordinated with PennDOT, DEP and consultants to address public comments
- Coordinated with consultants to update a travel demand model and code networks; updated the model setup; checked model for inconsistencies
- Coordinated with travel demand software vendor to update software
- Coded TIP and RTP projects in the model for air quality analysis
- Coded and updated a model transit network
- Updated existing employment allocation spreadsheet
- Developed existing and future employment distribution by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) for RTP; prepared thematic map
- Ran off-model AQ emissions analysis of Mechanicsburg signals project for PennDOT
- Prepared model runs for I-83 Master Plan project development
- Conducted GIS data organization, data downloads and procurement, and coordination
- Reviewed crash data; coordinated/ met with PennDOT District 8-0
- Prepared analysis and mapping involving crash data, employment distribution, project locations, existing and future land use, regional development patterns, environmental justice factors, air quality projects, environmental features, bicycle/ pedestrian concerns, CAT bus routes, bus stop inventory, ridesharing, major employers, and commuter workflows
- Prepared Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis

Transportation Planning Program (continued)

- Attended two (2) GIS transition plan meetings
- Developed File Transfer Protocol (FTP) access and accounts set-up
- Researched pertinent issues for RTP development including concurrency, funding alternatives, environmental mitigation, projects of national and regional significance, other MPO planning processes and criteria, Congestion Management Process (CMP) regulations and processes and bridge condition information
- Provided staff support for Transportation Enhancements/ Hometown Streets/ Safe Routes to School (TE/ HTS/ SRTS) programs including candidate project correspondence (with applicants, PennDOT and FHWA staff, and other MPO staff), project applications to PennDOT and State Transportation Commission (STC), project status reports, county planning commission coordination and information sharing with other MPOs
- Prepared TE project cost increase e-mail/ phone ballot
- Provided project development assistance for TE/ HTS/ SRTS projects, including the Hummelstown/ Lower Dauphin SRTS, the Ned Smith Center TE, the Duncannon Borough Apple Tree Alley project, the Lykens railroad station project, the Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) Midtown Harrisburg project, the Derry Township project and the Lykens Valley Rail Trail project
- Coordinated development of the respective county comprehensive plan transportation basic studies development
- Investigated population projection techniques
- Attended 2006 PennDOT Traffic Counting Conference in March
- Completed traffic counts in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties
- Completed PCI field work
- Attended Transportation Engineering and Safety Conference in State College in November

Plan Implementation

Transportation Improvement Program [TIP/ State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)]
[highway and transit TIP development and management activities, State Transportation Commission (STC)]

- Provided staff support for implementation of the TIP including follow-up with accrued unbilled costs, TIP modifications and Congestion Mitigation/ Air Quality (CMAQ) projects
- Coordinated Federal Aid System and functional classification updates
- Identified HATS area 'major projects' as defined in SAFETEA-LU
- Reviewed the draft 2007-2010 TIP
- Coordinated, developed and sent RTP safety project information to PennDOT District 8-0
- Reviewed/ revised TIP agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) procedures
- Prepared a transit amendment letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Prepared a TIP Report Card and coordinated quarterly reports review and discussions
- Maintained an internal TIP database; generated and distributed summary report
- Gathered transit flex information
- Developed an Interstate Management Program funding letter and response, and coordinated meeting follow-up
- Discussed earmark projects and implementation
- Reviewed the Transportation Funding and Reform Commission (TFRC) Report
- Developed enhanced outreach efforts for contractors and disadvantaged enterprise support services

Information Requests – Topic Areas

- Perry County bridges
- Walnut Street Pedestrian Bridge
- Bachmanville Road Bridge
- Project ranking criteria
- Local match to federal earmarks
- Stella Street project development
- I-81 and I-83 corridors
- CMAQ funding requirements
- Transit flex funding

Transportation Planning Program (continued)

- Noise wall funding
- Upper Dauphin County (Berrysburg Borough) transportation issues
- Susquehanna/ Lower Paxton Townships issues
- Home Town Streets
- Southern Gateway (project history)
- Freight information exchange
- Access issues public information
- HACC project development
- Land use/ transportation
- Population projections
- Whitehouse Lane Bridge project
- Interstate 81 Coalition
- Burd Street Bridge
- Bylaws
- Western Cumberland Council of Governments Transportation Study
- Functional class revisions
- Trails/ greenways information
- Cumberland-Perry Task Force; PA 944 corridor projects
- US 322 Corridor study recommendations
- Brownfield area projects
- Public review and comment period for RTP
- Public participation plan
- Linking NEPA and planning

Air Quality Partnership of Susquehanna Valley

The Air Quality Partnership of Susquehanna Valley is a coalition of businesses, governments, community groups, and individuals that educates the public about the dangers of ground-level ozone and encourages people to take voluntary actions to reduce their contributions to air pollution. The Air Quality Partnership of Susquehanna Valley alerts the public when concentrations of ground-level ozone or smog are predicted to reach unhealthy levels. The Air Quality Partnership of Susquehanna Valley asks industries and the public to limit their ozone-producing activities on high predicted ozone days. The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission functions as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) Grant Recipient and Manager on behalf of the Air Quality Partnership of Susquehanna Valley. Those interested in more information may contact Administrative Coordinator Patty Buggy- who serves as Finance Chairperson of the Air Quality Partnership of Susquehanna Valley (see page 8 for contact information).

Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (SRTP)

The Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (SRTP) brings together representatives of the MPOs, chambers of commerce, transit, and planning agencies serving Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties. Active members are: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Staff (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties), Adams County Office of Planning and Development Staff, Lebanon County Planning Department Staff, Lancaster County Planning Commission Staff, York County Planning Commission Staff, representatives from the Lebanon Valley Chamber, Lancaster County Chamber, Harrisburg Regional Chamber, York Chamber, Rabbittransit, Red Rose Transit, Capital Area Transit (CAT), and the County of Lebanon Transit (COLT). This seven-county area experiences more than 823,000 commuter interactions. Of these, an estimated 777,500 commuters reside within this area while the other 45,500 persons are thought to commute from outside the area.

Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (SRTP) (continued)

A regional congestion management approach is necessary in the Susquehanna Valley to address congestion created by commuter patterns that cross county borders. There are shared regional interests in managing congestion and promoting alternatives (such as TransitChek, rideshare matching, preferred parking, staggered hours, telecommuting, and flex hours, etc). In 2006, TCRPC staff continued to participate in SRTP activities. In 2006, the SRTP continued to direct Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania to provide car and van-pooling match-up services and outreach to the Region's employers and commuters- highlighting the benefits of ride-sharing and transit use (eg. curbed pollution, increased safety, and less traffic congestion, etc). In 2006, the area served by Commuter Services of South Central PA was extended to include Adams County. Over 2,600 persons participated in the ride-sharing program in 2006- exceeding the 2006 goal of 2,000 participants.

Those seeking more information about the SRTP or the various commuter services offered in the Tri-County Region may contact Brandy Heilman, Director of Commuter Services of Southcentral PA toll-free at (866) 579-7433 (brandy_heilman@pacommuterservices.com).

Intergovernmental Reviews

Functioning as a designated clearinghouse agency, TCRPC receives and reviews applications for state and federal funds provided through a variety of programs. This activity is referred to as the Project Notification and Review System (PNRS), more commonly known as the Intergovernmental Review Process. Applications that are municipality-oriented are normally processed through the respective county planning commissions and reported through its official minutes and annual reports.

During 2006, TCRPC reviewed eight (8) applications. The total amount of application dollars exceeded \$2.3 million, with the lion's share coming from federal sources (\$1.8M). The applicants for this funding varied from local governments to private businesses.

Applications included:

- The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay— for three (3) ongoing projects: public participation and outreach; support for the program's local government advisory committee; and public education through various means of communication
- Steelton Borough— for brownfields redevelopment/ revitalization efforts
- Sunset Bargaintown Furniture— for economic development expansion
- The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program— to assist in an effort to identify and classify pool ecosystems
- PennVEST— in support of the funding of local wastewater system upgrades in response to the Chesapeake Bay Initiative

Federal Flood Insurance Program

Functioning as the area-wide planning organization, TCRPC reviews local ordinances and ordinance amendments associated with floodplain management that are required for municipal eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program and compliance with the Pennsylvania Floodplain Management Act. While Commission staff cannot make official floodplain determinations, the Commission continued its maintenance of updated regional files comprising floodplain maps and final flood hazard study reports of each municipality, and provided floodplain planning assistance to local governments and the general public upon request. TCRPC maintains municipal flood insurance files in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED).

Staff Activities - 2006

The following is a list of additional workshops, trainings and outreach meetings attended by TCRPC staff during the 2006 calendar year:

- Pennsylvania Planning Association (PPA) Annual Conference—Harrisburg
- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership Lower Susquehanna Greenway Regional Committee Meetings
- Appalachian Mountain Club Pennsylvania Highlands Meetings
- Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Steering Committee Stormwater and Development Workgroup Meeting
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Meeting
- New Baldwin Corridor Coalition Board Meetings
- Dauphin County Conservation District Workshop
- Pennsylvania Economic Development Advisory Workshop
- Pennsylvania Planning Association (PPA) 2006 Conference Planning Committee
- Pennsylvania State Data Center Annual Affiliate Meeting
- Chesapeake Bay Regulations Meeting
- Dauphin County Economic Summit Outcome Meeting
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) Conference on Greenway Planning
- Pennsylvania State Data Center Data Users Conference
- Dauphin County Conservation District Agricultural Security Program Workshop
- Dauphin County Conservation District Conservation by Design Workshop
- Quarterly Cumberland County Planning Commission Municipal Outreach Meetings
- Cumberland County Planning Commission Agricultural Preservation Zoning Workshop
- ArcGIS 9.2 Software Training Workshop
- Penn State Continuing Education Zoning Law and Administration Training Course
- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Training Workshop
- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED) Community Development and Housing (CD&H) Practitioners Annual Conference

Training

In addition to taking part in training opportunities to maintain and enhance their expertise in planning, Commission staff also periodically organize training sessions for municipal officials and members of the public. In 2006, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission joined the Perry County Planning Commission (PCPC), the Central Section of the Pennsylvania Planning Association (PPA), the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Education Institute (PMPEI), the Perry County Board of Commissioners, and the Perry Council of Governments (Perry COG) in co-sponsoring a three (3) evening course in Zoning Administration. The courses were held at the Penn Township (Perry County) Municipal Building in October 2006. TCRPC is proud to provide occasional training opportunities to the region's officials and interested public. If there is a perceived need for training among your municipal officials/ staff, please contact Staff Planner Matthew Jones and share your ideas for possible trainings with him (see Page 8 for contact information).