

Change Is Inevitable; Our Approaches Should Change With It

From Executive Director Steve Deck, AICP

Times change, issues change and practices change, but far too often the way we plan and regulate these changes stays the same. So as we wind down 2023 and get ready to begin a new year, this is a good time to rethink the way we address many of the key planning issues we face.

Recognized by the Boroughs Association, Township Supervisors Association, County Commissioners Association, municipal solicitors and others, TCRPC's online [Planning Toolkit](#) offers new ways to look at these topics. Below are some of its highlights worth considering.

While many municipalities face challenges from **warehouse and distribution center development**, most zoning ordinances where it's occurring haven't changed since warehouses became more common 50 years ago. The Toolkit contains a fact sheet on Managing Warehouses and Distribution Centers, with links to many resources on the topic. One resource is a model zoning ordinance containing conditions that can be considered as special-exception or conditional-use criteria to address traffic, safety and other concerns, even when warehouses are proposed on local roads.

Solar facilities are also becoming common in our region, yet relatively few municipalities address or regulate them according to current standards and legislation. The solar facilities fact sheet in the Toolkit is the result of extensive research on the issue, and its model ordinance provisions were developed by reviewing related ordinances across Pennsylvania.

Attainable housing is another issue affecting virtually everyone, especially as a lack of availability, rising interest rates and other factors boost costs. Municipalities concerned about density typically regulate housing by separating it into types, each with their own limits. So why not consider the approach offered by the Toolkit and establish various density categories while allowing a mix of residential types that provide flexibility? This approach can result in more open space and more attractive neighborhoods while still addressing the range of housing needs.

As for **parking ordinances**, it's obvious that requirements for offices, brick-and-mortar retail stores and restaurants with drive-thru services have changed significantly. Yet most parking ordinances were based on limited data well before these changes happened. For example, large parking lots with many unused spaces are now viewed as undesirable for many reasons, including excess stormwater and regulatory and flooding implications. The Toolkit's approach to parking maximums was based in part on drone imagery TCRPC undertook to determine the region's actual parking demand for offices, retail and restaurants at peak times of the day and year. Our model ordinance offers a much better way to manage parking while reducing stormwater and the other effects of excessive parking allocations.

The issues I've identified here are just a few examples of fresh thinking on the planning topics we all face currently. I highly recommend exploring our [Planning Toolkit](#) and reaching out to your Local Planning Assistance representative from TCRPC to see how it might improve your planning on, and regulation of, the issues you're dealing with at the municipal level.



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Submissions Now Open for 2024 Dauphin County Premier Project Awards!

Entry Deadline October 31

Our NEW & IMPROVED awards program acknowledges and encourages planning excellence in Dauphin County, recognizing projects that meet our community, environmental and economic goals.

Individuals, organizations, municipalities, public authorities, developers and public/private partnerships may submit applications for plans, studies and projects -- completed in Dauphin County between 2021-2023 -- in which they were principally involved in design, development or implementation.



THE DAUPHIN COUNTY PREMIER PROJECT AWARDS

The Dauphin County Board of Commissioners & Planning Commission invite you to submit your entries for the 2024 Premier Project Awards. This annual awards program acknowledges and encourages planning excellence in Dauphin County, recognizing projects and plans that meet the community, environmental and economic goals of the county's Comprehensive Plan.

ELIGIBILITY: Projects, plans, studies and programs...
ENTRY DEADLINE: October 31, 2023...
AWARDS: \$1,000 for each project...
CONTACT: Jerry Duke at jduke@dauphinpa.org

2024 PREMIER PROJECT AWARDS ENTRY FORM

*Please print clearly. All entries must be submitted by **Thursday, October 31, 2023**. There will be no exceptions.*

NAME OF PROJECT (as it will appear on award): _____

LOCATION OF PROJECT (street address and/or municipality): _____

COMPLETION DATE (2021-2023): _____

WHAT CATEGORY BEST FITS YOUR ENTRY?
 Growing Our Communities Growing With Our Environment Growing Our Economy

CONTACT:
 Name: _____
 Primary Company / Organization Name (to appear on award): _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____

RE-TYPE NAME FOR SIGNATURE _____

UPLOAD YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE HERE
 REMINDER: Deadline is Tuesday, October 31

QUESTIONS?
 Contact Dauphin County Planning Coordinator
 Jerry Duke at jduke@dauphinpa.org
 or (717) 234-2639

SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT NOW!

And save the date for the Awards Luncheon on Leap Day: **Thursday, February 29, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM** at the National Civil War Museum, 1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg

Submissions will be accepted through October 31.

For complete rules and to submit your entry, [click here](#).

For more information, email [Jerry Duke](mailto:Jerry.Duke@dauphinpa.org) or call (717) 234-2639.



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 Troy.Truax@mbakerintl.com | (717) 213-6241

Brian Funkhouser, AICP | Senior Planner
 Brian.Funkhouser@mbakerintl.com | (717) 213-6236

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Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is once again offering a number of promotional opportunities and benefits for its sponsors in 2024!

Our 2024 Sponsorships allow your organization to support ALL of our events and publications throughout the entire year, including:

- Our **ANNUAL LUNCHEON**, a great opportunity for elected leaders, municipal officials, planners, developers, engineers and others to dine together, network and discuss the region's future.
- Our **EDUCATION & TRAINING** programs, offering multiple ways to expand your knowledge and earn professional continuing education credits.
- Our free quarterly **TCRPC NEWSLETTER**, with a readership of nearly 3,000, including local and state government officials, municipal staff, planning commissioners, engineers, architects, builders, consultants, educators, nonprofits, activists and many more. It features news and updates about all of our diverse projects, education and training programs, upcoming events and everything else we're up to.

Stronger When We Work Together...

Since 1966, we've been a forum for information sharing, consensus building and coordination to tackle regional issues facing the diverse communities of Dauphin and Perry counties. We believe the region is stronger when we work together.

TCRPC's four main programs include:

- the **Regional Growth Management Plan**, which promotes economic growth and revitalization in our communities while protecting natural resources, optimizing transportation options and recognizing important quality-of-life issues;
- the **Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS)**, the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties;
- and **staff support** for the Dauphin and Perry county planning commissions.

TCRPC meets all of these needs with a small staff that provides planning support, technical expertise and opportunities for education and training – all in a spirit of collaboration. Guiding our work is a 19-member board comprised of residents and officials from the area.

More...



OUR MISSION:
To foster the long-term livability & vitality of our communities, counties & region.

Here are some highlights of TCRPC's many accomplishments in 2023:

- Launched our online Planning Toolkit (APA-PA Annual Award winner);
- Established a regional Water Resource Enhancement Program (Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence);
- Completed the Picture Perry comprehensive plan;
- Awarded \$6 million in grants for the Regional Transportation Plan implementation program;
- Expanded the SuiqueCycle takeshare program;
- Updated our online roadway safety app;
- Initiated a regional Active Transportation Plan;
- Secured grant funding and undertook a regional Safe Streets for All Plan.

Your support is vital in helping us move the region toward a more prosperous and fulfilling future. We hope you'll review the opportunities in this brochure and become a sponsor soon.

BECOME A SPONSOR IN 2024



This is your chance to support a legacy of livability & vitality in the Tri-County Region... Sponsor TCRPC today!

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Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is offering a number of promotional opportunities and benefits for its sponsors in 2024!

Our sponsorships allow your organization to support ALL of our events and publications throughout the entire year. Below you'll find details about the available sponsorship levels and the benefits you'll receive thanks to your generosity.

To take advantage of these opportunities and support TCRPC's mission in 2024, please visit www.tcrpc-pa.org/sponsorships and reserve your sponsorship by the December 31 deadline. We'll invoice you after January 1!

Quarterly Newsletter:

- Full-page ad in all 4 issues.

Website:

- Your logo & link on our sponsorship page.

SILVER SPONSOR - \$1,500

Annual Luncheon & Premier Project Awards:

- Table for 8 with prime seating;
- Option to display your banner;
- Option to distribute free mementos;
- Recognition on event materials & webpage.

Quarterly Newsletter:

- 1/2-page ad in all 4 issues.

Website:

- Your logo & link on our sponsorship page.



Our Premier Project Awards acknowledge and encourage planning excellence in Dauphin County.

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$1,000

Annual Luncheon & Premier Project Awards:

- Table for 8 with prime seating;
- Option to distribute free mementos;
- Recognition on event materials & webpage.

Quarterly Newsletter:

- 1/4-page ad in all 4 issues.

Website:

- Your logo & link on our sponsorship page.

REGIONAL SPONSOR - \$500

Annual Luncheon & Premier Project Awards:

- Option to distribute free mementos;
- Recognition on event materials & webpage.

Quarterly Newsletter:

- 1/8-page ad in all 4 issues.

Website:

- Your logo & link on our sponsorship page.



Each issue of the quarterly TCRPC Newsletter features news and updates about our diverse projects, education and training programs, upcoming events and much more.

NEWSLETTER SPONSOR - \$250

Quarterly Newsletter:

- 1/8-page ad in all 4 issues.

Website:

- Your logo & link on our sponsorship page.

SHOUT-OUT SPECIAL - \$100

Quarterly Newsletter:

- 1/4-page ad in 1 issue OR 1/8-page ad in 2 issues.



Your support goes toward programs like our online Planning Toolkit, which offers a wide array of policies and resources promoting Smart Growth.

Reserve your sponsorship by Dec. 31 and we'll invoice you in January!
www.tcrpc-pa.org/sponsorships

We're always on the lookout for new outreach opportunities, of course, so if any come up in 2024, your organization will be included in all promotional materials and event participation.

If you click on the brochure image above or at left, you can read about the sponsorship levels that are available to you, as well as the benefits that you'll receive thanks to your generosity.

To take advantage of these opportunities and support TCRPC's mission in 2024, including our various promotional efforts, please visit www.tcrpc-pa.org/sponsorships and submit your sponsorship form soon!

Thanks!

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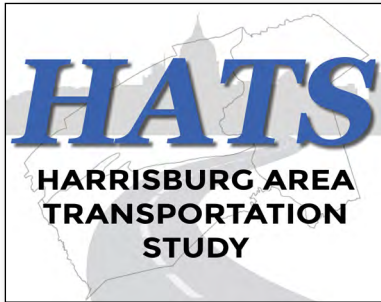
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Your Input Needed! Take Our “Safe Streets for All” Action Plan Survey

By Ben Warner, Planner



We need your input! As part of our Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program, HATS has launched a public survey on transportation safety concerns in the region.

We're looking for feedback on things like driver safety, bicyclist and pedestrian safety, problem intersections and roads, ideas to make our roads safer and much more.

Your input will help us to determine priorities and shape a Safety Action Plan for the region. So please [click here](#) to take the survey.

For questions about the survey or SS4A, email [Ben Warner](#) or call (717) 234-2639.

Help Us Create the Region's Active Transportation Plan

By Andrew Bomberger, Transportation Planning Coordinator

As cities and communities strive to create more sustainable and livable environments, active transportation has emerged as a key component of this effort.

It includes modes such as walking, cycling and other non-motorized forms of travel.

The benefits of walking and cycling are no surprise, making them an obvious choice for active transportation plans:

- **Improved health**, with reduced risk of chronic disease and better mental well-being;
- **Reduced pollution**, with less dependence on cars, thereby reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
- **Supporting local economies**, since pedestrian and cyclist streets tend to attract more visitors and business for local shops and restaurants;
- **Fostering community**, because an active transportation infrastructure can create more social interaction and help build stronger, closer towns and neighborhoods.

Because local residents have firsthand knowledge of their neighborhoods and can offer valuable insight into safety concerns, preferred routes and potential barriers, HATS is asking the public to participate in creating our Regional Active Transportation Plan.

You can help by attending regional events, promoting public surveys, and by using our online wiki mapping tool.

To participate, [click here](#).

Our next public event will be at the [Pine Grove Furnace Festival](#) on October 21-22.

For more information, please email [Andrew Bomberger](#) or call (717) 234-2639.



The logo for FOX PEST CONTROL features the word "FOX" in large, bold, blue letters with a red fox head silhouette integrated into the letter 'O'. Below it, "PEST CONTROL" is written in smaller, black, all-caps letters. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "PROMPT SERVICE IN HARRISBURG -- GUARANTEED!" and the phone number and website: "(717) 366-9627 · WWW.FOXPEST-HARRISBURG.COM".

The logo for WSP features the letters "WSP" in a stylized, orange font. Below it, the text "Question today Imagine tomorrow Create for the future" is written in orange. At the bottom, there are social media icons for LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, along with the website "wsp.com". The background is a light blue and white abstract design with a photograph of a street scene.



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Perry County Planning Update

By Jason Finnerty, Perry County Planning Coordinator

Picture Perry Snapshot

Perry County continues to implement its Picture Perry Comprehensive Plan, assembling five work groups in September: Community Facilities and Utilities; Natural Resources and Recreation; Economic Development; Housing; and Transportation.

The workgroups have been reviewing their goals and objectives, the overall comprehensive plan, and the process for moving forward, including project prioritization and recommendation for county and municipal consideration. The plan will remain fluid, allowing new projects to be submitted and integrated as we move forward.

Also, updates to the [Picture Perry website](#) are ongoing, including workgroup agendas and reports.

Twenty-three local governments are currently partnering on Picture Perry, including the county, all nine boroughs and 13 townships.



Perry County Planning Commission Member Vacancy

The Perry County Planning Commission (PCPC) is currently seeking a new member. The seat became vacant after Dana Cotton's resignation in August.

The remainder of the four-year term will run through December 31, 2025. To be considered, interested county residents are asked to email a resume to pcpc@perryoc.org.

When the vacancy is filled, the remaining candidates will be kept on file should another seat become available.

We are grateful to Dana for her four years of service and wish her and her family the best.

Education & Outreach

For what has become a yearly tradition, TCRPC staff presented a session at the Perry County Association of Township Officials' annual convention in September.

The workshop session at the county fairgrounds was well attended.

TCRPC Executive Director Steve Deck spoke on the HATS Active Transportation Plan, and Perry County Planning Coordinator Jason Finnerty shared information on the Picture Perry Comprehensive Plan.

HATS Regional Active Transportation Plan

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Work Continues on Water Resource Enhancement Program

By **Jerry Duke**, *Dauphin County Planning Coordinator*

TCRPC continues to work with the Dauphin County Conservation District, county economic development staff and project engineer HRG to set the goals and create a work program for the county's [Water Resource Enhancement Program \(WREP\)](#).

WREP's purpose is to assist communities and save them money as they address a wide range of stormwater management, water quality and flooding issues.

The program is building on the success of its initial endeavor, the Conewago Creek Restoration Project. A watershed-based approach to fulfill MS4 requirements, the project's aim is to reduce local flooding and improve water quality in Londonderry Township. It also helped several municipalities in the watershed fulfill their MS4 requirements for sediment reduction. Highspire, Middletown and Steelton boroughs and Lower Swatara and Swatara townships were all able to participate at a cost-effective rate in this joint effort led by Londonderry Township.

Over the past several months, TCRPC has been working with the 15 municipalities now participating in WREP to further develop the program and set a path for the future. In the past year, the project team conducted interviews, created surveys and gathered project inventories to develop a draft project outline. Shared with communities, the outline included potential municipal cost-sharing formulas for 2024 and 2025. Participating municipalities reviewed and discussed the outline in group and individual meetings, and at the September advisory committee meeting, a consensus was reached on a future WREP program offering (see chart).

As planned, the program would offer three levels of services for participating municipalities. One would be for those seeking help to develop regional projects



focusing on flood protection. Another would examine flood protection and MS4 projects. The third level, and most comprehensive, would include the previous two levels and add assistance with public outreach, MS4 administrative support, and public works training and mock audits.

Municipalities will be able to postpone a decision to participate in 2023 until the new MS4 permits are released.

The program will be finalized in the next few months with anticipated approval by the Dauphin County Commissioners and the municipalities' formal decision to participate.

Future outreach will encourage non-participating municipalities to join WREP in the hope of reaching maximum involvement. The greater the number of municipalities enrolled, the higher the savings for everyone.

For more information, email [Jerry Duke](#) or call (717) 234-2639

WREP PARTICIPATION (2024-2025)

SERVICE LEVEL A – REGIONAL PROJECTS FOR FLOOD REDUCTION	SERVICE LEVEL B – REGIONAL PROJECTS FOR FLOOD REDUCTION & MS4 CREDIT	SERVICE LEVEL C – FULL PROGRAM										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scope items: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Preliminary Project Scoping/Grant Procurement and Administration</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Priority Project Study (Flood Mitigation/BMP Retrofit)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Database Development/Prospective BMP Mapping</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Existing BMP Mapping</td> </tr> </table>	Preliminary Project Scoping/Grant Procurement and Administration	Priority Project Study (Flood Mitigation/BMP Retrofit)	Database Development/Prospective BMP Mapping	Existing BMP Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service Level A + Scope items: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Regional Pollution Reduction Planning</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Engineering/Legal Counsel</td> </tr> </table>	Regional Pollution Reduction Planning	Engineering/Legal Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service Levels A + B + Scope items = <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">MS4 Coordinator Facilitated Meetups</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Public Education & Outreach</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Public Relations/Outreach</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Public Works Training/ Mock Audits</td> </tr> </table>	MS4 Coordinator Facilitated Meetups	Public Education & Outreach	Public Relations/Outreach	Public Works Training/ Mock Audits
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Priority Project Study (Flood Mitigation/BMP Retrofit)												
Database Development/Prospective BMP Mapping												
Existing BMP Mapping												
Regional Pollution Reduction Planning												
Engineering/Legal Counsel												
MS4 Coordinator Facilitated Meetups												
Public Education & Outreach												
Public Relations/Outreach												
Public Works Training/ Mock Audits												
TABLE DECISION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$500 for 2024 ▪ Participate in Advisory Committee meetings 												



Manada Conservancy's Buffer Stewardship Program Aims to Protect & Enhance Swatara Creek

By Alexa Korber, *Planner*

As outdoor recreation, water quality, stormwater management and environmental health become more important to planners across Pennsylvania, those of us in Dauphin County have looked for ways to preserve and enhance one of our premier waterways: the Swatara Creek.

The creek, locally referred to as the "Swattie," is a 72-mile stream that stretches from its headwaters in the Appalachian Mountains in Schuylkill County to the confluence of the Susquehanna River at Middletown Borough in Dauphin County.

Its watershed covers 571 square miles over four counties: Schuylkill, Berks, Lebanon and Dauphin.



Manada Conservancy, a land trust organization based in Hummelstown, has been actively working to establish a greenway (natural corridor) along the Swatara Creek. Establishing healthy streamside buffers will provide mutual benefits of habitat improvement, flooding control and stormwater control.

The Conservancy is looking to partner with businesses, municipalities and interested individuals to work with them in a buffer stewardship program that would plant and maintain vegetative buffers in areas along the creek.



MANADA
CONSERVANCY

Londonderry Township in southern Dauphin County has already taken up that call. The municipality's buffer stewardship proposal involves establishing schedules for spring and fall mowing, herbicide application, tube monitoring and volunteer information for quarterly maintenance and re-plantings.

Ideally, the Conservancy would also like to place signage at the buffer location that highlights the partnership and the program.

As of today, Manada Conservancy has committed to maintain nine acres of land in the township.

For more information about the buffer stewardship program and the Swatara Greenway, please visit [Swatara Greenway](#).

Manada Conservancy was the beneficiary of online mapping tools that showcase the Swatara Creek and its economic value as a Green Ribbon Landscape. We invite you to explore the watershed through these new interactive tools by visiting [A Green Ribbon Landscape](#).

If you would like to volunteer with the Conservancy, please email [Shawn Jacobs](#).



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REQUEST A PLANNING CONSISTENCY LETTER

Many grant/funding programs require applicants to submit a letter from their local, county or regional planning agency to confirm that a project is consistent with local plans. [Click here](#) to request a planning consistency letter, or call the TCRPC office at 717-234-2639 for more information. You may also email us at planning@tcrpc-pa.org.



TCRPC Staff

Steve Deck, AICP
Executive Director
sdeck@tcrpc-pa.org

Diane Myers-Krug, AICP
Associate Director
dkrug@tcrpc-pa.org

Ana Avila-Tinoco
Administrative Assistant
aavila-tinoco@tcrpc-pa.org

Andrew Bomberger, AICP
Transportation Planning
Coordinator
abomberger@tcrpc-pa.org

Karen Dixon
Transportation & Community
Planner
kdixon@tcrpc-pa.org

Jerry Duke, AICP
Dauphin County
Planning Coordinator
gduke@tcrpc-pa.org

Jason Finnerty
Perry County
Planning Coordinator
jfinnerty@tcrpc-pa.org

Timothy Jones
HPMS Coordinator/
GIS Technician
tjones@tcrpc-pa.org

Alexa Korber
Planner
akorber@tcrpc-pa.org

Larry Portzline, APR
Communications Coordinator
lportzline@tcrpc-pa.org

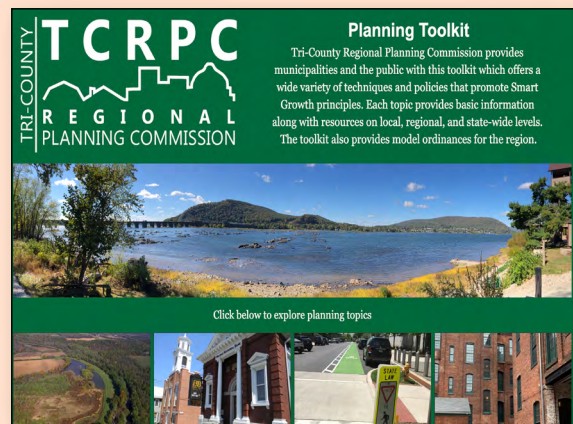
Tanner Stroup
Transportation & Community
Planner
tstroup@tcrpc-pa.org

Benjamin Warner
Planner
bwagner@tcrpc-pa.org

THE TCRPC PLANNING TOOLKIT: A Valuable Resource for Municipalities Around the Region & State

TCRPC's online [Planning Toolkit](#) provides local governments and the public about a wide variety of techniques and policies that promote up-to-date Smart Growth principles.

The site features fact sheets and model ordinances on numerous topics that you can download to help your community address planning-level issues in consistent and effective ways.



VISIT THE TOOLKIT SOON!



Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

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PUBLIC INFORMATION & PARTICIPATION

This newsletter is a primary means, other than such items as may be published on the TCRPC website or broadcast by the general media, by which information concerning the Regional and Transportation Planning programs is made available to the citizens and public of the Tri-County Region. It is distributed four times a year and has a circulation of over 2,000. The meetings of the Regional Planning Commission and the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study are open to the public. Persons who wish to receive issues of this newsletter, obtain other information or comment about the planning programs should email planning@tcrpc-pa.org.

www.tcrpc-pa.org

The preparation and distribution of the TCRPC Newsletter is financed in part by grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and Dauphin and Perry counties.



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