

Partners Working Together in 2026 & Beyond

By Executive Director Andrew Bomberger, AICP

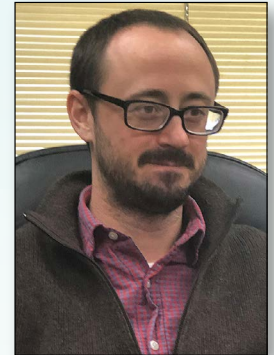
At TCRPC, “Stronger when we work together” is more than a motto. It’s a mission statement and a guiding principle in all our work.

Whether focusing on transportation, land-use, or environmental challenges, our staff’s ability to connect and work with key partners and stakeholders throughout our region is the foundation of our success.

As our 2026 work continues, these cooperative efforts are exemplified in our stormwater management and water-quality planning. Since 2020, TCRPC staff has administered the implementation and updates of the DEP Countywide Action Plans for Dauphin, Perry, Juniata and Mifflin Counties. Due to the success of this multi-county approach, we were awarded approximately \$1.9 million in funding in the 2026 grant application round for continued collective implementation of water-quality improvements.

At a more local level, our Water Resource Enhancement Program (WREP) is a regional stormwater management program focused on addressing municipal MS4 requirements, water-quality and flooding-related issues. The program is a voluntary, cooperative effort between TCRPC, Dauphin County Economic Development and 12 Dauphin County municipalities. It provides a variety of services, including outreach, education, project identification, and administration.

Later this year, TCRPC staff will begin working with RETTEW Associates on a Best Management Practice (BMP) inventory and mapping project that will allow our municipal partners to make better, more coordinated and efficient investments to satisfy permit requirements and improve the quality of our region’s waterways.



ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR POSITION:

TCRPC is recruiting its next Associate Director to help lead a team of 13 planning professionals.

READ THE POSTING [HERE](#)

With these efforts in mind, Jill Whitcomb, DEP Deputy Secretary of Water Programs, will be the keynote speaker at TCRPC’s 60th anniversary luncheon on Thursday, May 7. She will discuss the current challenges and opportunities facing Pennsylvania waterways, and how working together -- locally and regionally -- makes for more sustainable, effective solutions. You can register for the luncheon before April 30 [here](#).

TCRPC will continue working with our partners to identify challenges, opportunities and solutions we face as a region, in 2026 and beyond. If you have any questions or input related to our water-related planning efforts or transportation/land-use issues, please [contact us](#).

We’re here to work with you!

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Register before Thur., April 30 for our --

60TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON!



Thursday, May 7, 2026
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

*Sheraton Harrisburg
Hershey Hotel*

*4650 Lindle Rd,
Harrisburg, PA 17111*

WITH GUEST SPEAKER:

Jill Whitcomb, DEP Deputy Secretary of Water Programs, who will address the state's water issues from a planning perspective and the importance of regional cooperation in dealing with them



**COST: \$15 per person or
\$105 for a table of 8**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

TCRPC Offers Model Ordinance for Communities Considering Data Centers

By Karen Dixon, *Planner*

TCRPC has created a model zoning ordinance to help municipalities evaluate and manage data center development.

Developed in response to growing demand for digital infrastructure, the model provides sample language, definitions and approaches to address potential land use impacts.

It is intended as a flexible resource that municipalities can adapt to reflect local conditions, priorities and existing ordinances.

The document includes recommended standards and identifies optional provisions, clearly noted throughout, for communities to consider based on their specific needs.

Municipalities are encouraged to review each section within their broader planning and regulatory context, recognizing that some provisions may already be addressed locally or may not be applicable.

While the model reflects current best practices, municipalities are encouraged to consult legal and planning professionals when adapting the ordinance and to update regulations as technologies evolve.

Municipal officials and staff are encouraged to contact TCRPC for additional guidance or questions.



[Click here](#) to view the model ordinance as a PDF.



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Now's Your Chance to Shape the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan

By Alexa Korber, *Planner*

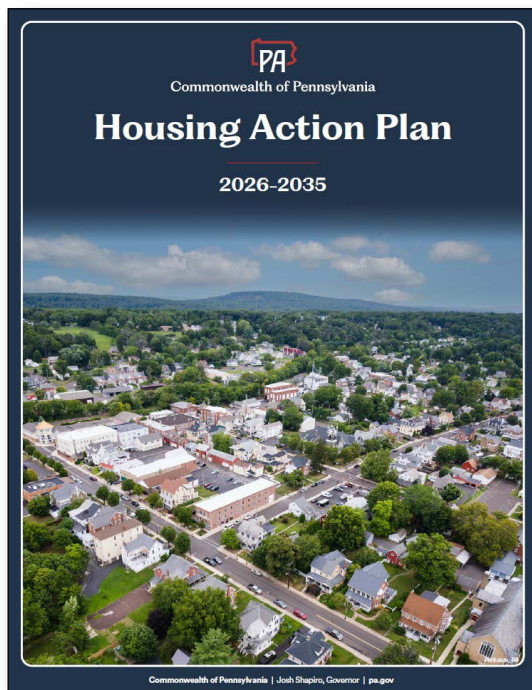
Dauphin County has begun work on its next long-range Comprehensive Plan, which will help to guide land use and transportation planning in our communities for the next decade.

We've kicked off the process with a brief, 10-question public survey to determine what matters most to people who live, work or visit Dauphin County and care about its future. You can participate in the survey [here](#).

We're also asking if you have a favorite place in Dauphin County that you'd like to mention and maybe have included in the Comprehensive Plan. You can [follow this link](#), share a few sentences about this special place, and even submit a photo if you'd like. Just follow the instructions, and you may see your entry in the plan!

Your input will help us to set priorities and identify key issues such as housing, transportation, economic development, land use, and environmental sustainability.

It will also ensure that as we shape the Comprehensive Plan, we will reflect community values and guide decisions that affect the county's growth and quality of life long into the future.



PA Releases Statewide Housing Action Plan

By Jerry Duke, *Dauphin County Planning Coordinator*

Pennsylvania recently released its first-ever Housing Action Plan.

The plan -- [available here](#) -- outlines strategies to increase housing supply, reduce costs, modernize development regulations, and improve coordination among state and local agencies.

TCRPC will thoroughly review the plan and use its guidance where appropriate in several major planning projects now underway.

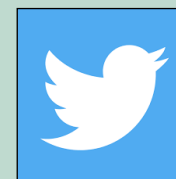
The plan's goals directly support TCRPC's ongoing work to investigate affordable housing needs and will serve as a resource in the update of the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan.

The plan will also assist in the development of our Regional Growth Management Plan, currently in progress.

Its emphasis on building and preserving housing, expanding growth opportunities and improving regulatory alignment will provide useful information and tools for communities as they work to strengthen their housing supply.

As these planning efforts advance, the Housing Action Plan will help TCRPC develop coordinated, well-designed strategies to improve the availability, condition and affordability of homes throughout the Tri-County region.

Follow Our Social Media for
News & Updates About
Future Events & Classes

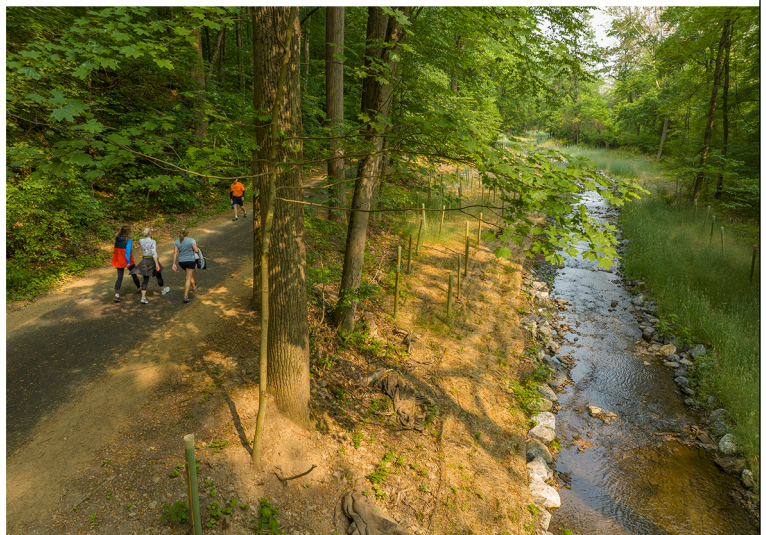




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PennDOT's LTAP Classes & Technical Assistance Free for Municipalities

By **Brian Snyder**, *Transportation Planner*

PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) helps Pennsylvania's communities make the most of their roadway maintenance dollars.

It does this by providing technical information and proven technologies — **FREE OF CHARGE** — to meet the growing demands of PA's 2,560 municipalities and their 78,000 miles of roadways.

An ideal way to learn about these services is an LTAP class for your road crew and staff. LTAP representatives will come to your community and provide all necessary equipment, including videos, slides, samples and handouts.

Whether it's a small issue or a more complex challenge, LTAP's technical experts are available to help you troubleshoot almost any local transportation maintenance or safety concern.

To schedule a class or technical assistance, please contact TCRPC Transportation Planner [Brian Snyder](#).

[Click here](#) more information on the LTAP program.

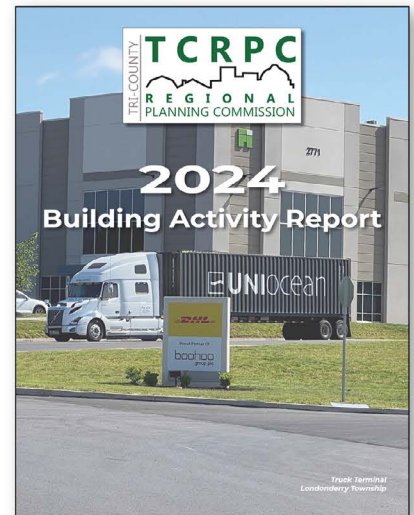


Coming Soon:

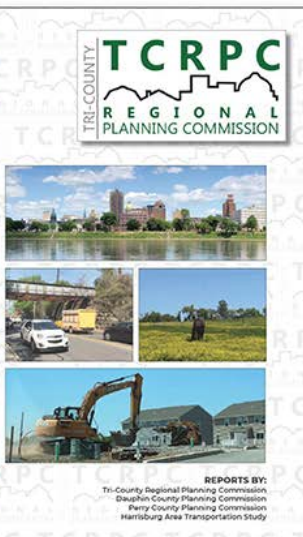
TCRPC'S 2025 BUILDING ACTIVITY REPORT

With the Latest Figures on **Residential, Commercial & Industrial Projects** in Dauphin & Perry Counties

Watch for it on www.tcrpc-pa.org



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Read TCRPC's 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

With Summaries from the

- **TCRPC Regional Program**
- **Dauphin County Planning Commission**
- **Perry County Planning Commission**
- **Harrisburg Area Transportation Study**

We solve complex transportation problems to improve people's everyday lives.



PLANNING



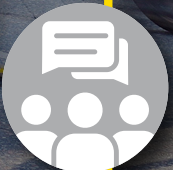
OPERATIONS



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Riding Along: A Firsthand Look at Paratransit in Action

By Karen Dixon, *Planner*



As part of the public outreach for the new Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP), TCRPC staff conducted three [paratransit](#) ride-alongs with rabbittransit services in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties.

The purpose was to gain a deeper, firsthand understanding of the rider experience. These ride-alongs offered a unique and engaging opportunity to observe daily operations in action while connecting directly with both drivers and passengers.

Each county provided valuable insight into the diversity of service needs across the region. In Perry County, the rural landscape highlighted the importance of long-distance trips and the limited availability of alternative transportation options.

Dauphin County's more urbanized setting displayed challenges of higher demand, traffic and multi-stop scheduling. Meanwhile, Cumberland County illustrated a blend of suburban and semi-rural conditions, demonstrating both operational efficiencies and the need for thoughtful coordination across varied service areas.

One message stood out clearly in all three experience: rabbittransit's paratransit service is a vital lifeline for the communities it serves. Riders consistently emphasized how essential the service is for accessing medical care, employment and everyday activities, helping them maintain independence and stay connected. Drivers demonstrated a high level of professionalism, care and dedication, often going above and beyond to support passengers and serve as a trusted point of contact.

While riders shared some suggestions for improvement, overall feedback was positive and appreciative. These insights will play an important role in shaping opportunities for enhancement within the upcoming HSTP.

Ultimately, these ride-alongs underscored the value of engaging directly with the community and grounding planning efforts in real-world experiences. The result is a stronger, more informed HSTP that truly reflects the needs, priorities and voices of the region.

New GIS Resources Application Now Available on TCRPC Website

By Tanner Stroup, *GIS Coordinator*

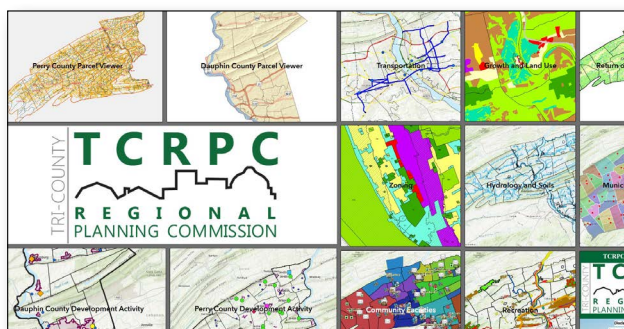
TCRPC is excited to announce that a new GIS Resources Application is now available on our website.

The app has been refreshed utilizing ESRI's Experience Builder to showcase a more modern design and functionality. You can also expect regular updates as new data becomes available and feedback is received.

The app -- [available here](#) -- is a system for storing and displaying many different kinds of data on a single map, allowing the region's citizens, municipalities, businesses and organizations to explore the unique features of Dauphin and Perry counties.

Some of the data includes:

- parcel locators with address search tool;
- transportation maps and layers for Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties;
- community facilities like municipal offices, fire departments, senior centers, hospitals and schools;
- recreation sites like parks, playgrounds, trails, state game lands and forests;
- growth and land use maps;
- zoning maps for individual municipalities;
- hydrology and soils maps, including streams, watersheds, farmlands, agricultural easements and security areas;
- development activity maps for Dauphin and Perry counties, including planned growth areas;
- and municipal contact information for the entire Tri-County region.



Our goal is for this application to be as user-friendly and informative as possible.

For more information, email GIS Coordinator [Tanner Stroup](#).

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PICTURE PERRY Snapshot: Implementation Progress & What's Ahead

By Jason Finnerty, Perry County Planning Coordinator

The first round of 2026 PICTURE PERRY Implementation Workgroup Sessions has successfully concluded. Summary reports detailing the discussions and outcomes from each session will be posted to the [PICTURE PERRY website hub](#) in the coming weeks.

These sessions brought together municipal leaders, partners and stakeholders to advance coordinated planning efforts across Perry County. Key themes emphasize collaboration, long-term sustainability, infrastructure investment and strategic economic development.

Following are some of the key discussion highlights from each workgroup.

Infrastructure, Utilities & Energy

- Energy infrastructure and data center development;
- Methane digesters and alternative energy projects;
- Broadband expansion, cellular coverage and emergency communications;
- Duncannon Borough's significant sewer, water and electric system modernization needs;
- Funding pursuits for a multi-municipal Act 537 sewage plan to reduce costs and enhance water quality protection;
- Bridges and culverts identified as critical priorities amid funding constraints;
- Roads generally in fair condition but requiring localized improvements;
- Extreme weather impacts driving the need for updated hydraulic modeling and flood planning;
- Emphasis on multi-modal, sustainable infrastructure planning and intermunicipal cooperation.

Housing & Community Development

- Status updates on the ECHO Housing Program, including zoning, municipal engagement and regulatory challenges;
- Infrastructure constraints related to septic, water, utilities and cost allocation;
- Exploration of alternative housing models and funding opportunities;
- Discussion of related housing initiatives and regional coordination.

Economic Development, Tourism & Heritage

- Recognition of tourism, recreation and downtown vitality as interconnected economic drivers;
- Strong support for countywide branding and wayfinding, with maintenance funding identified as a primary challenge;
- Heritage integration and mapped heritage markers discussed as existing trail and tourism linkages;
- Broad agreement that sustained economic development requires both visitor capture and support for local businesses;
- Continued emphasis on data collection, business engagement and long-range planning.

Parks, Trails & Recreation

- Trail planning and connectivity, including exploration of off-road trail options along the Newport–Little Buffalo corridor;
- Identification of pedestrian and bicycle connections in Liverpool and Millerstown;
- Recommendation to activate the Sherman's Creek Greenway Story Map for broader stakeholder feedback;
- Exploration of formal discussions with Center Township and landowners regarding trail connections to Little Buffalo State Park;
- Research into railroad corridor deeds and rights-of-reserve for potential trail development;
- Mapping utility corridors alongside existing trails to identify off-road connections;
- Integration of mountain biking and other recreational assets into countywide trail planning;
- Environmental regulatory compliance considerations, including dam removal tracking for a potential Sherman's Creek Water Trail;
- Importance of landowner coordination for projects in non-navigable waterways;
- Municipal Park volunteer coordination challenges, with emphasis on documenting volunteer time to strengthen future grant eligibility.



Another Year of Growth Highlights Demand for SusqueCycle

By Karen Dixon, *Planner*

SusqueCycle, the Harrisburg region's premier bike share program, continues to grow as an affordable, healthy, sustainable transportation option.

Ridership reached 3,516 total trips in 2025, surpassing 2024 by 7 percent. It did this, in part, by introducing a GPS-equipped fleet, expanded docking infrastructure, and extending the operating season.

This growth underscores the community's demand for reliable active transportation and its adoption of SusqueCycle as a critical component of the region's multimodal network.

To enhance accessibility and convenience, more rack locations will be installed in March, expanding the system and growing ridership even further in 2026.



Public Engagement for 2050 Regional Growth Management Plan

By Lindsay Grier, *Regional Planner*

TCRPC continues our public engagement efforts for the 2050 Regional Growth Management Plan.

Through our recent public survey, we heard from over 100 community members about their preferences for future development in the region and their view on what we ought to strive for in planning for future growth.

Among participants, we found a strong desire to conserve the farmland, natural resources and recreational areas that many see as central to the character of this region.



Feedback also revealed a demand for connectivity between where people live and the resources and services upon which they rely.

Houses and neighborhoods with walkable streets and easy access to commercial areas, parks and other community facilities were high priorities for many community members, as was the hope that we can continue to grow without losing the rural character that defines parts of our region.

Notably less positive sentiments around large-scale industrial and commercial facilities, contrasted with a higher preference for smaller downtown districts and better connectivity throughout the region, seem to suggest a general desire within our region for growing around existing development and infrastructure, building up more thriving and connected communities and preserving our natural resources.

We continue our public participation activities, engaging with stakeholders across the region, and will consider the feedback received through this process as we move forward with the plan development process.

You can follow the plan's progress on our [website](#).

EXPLORE TCRPC'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

Click here for all the latest & archived meeting videos for TCRPC, HATS, the Dauphin and Perry County Planning Commissions and more!



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.



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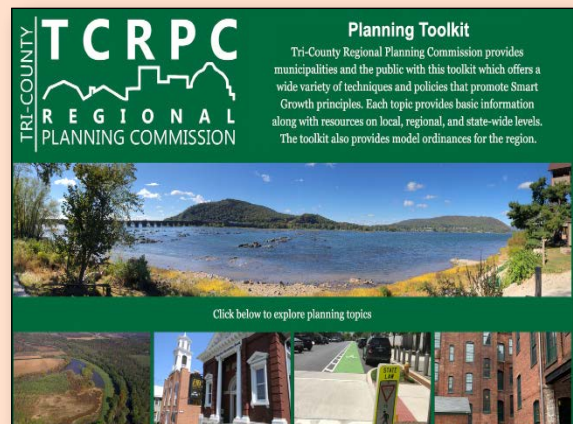
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THE TCRPC PLANNING TOOLKIT: A Valuable Resource for Municipalities Around the Region & State

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.



*Strawberry Square,
Home of TCRPC*

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