

Public Comment Period for Regional Transportation Plan Open

From Executive Director Andrew Bomberger, AICP

Public comments being accepted through August 15!

The public comment period for the HATS 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the HATS 2025 Public Participation Plan (PPP) began on July 1 and runs through August 15. To view the draft HATS 2050 RTP, [click here](#). To view the HATS 2025 PPP, [click here](#). To formally submit a public comment for either plan, please email planning@tcrpc-pa.org.

As part of the public comment period, HATS staff will host an in-person public meeting on July 23 at the Strawberry Square Atrium (320 Market Street, Harrisburg), from 11:30 am to 1 pm. In addition to the in-person public meeting, virtual public information sessions are being held on July 15 at 2 pm ([click here](#)

to register) and July 17 at 6 pm ([click here](#) to register).

Upon completion of each session, a recording will be made available for those unable to attend.

The HATS 2050 Regional Transportation Plan is the federally-required long range transportation plan covering Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties. The RTP documents the current status of transportation projects and programs, identifies long-

term needs, and recommends projects to meet those needs while setting a framework and priorities for the expenditure of federal transportation funds over a 25-year period.

For more information on the HATS 2050 RTP or the HATS 2025 PPP, contact [Andrew Bomberger](#).

HATS Regional Active Transportation Plan Adopted

On April 25, the HATS Coordinating Committee adopted the HATS Regional Active Transportation Plan, which outlines a vision and framework for improving conditions for walking and biking in Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties.

HATS staff, with support from Gibson-Thomas Engineering and Simone Collins Landscape Architecture, worked with municipalities, the public, and regional stakeholders to identify potential non-motorized transportation facilities that establish regional connectivity for the region's residents and visitors to places where they live, work, shop, and play, while also highlighting policy and coordination priorities to

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HATS Regional Active Transportation Plan Adopted

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provide a culture that facilitates non-motorized transportation in the region.

The HATS Regional Active Transportation Plan will serve as a guidance and vision document for the region's 3 counties and 103 municipalities. The ATP does not supersede or replace local plans, but focuses on large regionally-impactful investments typically requiring federal transportation funds and/or coordination between multiple municipalities, counties and stakeholders.

These connections are shown in the updated Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Backbone ("the Backbone"), which is designed to enhance coordination between existing infrastructure and previous bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts while addressing network gaps.

The Backbone offers a broad vision for connecting communities and key destinations, focusing on roads and facilities most appropriate and eligible for the use of federal transportation funds.

Implementation of the HATS Regional Active Transportation Plan will be a cooperative effort lead by HATS staff, involving variety of groups, organizations, and individuals. The Action Items identified in the ATP provide a road map to the incremental, multi-faceted, ongoing approach that will define the success of this plan and the vision it sets out.

To access the HATS Regional Active Transportation Plan, visit www.tcrpc-pa.org/atp.

ATP MISSION STATEMENT

This Active Transportation Plan will identify, and continually update, a network of existing and proposed cycling and pedestrian routes (aka The Regional Backbone) connecting people with places to live, work, shop, and play, while facilitating needed coordination, education, and engagement with partners and stakeholders to promote a culture of active transportation in the Tri-County Region.

Save the Date for the Region's First Active Transportation Summit

By Karen Dixon, Transportation & Community Planner



The first-ever HATS Active Transportation Summit will take place on November 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fort Hunter Park in Harrisburg.

The event -- expected to be held annually -- will bring together representatives from various state agencies and municipalities to share insights, resources, and strategies that support active transportation initiatives across the region.

Attendees can expect informative presentations, engaging roundtable discussions and opportunities to collaborate on projects that enhance walking, biking and transit options in our communities.

The summit aims to create partnerships and promote actions that create safer, more accessible, and more sustainable transportation networks in the HATS region.

Registration information will be provided at a later date.

Welcome Our New Planner!

Our new regional planner, Lindsey Grier, is a native of Chambersburg.

The former director of strategic partnerships at the New York City Parks Department, Lindsey holds a B.A. in Environmental Policy from Fordham University and a Master of Urban Planning degree from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service.

Welcome aboard, Lindsey!



Over 150 Attend TCRPC's 2025 Annual Luncheon



Thanks to everyone who attended TCRPC's annual luncheon on May 1 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel in Swatara Township. Over 150 attendees enjoyed a great meal, time to socialize, and a keynote address on affordable housing by Morgan Boyd of the PA Department of Community & Economic Development.

Luncheon Keynote Speaker Addresses Affordable Housing Issue

The State of Housing in Pennsylvania

**PENNSYLVANIA
GETS IT DONE.**

State of the Pennsylvania Housing Market.

Housing Production Needs in the Tri-County Region

- ✓ The Tri-County Region has a projected need to build 37,682 new housing units by 2040. This amounts to an average of 2,500 new units per year.
- ✓ On average, the region has produced 1,855 units per year over the last five years.
- ✓ The region must work to increase its current production rate by 35% to meet projected housing demand.



Harrisburg, PA

The keynote speaker for our annual luncheon was Morgan Boyd, special assistant to the secretary of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

Morgan offered a presentation on affordable housing, covering how this crucial issue is affecting us not just at the state level, but on the regional level here in Central Pennsylvania as well.

Because numerous attendees said they appreciated what Morgan had to say, we've made his slide presentation available on our website.

[Click here](#) to view it as a PDF file.

Pedaling Progress: SusqueCycle Shines at 25th Tour de Belt

By Karen Dixon, *Transportation & Community Planner*

The 25th annual Tour de Belt rolled through Harrisburg on June 1st, and SusqueCycle was proud to be part of the action!

This signature community event drew nearly 1,000 cyclists to explore roughly 20 scenic miles along the Capital Area Greenbelt, a cherished trail system that connects neighborhoods, parks and natural spaces across the region.

Tour de Belt is more than just a bike ride; it's a celebration of connectivity, health, and sustainability. Nearly a thousand participants join the event each year to support the continued restoration and maintenance of the Greenbelt, ensuring this vital asset remains vibrant for generations to come.

At this year's tour, SusqueCycle was on-site, engaging riders and the public about the growing impact of Harrisburg's bike share program. With benefits like reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality, enhanced public health and greater accessibility, SusqueCycle is reshaping the way people move around the city.

The spotlight was also on SusqueCycle's newly upgraded fleet, featuring a sleek new design, improved seating comfort, and built-in GPS technology. These smart bikes can now track rider routes, providing invaluable data to guide future planning for bike lanes and infrastructure throughout the region. Cyclists can enjoy unlimited one-hour rides with an annual SusqueCycle membership for just \$25. For casual riders, bikes are also available à la carte at \$1.50 per half-hour.

Ready to ride? Learn more or sign up today at www.SusqueCycle.org.



Grant Opportunity Supports Water Quality Projects in Dauphin County

The Dauphin County Soil Conservation District and TCRPC are excited to announce a new grant opportunity under the Countywide Action Plan (CAP).



Swatara Creek, Middletown

Dauphin County's CAP supports local water quality improvement by coordinating programs and installing targeted projects. With anticipated funding from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, the county will implement best management practices to reduce stormwater runoff from farms and developed areas, and to restore degraded stream systems across the region.

As part of Dauphin County's ongoing effort to enhance local water quality and meet Chesapeake Bay pollution reduction goals, DEP funds have been earmarked for quick-turnaround water quality projects. An estimated \$325,000 in funding may be available in 2026, with no set minimum or maximum award and no match requirement. Final funding depends on project readiness and DEP support.

Eligible partners -- including nonprofits, municipalities, schools, local businesses and individuals -- are invited to apply for CAP Subaward

Program grants. Funding is available for shovel-ready projects that reduce pollutants through the implementation of best management practices and can be constructed between March and December 2026.

Apply [here](#) by August 29. A pre-application meeting is required by August 22.

For additional information, email [Josh Clark](#) or [Madison Ramper](#) of HRG.

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



Picture Perry Update

By Jason Finnerty, *Perry County Planning Coordinator*

The second round of 2025 implementation workgroup sessions has concluded.

Summary reports of the items discussed during these sessions will be posted to the [PICTURE PERRY website](#).

Some highlights from these meetings:

- Planning is underway to extend the Bloomfield Borough trail, eventually connecting it to Little Buffalo State Park;
- Bloomfield's playground and streetscape improvements were discussed;
- There was discussion on ongoing efforts to establish a county tourism promotion agency;
- The Economic Development Authority plans to set up a mini-grant program for the county's nine boroughs;
- Bloomfield Borough Council remains open to replacing the Barnett Woods Road Bridge if it is funded externally;
- Join Hands Ministry is moving forward with efforts to develop at least four affordable and accessible units in its existing building;
- Marysville Borough has completed a feasibility study for a potential housing development property;
- There was continued interest in pursuing tiny home and cluster housing;
- Groups that have been identified for housing needs include older adults, veterans and individuals with disabilities, including individuals with mental health issues;
- The obstacles for housing investment include zoning and the lack of water and sewer infrastructure;
- DCED's Neighborhood Assistance Program was suggested as a funding option for housing initiatives;
- Potential Market Street improvements were discussed for Duncannon Borough;
- Participants stressed the need to broaden transportation discussions beyond infrastructure to include transit issues like mobility equity and better options for aging adults, youth and low-income residents;
- It was pointed out that Rabbit Transit, while appreciated, is insufficient for key community needs, particularly employment access (especially for low-income or young adults without vehicles) and medical appointments (for older adults).



The following amendments were finalized:

- A cross-river feasibility study for an additional bridge to be constructed over the Susquehanna River between upper Perry County and upper Dauphin County;
- Meck's Corner intersection safety improvement project in Carroll Township and Wheatfield Township;
- Redesign of the US Route 11/15 Market Street intersection near the border of Duncannon Borough and Penn Township;
- Remove the guide rail replacement project along Acker Road in Howe Township;
- Perry County partnership with the PA Area Agency on Aging to participate in the ECHO (Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity) program;
- Design of a partial or full interchange involving US Route 11/15 and SR 849 in Penn Township;
- Realignment of the planned growth area along SR 0849 and relocating it to an area along SR 274 in Penn Township;
- Redesign of the 74/274 intersection safety improvement project in Spring Township Road widening/ rock slope project along the eastern end of Sugar Run Road (SR 4006) in Tuscarora Township;
- A low-income emergency housing project pursuit by Join Hands Ministry.

The Perry County Planning Coordinator continues to revisit the eight townships that have not passed resolutions adopting PICTURE PERRY. This annual occurrence will continue each year until all 30 county municipalities sign onto the plan.

Throughout the year the Perry County Planning Commission office staff continues to assemble project sheets for consideration of new action items/projects for the 2026 amendment cycle. As an ongoing reminder, the project submission form can be found on the PICTURE PERRY homepage.

All action items/projects received from January 1 to December 31, 2025 will be considered with the 2026 plan amendment cycle.

Please contact our office if you experience any difficulty submitting a plan action item or project.

Welcome Our Summer Interns!

Matthew Hoover, left, is a Shippensburg University student working toward a B.S. in Sustainability with a concentration in Environmental Conservation and a minor in Geography/Earth Science. He expects to graduate in May 2026. This summer he's helping to collect and submit traffic counts, update GIS data for our environmental app, and reorganize our data files.

Anthony Altobelli, right, is returning for his second internship with TCRPC. An accomplished geospatial engineer, he recently graduated from Shippensburg University's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program. This summer he's working on a variety of GIS related tasks including a zoning map update, a GIS layer for the Regional Transportation Plan mapping, and creating/updating some data dashboards for our federal transportation performance measures, including an updated crash app.



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!**

PLANNING TOOLKIT

TCRPC launched this online planning toolkit in 2022 as a service to Central Pennsylvania's municipalities, as well as citizens and local governments around the commonwealth.



ENVIRONMENTAL FACT SHEETS

- Agricultural & Natural Resource Protection
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Community Gardens
- Conservation Easements
- Green Building Standards
- Historic Resource Protection
- Solar Facilities
- Stormwater Management



TRANSPORTATION FACT SHEETS

- Access Management
- Complete Streets
- Connectivity
- Electric Vehicles & Charging Stations
- E-Scooters & E-Bikes
- Impact Fees
- Off-Street Parking Management
- Signal Management



ZONING FACT SHEETS

- Accessory Dwelling Units
- Affordable & Attainable Housing
- Agricultural & Natural Resource Protection
- Commercial & Office Redevelopment
- Farm Animals & Non-Traditional Pets
- Forestry
- Form Based Codes

2024 Building Activity Report Shows Area Continues to Grow

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's [2024 Building Activity Report](#) shows Dauphin and Perry counties continuing to experience building growth over the previous year, with slight differences in most of the activity sectors.

Here is a summary:

RESIDENTIAL

- Dauphin County's municipalities issued permits for 429 new residential units in 2024, a decrease from 905 in 2023.
- Perry County saw an increase, with 160 permits in 2024 compared to 65 in 2023.
- Among Dauphin County's municipalities, West Hanover Township had the largest increase in new housing permits at 103, including 84 for multi-family apartments.
- Lower Paxton Township issued the most single family home permits with 77.
- In Perry County, Penn Township issued the most housing permits with 57, of which 40 were for semi-detached units.
- As residential growth expands beyond Harrisburg's urban core into areas like West Hanover Township and Penn Township, the trend suggests a shift away from first-ring suburbs toward outer suburban developments.
- Amid this transition, residents are increasingly seeking locations near major roadways that offer convenient access to amenities and services.

COMMERCIAL

- There were mixed trends in commercial development, with an area-wide increase in the number and value of new commercial developments and a decrease in the number of commercial expansions.
- The two counties issued 38 permits for new commercial facilities -- 35 in Dauphin and 3 in Perry -- a decrease from 62 in 2023.
- The value of new commercial development in Dauphin County was \$75.6 million in 2024, a decrease from \$94.9 million in 2023.
- In Dauphin County the number of commercial improvements and expansions decreased from 354 permits in 2023 to 296 in 2024.
- The value of those improvements increased, however, going from \$106 million in 2023 to \$222 million in 2024.
- The total value of new commercial development in Perry County was unavailable for 2024. In 2023, it reported 7 permits for commercial improvements at a value of \$408,900.

INDUSTRIAL

- Perry County reported no industrial activity in 2024.
- Dauphin County issued 7 new industrial permits; however, not all data was available, including details on 4 new facilities in Londonderry Township.
- Dauphin County's permits for industrial improvements and expansions remained steady, with 11 permits issued in 2024, just under the 12 permits granted in 2023.

Overall, the figures in this report demonstrate a continued pattern of building the local tax-base and providing new job opportunities.

If the area continues to grow, it will be crucial to link the region's transportation options with our land use regulations to ensure that the built environment we desire is achieved and accessible to all, as recommended in TCRPC's Regional Growth Management Plan.



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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Did you know ...

There are [recently updated provisions](#) from PEMA (July 2023) to help municipalities meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program and the Pennsylvania Floodplain Management Act (Act 166-1978).



If your regulations are based on the 2009 version of the document, you may want to take a quick revisit to see how much may have changed to stay in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Every municipality making use of these provisions will need to make some choices and modifications, depending upon the kind of flood hazard areas and information

contained in the Flood Insurance Study and maps from the federal government, and their own particular circumstances, objectives, and policies.

TCRPC will be reviewing these suggested provisions in relation to its planning toolkit resources about stormwater management and the [PA DCED FEMA Model](#) from 2009.

Please email planning@tcrpc-pa.org with questions.



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,
New Home of TCRPC*

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