

HATS Adopts 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, Launches NEVI Community Charging Outreach

From Executive Director Andrew Bomberger, AICP

Regional Transportation Plan

The HATS 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was officially adopted by HATS on September 26, 2025.

The long-range RTP sets a framework and priorities for the expenditure of federal transportation funds over a 25-year period by documenting the current status of transportation projects and programs, identifying long-term needs and recommending projects to meet those needs.

As part of the public outreach efforts, HATS staff held two virtual public information sessions, providing an overview of the plan and an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

Recordings of the public information session are available on the [TCRPC YouTube page](#).



To ensure the RTP reflects the most up-to-date picture of transportation issues in the region, HATS staff is always accepting Transportation Needs Forms through the 2050 RTP website.

To submit a Transportation Need, or to access the 2050 RTP, visit www.tcrpc-pa.org/2050rtp-home.



NEVI Community Charging Outreach

As part of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, HATS staff is kicking off its Community Charging Outreach effort with a short survey.

The survey asks for input from the public and stakeholders on where electric vehicle charging stations would be most beneficial.

The NEVI Community Charging Program, which follows the ongoing, successful implementation of early rounds of the NEVI program aimed at ensuring charging access along our major interstate routes, focuses on expanding access throughout our region's communities.

The input gathered from the survey will inform rankings of communities and "use cases" (shopping centers, event venues, downtown areas, etc), which will be presented to HATS in 2026.

As part of the Community Charging Outreach, HATS staff is holding a virtual public information session to discuss the NEVI and Community Charging Programs on Wed., Nov. 12 6 p.m.

For more information and resources, including links to register for the public information session and to access the public survey, click visit www.tcrpc-pa.org/nevi.

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PLEASE JOIN US

for the region's first-ever

HATS ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

*Hosted by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
for Municipal & Planning Officials*

DATE: Thursday, November 6

TIME: 10 AM – 2 PM

LOCATION: Fort Hunter Centennial Barn, 5300 N. Front St., Hbg.

• *Lunch & beverages will be provided* •

Speakers will include representatives from PennDOT and DCNR, plus a panel of local officials and planners from Carlisle Borough, Susquehanna Township and Cumberland County

SCAN CODE OR REGISTER AT
www.tcrpc-pa.org/hats-bike-ped-planning



Take Our RGMP Survey & Help Us Shape the Region's Future

By Lindsey Grier, *Regional Planner*



Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is kicking off our next update to the Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP), which is the foundation of TCRPC's regional planning program.

The RGMP serves as a guide for county and local planning bodies as they develop comprehensive plans and make land use decisions.

It promotes thoughtful and consistent development by employing a regional perspective to planning across our numerous municipalities.

TCRPC reviews and updates the RGMP every 10 years to ensure it addresses the changing needs and priorities of our communities and remains current based on local and national trends.

As part of the 2050 RGMP update, we are seeking input on how people in the community wish to see future development.

We invite all who live and work here to participate in a brief visual preference survey that will ask you to provide feedback on the types of development you find most desirable today and in the future.

Your feedback will help us understand how local residents feel about different types of development patterns and what specific ideas you may have about how the area could grow in the future.

Once finalized, the RGMP will guide our planning efforts over the next 10 years. Your participation in this survey is an opportunity for the community to have a hand in shaping this region.

You can [access the survey here](#) -- or use the QR code above -- until November 30th. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

You can also learn more about the RGMP [on our website](#) and follow the timeline to track the plan's progress.

Thanks for your participation!

Planning for the Digital Backbone: Data Centers in Our Communities

By Karen Dixon, *Transportation & Community Planner*

With the rapid expansion of cloud services, artificial intelligence and online applications, communities across our region are increasingly faced with proposals for new data centers, facilities that store, process and distribute the digital information that powers daily life and business operations.

While these facilities can generate meaningful local benefits such as increased tax revenue, infrastructure investment and support for advanced services like telehealth, online education and smart technologies, they also raise important considerations related to energy consumption, noise, water demand and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

To proactively address these challenges and opportunities, municipalities are strongly encouraged to review TCRPC's [Data Center Fact Sheet](#).

This resource outlines what data centers are, why they are locating to our region and the key planning issues to consider.

Most critically, municipalities should update their Zoning and Subdivision, and Land Development Ordinances (SALDO) to clearly define data centers and establish where and how they may be permitted. Failing to update existing ordinances may leave municipalities vulnerable.

Without clear definitions and standards, project proposals may be reviewed inconsistently, leading to legal challenges, land use conflicts and developments that do not align with community goals.

Acting now ensures communities are prepared, reduces the risk of land use conflicts and positions municipalities to capture the economic benefits of this emerging industry on terms that reflect local community values and priorities.



Data center in Ashburn, VA



Our 60th Anniversary Year!

BECOME A SPONSOR IN 2026

LUNCHEON SPONSORSHIP

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is offering sponsorships for its **2026 Annual Luncheon**.

Our 60th Anniversary event will give local officials, planners, developers, engineers and others the chance to dine together and discuss the region's future.

It's set for **Thursday, May 7** from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey, 4650 Lindle Road, Swatara Township.

For \$2,000, you'll get the following:

- **A table for 8** with prime seating;
- **Recognition** on our website and at the event;
- **A full-page ad** in all 4 issues of our quarterly newsletter.

Our guest speaker(s) and other details will be released at a later date.



NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP

We're also offering sponsorships for our quarterly newsletter, which reaches approximately 3,000 local officials, planners, developers, engineers and others in the region.

Each issue features news and updates about our diverse projects, education and training programs, upcoming events and much more.

A sponsorship gives you an ad in **all 4 of our quarterly issues** for 2026 at the following rates:

- **1/2-page ad:** \$1,000
- **1/4-page ad:** \$500
- **1/8-page ad:** \$250



SPONSOR TCRPC TODAY!

For more information and to sign up, visit:

www.tcrpc-pa.org/sponsorships

Stronger When We Work Together...

TCRPC, 320 Market Street, Suite 301E, Harrisburg, PA 17101 • (717) 234-2639 • planning@tcrpc-pa.org

Dauphin County Launches Comprehensive Planning Effort

By Jerry Duke, Dauphin County Planning Coordinator

Dauphin County is preparing to develop a new Comprehensive Plan -- a strategic document that will guide growth, development and resource management for the next decade and beyond.



Click for the current comprehensive plan

Led by TCRPC in partnership with the Dauphin County Planning Commission and the Dauphin County Commissioners, this effort will align community goals with actionable strategies, supporting land use coordination, infrastructure investment, environmental stewardship and economic vitality.

The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2017. According to the PA Municipalities Planning Code, a county should update its plan every 10 years. Work on the new plan will begin in 2026 with an adoption date tentatively set for mid-summer 2027.

The first phase of the comprehensive planning process is public outreach, which will begin this January. This phase is designed to engage residents, stakeholders and municipal leaders through surveys, interactive tools, public events and one-on-one interviews. Outreach efforts will be inclusive, geographically representative and closely coordinated with existing community initiatives. Input gathered during this phase will directly inform planning decisions, helping ensure the final plan reflects both local priorities and regional goals.

All residents are invited to participate in the upcoming outreach effort. Whether online or in person, community input will help guide decisions on housing, transportation, land use and community development. This effort will result in a practical, forward-looking plan that supports resilient, equitable and thriving communities across Dauphin County.

Keep checking our website for additional information. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the plan, the planning process or how you can be involved, contact [Jerry Duke](#).

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

Perry County Planning Commission Update

By Jason Finnerty, *Perry County Planning Coordinator*

Picture Perry Workgroup Sessions

The third and final round of implementation workgroup sessions for 2025 has concluded, and summary reports of the items discussed during these sessions will be posted to the [PICTURE PERRY website](#).

Session highlights included discussion on:

- Efforts to create a county tourism board;
- Perry County Economic Development Authority projects;
- Opportunities for municipalities to share equipment;
- Capital improvements planning;
- The Act 537 Multi-Municipal Sewage Facilities Plan;
- Culvert failures due to rainfall events;
- Private road standards, paving, maintenance and safety;
- Sidewalk improvements;
- Transportation for seniors;
- Landslide risks and slope instability;
- The Sherman's Creek Water Trail;
- The Little Buffalo to New Buffalo/Newport Trail;
- The countywide GIS Trail Map update along with trail connectivity;
- Opportunities for mountain biking trail development;
- Easements and rights of access;
- River access, especially in the boroughs separated from the river by Norfolk-Southern;
- Continued work on a Shermans Creek Greenway Story Map;
- Zoning and building code challenges;
- Housing crisis realities;
- Resource gaps for funding new housing;
- Hidden, nontraditional and unconventional housing and rural homelessness;
- Bridge inspections prioritization and maintenance;
- Damage to covered bridges;
- Transportation-related training opportunities;
- Transportation funding;
- The need for post-severe weather event inspections as part of a damage assessment policy;
- The Dirt and Gravel Roads Program;
- A Regional Transportation Planning Update.

More sessions by the Community Facilities and Utilities, Economic Development, Housing, Natural Resources and Recreation, and Transportation workgroups are scheduled for January.

Planning Commission staff continues to assemble project sheets for consideration of new action items/projects for the 2026 amendment cycle. The project submission form can be found on the PICTURE PERRY homepage. All action items/projects received from January 1 to December 31 of this year will be considered with the 2026 plan amendment cycle.

Staff continues to revisit the eight townships that have not passed resolutions adopting PICTURE PERRY. This annual occurrence will continue until all 30 municipalities have signed on.

Please contact [Jason Finnerty](#) with questions.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

The Perry County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved and is in the process of being adopted by the county's municipalities. So far about half of the municipal resolutions have been received.

During this process each municipality will receive documentation from FEMA confirming the municipality has a current hazard mitigation plan.

Perry County remains contracted with MCM Consulting Group, Inc. (MCM) and is looking into the possibility of preparing a Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan with the remaining funds slated for work on updating the Perry County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

Multi-Municipal ACT 537 Sewage Facilities Plan

Staff has been working to help municipalities wanting to participate in a multi-municipal pursuit to address sewage facilities planning.

As reported previously, several municipalities heard from the PA Department of Environmental Protection regarding the age of their municipal ACT 537 Sewage Facilities plans. Staff held three roundtable sessions to discuss the matter with DEP representatives, municipal officials and the County Commissioners.

Twenty-two municipalities have expressed a willingness to partner in this effort.



WREP Continues Stormwater Work In Dauphin County

By Alexa Korber, Planner

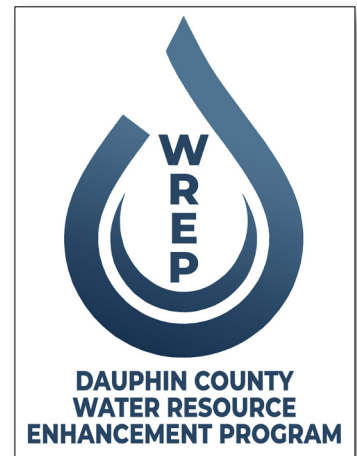
The Dauphin County [Water Resource Enhancement Program](#) (WREP) is continuing its collaborative effort toward stormwater management for its 11 participating municipalities. The current focus is on establishing a baseline for volume control measures to comply with new regulations being rolled out for the 2028 MS4 permit cycle.

According to a notice posted in the PA Bulletin in January, municipalities operating their MS4 programs under a PAG-13 General Permit will soon be required to reduce runoff volume rather than pollutant loads. A Volume Management Plan (VMP) is now required by permit holders in place of a Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP). The VMP must include strategies for volume runoff management to the maximum extent practicable for each municipality.

To assist with this effort, WREP is helping its participating members establish needed baselines. A project to identify and map all active stormwater BMPs and their drainage areas will begin in 2026. Upon completion, an impervious area assessment will begin to analyze current volume runoff capabilities to identify areas where increased capacity is possible.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection is also allowing municipalities to claim additional permit credits for volume management by engaging in collaborative work with other municipalities.

It is the hope of WREP that its participants will be able to claim the maximum amount of credits for collaboration.



A big thank-you to the Peyton Walker Foundation of Camp Hill for supplying an AED to TCRPC, and thanks also to their CPR instructor Bill Odoms for leading our class. Your organization can apply for a reduced-cost AED [here](#).

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



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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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!



Welcome Our Fall Intern!

With a postbaccalaureate certificate in Geographic Information Systems, Alan Goetz is a GIS Lab Technician for Harrisburg University's Center of Applied Environmental and Geospatial Technology.

He's currently working on PennDOT traffic counts for the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study and will be updating and reformatting TCRPC's GIS Portal and assisting with other GIS projects.



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*

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.