

Busy Times for Region's Planning Efforts

By Executive Director Andrew Bomberger, AICP

It's been a busy summer at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

Our staff has been hard at work, developing the FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program, conducting outreach for the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan, implementing and updating the Picture Perry Comprehensive Plan, and continuing our work on the Water Resource Enhancement Program (WREP) and County-wide Action Plan (CAP).

Earlier this spring, we celebrated our 60th Anniversary at our Annual Luncheon, released our Data Center model ordinance, and even installed two new SusqueCycle stations.

Along the way, we've worked hand-in-hand with the region's citizens and our many great partners and stakeholders.

And as we move into the second half of 2026, we look forward to staying busy and continuing to focus on our mission of fostering the long-term livability and vitality of our communities, counties and region.

Our motto says it all: "Stronger when we work together."



TCRPC RECRUITING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



TCRPC is the lead planning staff for the **Harrisburg Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**, which facilitates the implementation of a \$400M, 4-year Transportation Improvement Program, and is an agency charged with providing local planning support for **Dauphin and Perry Counties**.

Click here to learn more & apply

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Thanks to all who attended May 7 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel

Special thanks to guest speaker Jill Whitcomb, DEP Deputy Secretary of Water Programs, who addressed the state's water issues from a planning perspective and the importance of regional cooperation in dealing with them.



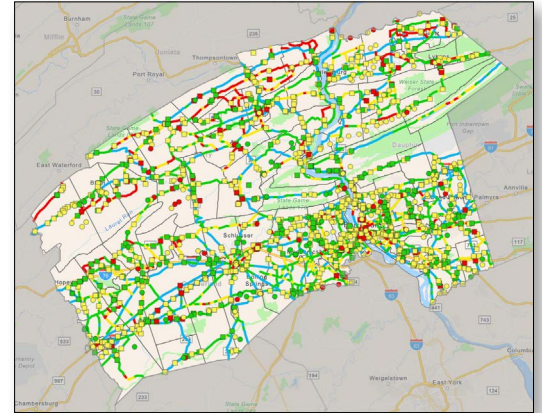
New Interactive GIS Tools Developed by TCRPC Now Available

By **Rebecca Wenschhof**, *Transportation Planner*

For the past few months, TCRPC has been developing several interactive GIS tools that are now available. These tools include the HATS Performance Measure Tracking website, the HATS Safety Application, and the HATS Asset Management Application.

The [HATS Performance Measure Tracking website](#) contains data pertaining to the Federal Performance Measures that HATS is required to track as well as some additional metrics outlined in the HATS Regional Transportation Plan. These performance measures are related to Safety, Asset Management, Transit, and more. The site was developed using ESRI's Experience Builder to create an easy-to-use, interactive portal that allows the user to explore data such as:

- Number of Fatalities and Serious Injuries in accidents since 2005;
- Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries in accidents since 2005;
- Current Pavement and Bridge Conditions;
- Annual Amtrak and rabbittransit Ridership since 2015;
- Residential Building Permits Granted since 1995;
- and much more.



Want to dive deeper into crash statistics and trends across the region? Check out the [HATS Safety Application](#). The new and improved app includes PennDOT PCIT crash data from 2020-2024. This update version of our previous "Crash App" includes increased filtering options and a print button.

Interested in exploring more pavement and bridge conditions across the region? Check out the new [Asset Management Application](#). Using this tool, you can filter by bridge/road classification, county/municipality, or by bridge/road condition.

Data for 2025 is coming soon to all three tools. For more information, email [Rebecca Wenschhof](mailto:Rebecca.Wenschhof@tcrpc.org).



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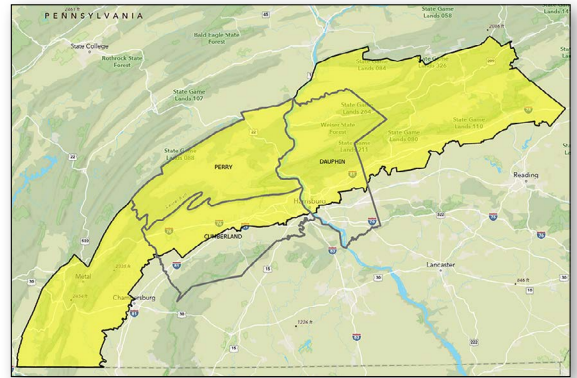
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The Ridge That Connects Us: Conservation, Communities & Defense

By Karen Dixon, *Planner*

The Tri-County region is part of the [Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape](#) (KRSL), one of a limited number of nationally recognized landscapes where conservation, working lands, military readiness, national defense interests and community development are strategically coordinated. Anchored by Fort Indiantown Gap, one of the nation's busiest National Guard training installations, the Sentinel Landscape recognizes the importance of preserving compatible land uses that support military training while protecting the region's forests, farmland, high-quality streams and globally significant bird migration corridor.



Conserving these landscapes also helps maintain the dark skies essential for nighttime military training exercises, while providing clean drinking water, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, outdoor recreation and the scenic character that defines south-central Pennsylvania. Local planning plays a vital role in balancing growth with conservation. Through comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations and open space planning, municipalities can direct development to appropriate locations while conserving forests, farmland, waterways, wildlife corridors and dark skies.

These planning strategies reduce habitat fragmentation, preserve the rural landscape surrounding Fort Indiantown Gap and ensure that future development remains compatible with military operations and the ecological health of the Kittatinny Ridge.

By incorporating conservation principles into land use decisions, communities throughout Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties can strengthen resilience, support sustainable economic development and protect the natural and strategic resources that benefit both residents and national defense.

Landowners interested in placing property into conservation within the KRSL can work with federal, state and local conservation partners to secure easements, grants and stewardship assistance.

This designation gives landowners priority consideration for voluntary preservation initiatives designed to protect the environment and support military readiness.

Say Hello to Our Summer Interns!

Jake Pope, left, is a geospatial intelligence analyst with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard who's completing a bachelor's degree in geography with a concentration in GIS at Millersville University.

Ted Crosset, right, is pursuing a degree in geoenvironmental science with a certificate in GIS from Shippensburg University.

Both have been assisting with traffic counts as well as various GIS tasks such as creating maps and web apps and updating a variety of datasets.

We're glad to have them with us!



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Appalachian Trail Communities Offer Rest and Resources to Hikers

By Alexa Korber, Planner

As the weather turns warmer and more Pennsylvania residents head outdoors to enjoy the sun, the Appalachian Trail will soon be teeming with hikers once again.

The AT spans 230 miles across Pennsylvania, passing through all three counties in Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's service area: Dauphin, Cumberland, and Perry.

The tri-county area also hosts two official Appalachian Trail Communities as designated by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

The program aims to highlight towns along the Trail, to promote local businesses, and give hikers access to resources and local history.

Duncannon Borough in Perry County has been an Appalachian Trail Community since October 2011.

Bordered by the Susquehanna River (at its confluence with Shermans Creek) the Borough offers beautiful views of the water and the surrounding Kittatinny Ridge from the Hawk Rock Overlook.

The AT passes through the center of town itself along Market Street, which offers a variety of restaurants, shops, and services.

Stop in at the historic Doyle Hotel, which proudly displays a "Welcome Hikers" sign, for something to eat or a place to stay overnight.

Boiling Springs, a census-designated place in South Middleton Township, Cumberland County was designated as an Appalachian Trail Community in July 2011 and has the distinction of being the first community designated in Pennsylvania.

The town is well-known for its fly-fishing services and historic town center, which offers guided walking tours to locations of interest.

Access to the AT is found at Children's Lake, where 24-hour open access parking is available. This section of the trail is some of the flattest in the state and passes through open farmland and fields.

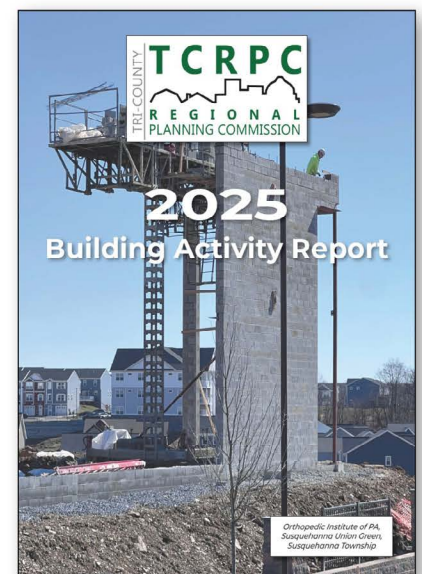


Children's Lake next to the Appalachian Trail in Boiling Springs

READ TCRPC'S 2025 BUILDING ACTIVITY REPORT

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

CLICK HERE TO READ IT



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SusqueCycle Expands with 2 New Bike Share Locations in Harrisburg

By Karen Dixon, *Planner*

SusqueCycle is rolling into new neighborhoods with the addition of two bike share stations in Harrisburg.

Riders can now pick up and return bikes at Fort Hunter Mansion and Park and Uptown North 2nd Street on the Alexander Grass Campus for Jewish Life, expanding the bikeshare network beyond downtown and bringing convenient, affordable transportation to even more residents and visitors.

The new stations extend SusqueCycle's reach into Harrisburg's Uptown neighborhood while creating new connections along the scenic Capital Area Greenbelt, making it easier than ever to commute, exercise or explore the city on two wheels.



By relocating bikes from an underutilized station to these high-demand destinations, the program is maximizing access and improving service for a broader range of riders.

This expansion represents another exciting step toward a more connected, healthy and sustainable transportation network for the Harrisburg region.

For more information, please visit www.susquecycle.org and start pedaling into the future today.

WREP Works Towards Collaborative Stormwater Management

By Alexa Korber, *Planner*



Dauphin County recently established an opt-in countywide stormwater program aimed at sharing costs for MS4 compliance and completing large-scale stormwater management projects.

The Water Resource Enhancement Program (WREP) was formed off the back of the successful Conewago Creek restoration project.

While this stream restoration took place in Londonderry and Conewago townships, the sheer amount of sediment reduction achieved allowed other municipalities in Dauphin County to purchase credits to count towards their own MS4 permit reduction requirements.

This concept of cost and credit sharing is the driving force behind WREP.

As the 2028 MS4 permit requirements loom, our municipalities must find cost-efficient ways to manage their stormwater runoff volumes.

This task can be especially tricky for smaller, denser municipalities who do not have the space for large-scale projects such as stream restorations or the installation of BMPs.

Following in the footsteps of the Conewago Creek, WREP's main goal is to look for projects that will result in the most volume control, sediment reduction, and nitrogen reduction regardless of their physical locations.

All member municipalities will pay in to the program and will be able to claim credit for any reductions achieved.

The program is completely voluntary and open to all 40 municipalities in Dauphin County, regardless of MS4 status.

Current membership stands at 12 municipalities with more inquiries coming every day.

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PICTURE PERRY: Implementation Progress and What's Ahead

By Jason Finnerty, Perry County Planning Coordinator

The second round of 2026 PICTURE PERRY Implementation Workgroup Sessions has concluded.

Summary reports detailing the discussions and outcomes from each session have been posted to the [PICTURE PERRY website hub](#).

These sessions brought together municipal leaders, partners and stakeholders to advance coordinated planning efforts across Perry County.

Key themes emphasized collaboration, long-term sustainability, infrastructure investment, and strategic economic development.

Here are some of the discussion highlights from each workgroup.

Community Facilities and Utilities

- Sewer Planning and Act 537 Coordination
- Electric Utility Infrastructure and Transmission Concerns
- Broadband, Telephone, and Communications Service Reliability
- Water Supply and Environmental Conditions
- Community Facilities, Parks, and Recreational Access
- Grants, Capital Projects, and Planning Administration

Housing

- Senior Housing Proposal in Newport
- ECHO Housing Initiative
- Rental Assistance Pressures and Affordability Challenges
- Program Administration and Rehabilitation Constraints
- Marysville Borough Adaptive Reuse Project
- Broader Land Use and Ordinance Considerations

Economic Development

- Downtown Revitalization
- Perry County Fairgrounds
- Tourism
- Transportation and Connectivity

Natural Resources and Recreation

- Activation of the Sherman's Creek Greenway Story Map
- Environmental resource conditions
- Tourism development
- Discussion of corridor-specific projects
- Municipal updates for exploration of formal discussions with Centre Township and landowners regarding trail connections to Little Buffalo State Park
- Research into railroad corridor deeds and rights-of-reserve for potential trail development
- Trail planning and connectivity, including exploration of off-road trail options along the Newport-Little Buffalo corridor



- Importance of landowner coordination for projects in non-navigable waterways
- Main street program's downtown perception survey

Transportation

- Local road and bridge conditions
- Books Road Bridge
- Land use and transportation, particularly age and necessary bridge and roadway improvements
- Manassa Road near Adams rove Road was highlighted as a safety concern
- Longstanding issues with the narrows portion of Sugar Run Road
- Discussion regarding the historic design of the roads in use today.
- Options for protecting the county's covered bridges
- Funding options for municipal transportation projects



We remember with fondness our former Executive Director Jim Zeiters, who passed away in April. Blessings and condolences to his family. His obituary is available [here](#).

MUNICIPAL INFORMATION SESSION



21st Century ROAD to Housing Act

Our region continues to face significant housing challenges. Rising material and land costs, limited inventory, and intense competition for available units have driven up housing prices for everyone—from first-time buyers to empty nesters.

The recently passed 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act offers potential to address these issues. But its complexity can make it difficult to understand what it means for local governments.

 August 5, 2026

 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

 Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

 Free

Join us for a free information session to learn:

- What the Act means for your municipality
- Actions local officials may want to consider
- Potential partners that can help you achieve your housing goals

Featured Speakers:

Mary Kuna
Executive Director
Cumberland County
Housing Authority

Elayne Weiss
National Association of
Realtors

Hosted by:

**Cumberland County Planning Commission
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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.



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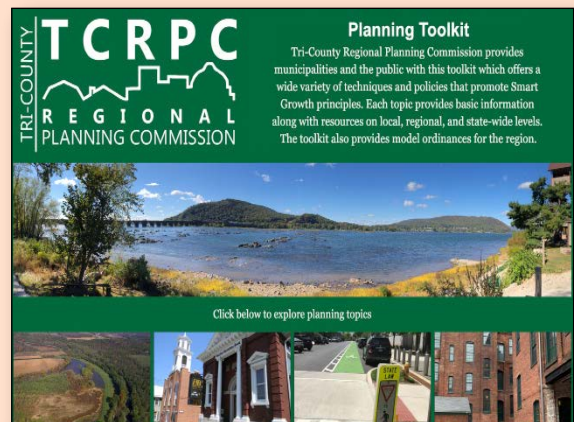
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THE TCRPC PLANNING TOOLKIT: A Valuable Resource for Municipalities Around the Region & State

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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