

CapCOG Board of Delegates  
Hampden Township Building, Room 202  
Monday, October 15, 2018 - 7:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:**

Conewago Township, Gary Painter East Pennsboro Township, John Kuntzelman Hampden Township, Nate Silcox Highspire Borough, Terry Watts Goldsboro Borough, Robert Charles Lemoyne Borough, Sue Yenchko Londonderry Township, Anna Dale Lower Paxton Township, Robin Lindsey	Marysville Borough, Ronda Kennedy-Rowe Middle Paxton Township, Jim Fisher Monroe Township, Carl Kuhl North Middleton Township, James Hare Royalton Borough, Terry Watts Silver Spring Township, Harry Kotzmoyer South Hanover Township, Stephen Cordaro	Upper Allen Township, Ken Martin Wormleysburg Borough, Margie Stuski
--	---	---

**NON-VOTING IN ATTENDANCE:**

Steve Deck, Executive Director, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Jim Hertzler, Cumberland County Commissioner Representative Frank Ryan, PA House 101st Legislative District	<b>CapCOG STAFF</b> Gary Myers, Executive Director, CapCOG Rhonda Campbell, Administrative Assistant, CapCOG
---	--

**MUNICIPALITIES NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

Annville Township Camp Hill Borough Carlisle Borough Carroll Township Dauphin Borough Derry Township Dillsburg Borough East Hanover Township Fairview Township	Harrisburg City Hummelstown Borough Lower Allen Township Lower Swatara Township Mechanicsburg Borough Middletown Borough Monaghan Township New Cumberland Borough Paxtang Borough	Penbrook Borough Shiremanstown Borough South Middleton Township Steelton Borough Susquehanna Township Swatara Township West Hanover Township
--	---	--

The meeting was called to order by Margie Stuski at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Charles.

Roundtable Introductions were made.

## **Consent Agenda**

Correction to July minutes: Correct James Fair to James Hare on page 5, Good of the Order. Change noted. Motion to approve corrected July minutes made by Hare. Seconded by Martin. Unanimously approved.

July, August, and September Treasurer's Reports were presented. Motion to approve by Jim Fisher. Seconded by Sue Yenchko. Unanimously approved.

- Fisher asked if we need to distribute all the months to Delegates and Alternates when we don't meet for several months. Gary Myers shared that some people like to receive them, so we send them all.

## **Presentations**

### **Steve Deck, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)**

- October 19-November 19 is the formal public review process timeframe for the Regional Transportation Plan 2040 (RTP).
- HATS has a process whereby any municipality or resident in region can submit ideas for transportation projects. Ideas are scored and then ranked chronologically; up to 60+ projects in pipeline.
- TCRPC is currently reviewing all submitted projects to see if there are changes in scoring due to changes in factors.
  - For example, Wertzville Road corridor has changed since original submissions.
  - Now scoring is high, medium, low vs. chronologically.
- The 2019 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) was adopted.
- Jim Hertzler shared their priority remains the I-81 corridor widening and improvements. MPOs of Dauphin, Cumberland, Lebanon submitting MOU to PennDOT. Our region is number 3 in nation for ecommerce and distribution. The congestion is increasing; 37 deaths in Cumberland County in 6 years on I-81. He requested COG members submit their comments for improvement to I-81 to HATS RTP.
  - Deck shared that the master plan does include I-81.
  - Hare asked if HATS connected with PennDOT. Steve Deck: There are 23 organizations like HATS across PA. 80% of most transportation projects are funded federally. By law, feds wanted to have oversight organization for distribution of federal dollars, rather than give directly to PennDOT. Any project with federal dollars has to go through HATS for approval before PennDOT can use federal funds. HATS allocates \$70m a year in federal dollars. Dollars to MPOs are set by formula.
- Members can review the plan at [www.hatsregionaltransportationplan.org](http://www.hatsregionaltransportationplan.org)
- Bob Charles - Does Amtrak talk with HATS. Deck: Yes and also Norfolk Southern. Anything transportation wise is covered under the RTP.
- Stuski asked if there is any way for HATS to work with economic development organizations to support widening of I-81. Deck: if we were to build today it would cost \$3 billion dollars.
  - Stuski followed up by asking if there are funds to supplement HATS. Deck shared that there are funding sources available. He believes the feds will step up and provide some additional funding.
  - Approach to 81 is to use current data and find specific problems areas to reduce congestion and make it safer; however, TCRPC won't lose sight of the long-term needs. Central PA has numerous transportation freight lines including rail lines (e.g., 81, 83, 15, 30, etc.)

- Nate Silcox asked if there are any major projects coming to our area? Deck shared that I-83 is worse than I-81 with crash data. 283 is being reconstructed significantly. On a smaller scale bridges in Perry County (40+ bridges), 20 bridges in Cumberland/Dauphin. Park and Ride facility on Route 34 in Perry County. Members can go to the website to look at a project map.
- Safety study for Wertzville Road done. Follow up meeting in November to continue discussion.
- Bridge and road conditions in Dauphin, Cumberland, and Perry counties are in better shape than many other areas. Safety is our concern for HATS' counties.
- Sue Yenchko asked about the I-81 Corridor: is it only construction/widening/pavement improvements or would they also consider right lane only restrictions for trucks? Deck - you can consider operational improvements as well. For I-81, prepare a master plan for corridor "if anything we could do, what would we do?" This is what they did for I-83. For example, move 13th street interchange directly to Cameron Street, which is what people use 13th street for anyway. Need to really look at where interchanges are located. TCRPC is looking at full spectrum to understand the problem before making decisions.
- Hare asked if anyone addressed PA Turnpike Route 81 interchange. Deck: Yes. When you do a Master Plan, the policy is when you have two interstate roadways crossing each other, you have to evaluate the interchange. This could be very effective today with electronic tolling. Theoretically, that could be funded by turnpike funds. HATS doesn't program for Turnpike; that goes through Turnpike Commission. HATS coordinates with them and communicates with them. For example, during 83 work, HATS is asking if the Turnpike can drop tolls for locals who will have to reroute using the Turnpike.

#### **Representative Frank Ryan, 101st Legislative District, Civic Responsibility of Voting**

- Representative Ryan shared that he is a retired marine colonel - economic warfare was his specialty - and he is also a CPA.
- Ryan is a freshman Representative. He ran for office because he believes Commonwealth has high likelihood of going bankrupt. We have about two to four years before which the financial solutions are so severe they are unacceptable.
- He firmly believes if we made a commitment to people for pensions we have to honor that.
- In 2008, he started seeing critical assumptions when working with asset management specialists.
- State government assumptions: First Myth is that states can't go bankrupt. Not true. It requires a US senate action (Puerto Rico did this May 3, 2017.)
  - In PA, Jonestown never recovered from steel industry pullout. Scranton is recovering. Wilkes-Barre had done great. Reading is still a work in progress. Erie is only surviving because they get \$13m a year from state in perpetuity.
- 2nd myth - All pensions are guaranteed. Under federal bankruptcy, pensions can be included. He thinks it would be morally reprehensible to not honor the pensions.
  - State teachers' pensions - school districts unfunded pension liability is the responsibility of the school district. That means it is the homeowners' responsibility via taxes. He has a bill that would require school districts to notify homeowners of how much of school district budget is unfunded pensions and the impact on homeowners per \$100,000.
- Problem: Federal government dumping unfunded mandates on state and then state dumps on locals. Best example is MS4. Working with DEP to improve this process.
- Younger people are leaving Commonwealth and seniors are coming in. Trend is worse with booming economy. If we don't adopt fiscal restraints at the state level in the next 2-4 years, the only option will be to raise personal income tax to 5%, retirement income tax to 5% and sales tax to 7%.
- American society of civil engineers estimates \$220b of unfunded infrastructure projects. \$110b unfunded pensions.

- Solutions are fairly straightforward and easy.
  - HB453 - became part of the fiscal code last year (HB 642). That first year saved \$810m.
  - HB 2209 through committee. Democrats agreed to minor change. Lean Government Bill. Estimate \$3.5b a year in savings. Will be helpful paying down pension liability.
  - HB2457 - through committee; amendment agreed to. Estimate \$2b savings \$5.5b total to pay down pension.
  - Senate modified defined benefit pension plan for new employees. Effective 1/1/2019; hybrid plan.
  - SB on Snap benefits to save \$3m a year. Approximately, 5000 people "lose" their snap cards each month, then get replacement cards. Now starting prosecutions for these people.
- If we shift tax burden onto seniors by taxing retirement benefits, seniors will leave the Commonwealth.
- We have to work together - bipartisan support is critical. If we are divided, we will fail.
- Representative Ryan has created a Financial Rescue Plan - it's on his state website: <http://www.repfrankryan.com/Display/SiteFiles/196/OtherDocuments/FinancialRescuePlanforPA.pdf>
- Stuski shared: in Wormleysburg, we work hard to address police pensions. What are people doing about that?
  - Ryan responded that 30 municipalities are on a pay as you go basis (under 15% funded). Scranton and Chester are worst.
- Seniors are experiencing a great deal of issues, but so are younger people. Younger people are facing increasing health insurance costs and student debt. Cost of higher education is increasing. They are one life event away from financial ruin (e.g., death of a spouse).
- Twenty percent of state budget is to take care of seniors.
  - Municipalities have squeezed everything they can.
- Hare asked if there is any hope of a bill eliminating property taxes? Representative Ryan is working with PASBO, PSBA to get advice. Drafting a bill now that calls for 100% elimination of school property taxes in two years. Ryan believes it has a pretty good chance of success.
- Next year's budget will be ugly and won't get done on time. Ryan doesn't believe there will be a budget before Thanksgiving 2019. \$200m ahead of projected revenue.
- Myers thanked Representative Ryan and shared this is one of the best presentations he's heard. He appreciated his straight forward manner and sense of humor.

## **Executive Director's Report**

- We are planning a Stormwater MS4 Roundtable with Managers and MS4 Coordinators for December.
- Picnic/Golf Tournament was a huge success; \$5,500 profit/70% increase over last year.
- The Annual Dinner is January 21, 2019. RFPs were sent to local properties; the dinner will be on the West Shore this year. We currently have \$8,650 in sponsorships; with more being solicited.
- Our goal is to get Joint Bids out to members in November which is earlier than in past years.

Myers called for ratification of the 2018-19 Road Salt bid.

- Low bidder was Morton Salt - \$59 FOB plant, \$59.14 FOB delivered.
- Motion to approve by Charles. Seconded by Terry Watts. Unanimously approved.

## **Cumberland County**

Jim Hertzler provided a summary of his written report.

- He encouraged people to submit traffic improvements to HATS. We can't even toll interstates if we wanted to. Need federal approval to do so.
- Trending better than last year in Opioid deaths (39 deaths compared to 64 last year at this time; 40% reduction in Cumberland County). Spike in Harrisburg City, unfortunately.
  - Opioid Intervention Court in Cumberland County is making a difference. Requires people to undergo treatment while awaiting trial.
- Sunoco Pipeline - started Mariner East 2 a year or so ago. NW part of county for 30 miles exiting around Lower Allen.
  - Some residents have questions/concerns relative to safety. It is not operational yet.
  - Commissioners asked Sunoco to attend a public meeting. They haven't gotten back to the County yet to agree.
  - Sent a letter to PUC asking to use its authority to require periodic public meetings.
  - Sunoco has mailed 64,000 brochures within 1000 feet of pipeline, which is a step in right direction. Commissioners don't understand why they won't attend a public meeting.
  - Cumberland County Conservation District has been out during construction - 66 inspections; 100 violations; fined 12.6 million across PA for violations. In Silver Spring Township, two wells were contaminated.
  - Commissioner Hertzler shared he personally believes in development of this natural resource and pipeline is safest way. But there is no reason not to meet with residents in close proximity.
  - Watts shared that Highspire Borough dealt with Sunoco. They are all about education, but meet and greet meetings often become tar and feather sessions rather than education. They are probably leery of community meetings.
  - Hertzler offered County would host meeting to manage it.

### **Dauphin County**

Anna Dale shared the following information.

- MH and probation crisis. Probation violators are being rearrested. Assessing whether people is getting proper treatment.
- County buildings are more energy efficient.
- Child care providers training aimed at reducing number of children from pre-K programs.

### **York County**

Mark Ryder was not in attendance. No report was provided

### **Public Safety**

The Public Safety Committee will meet in November. Focusing on training session in February for local officials - responsibilities and duties toward fire services.

### **Legislative Report**

HB2557 – Would allow Harrisburg come out of Act 47 and retain special taxing authority. The legislation has been sent to Governor Wolf for signature.

Stuski asked if CapCOG wants to go on record regarding wireless legislation. Dan Cohen is working on resolution in opposition to the bill. Myers will get sample resolution from Cohen and circulate to members.

- PSATS has been working hand in hand; not opposing it. Myers forwarded information via email from PSATS outlining their position. League of Cities have been working with Dan Cohen in opposition.
- Ken Martin shared that he doesn't like that municipalities don't have control over where the boxes will be placed in our communities. Monroe was to have tower constructed. Verizon just sold theirs to another company.
- Silcox said there are rumors to run it out of committee in closing days of session. He highly doubts any action before the end of the term.
- Myers motioned for CapCOG to prepare a resolution in opposition to wireless legislation. Yenchko seconded. Unanimously approved.

### **PACOG**

John Kuntzelman had no update.

### **UCC**

Watts shared that we have one filing being processed for November 27, 2018.

### **Good of the Order**

Watts suggested that we invite Representative Ryan to do our banquet.

Myers passed out CapCOG's 2019 draft budget. The budget will be on the agenda for consideration at the November board meeting.

Hare motioned to adjourn. Watts seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.