

Harrisburg Area Transportation Study

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

2020 Update



HATS

HARRISBURG AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

**Harrisburg Area Transportation Study
(HATS)**

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Introduction

Public education and public involvement are key components to successful planning and decision making. Without meaningful public involvement, there is a risk of making poor decisions, or decisions that could have unintended negative consequences. Citizens (residents, business people, and property owners) need and deserve ongoing communication regarding projects and issues that affect their community. While complete consensus is rare, public education and public involvement may bring understanding and dialogue to planning studies and complex issues. The Public Participation Plan (PPP) provides private citizens and groups an opportunity to participate and influence public decisions. It facilitates two-way communication aimed at incorporating the views and ideas of public into policies and plans. It seeks the advice and consent of concerned elected officials, planners and citizen leaders. A well thought out Public Participation Plan can provide many tangible benefits which are needed for successful and effective planning. The HATS Public Participation Plan will act as a guide for public involvement in the development of regional projects such as advancement of the Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP), the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the provisions of a range of special planning studies.

MPO Structure

The Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) was created in response to the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, which mandated regional transportation planning as a condition for receiving federal funds for transportation projects. HATS is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), an organization of federal, state, and local agencies, and officials from Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties, the City of Harrisburg, and Capital Area Transit. HATS serves over half a million people in 103 municipalities covering almost 1,700 square miles in south central Pennsylvania, including Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties.

HATS is comprised of two committees: the Coordinating Committee and the Technical

Committee. The Technical Committee oversees analyses and preparation of plans and studies, reviews transportation items brought before HATS to consider, and makes recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee is the policy body, which formally takes action based on Technical Committee input, and adopts transportation plans and improvement programs.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) functions as the lead staff agency of HATS and provides planning and administrative support services. It has the responsibility to ensure the transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with federal and state regulations.



State and Federal Regulations

Commonwealth of PA, the Sunshine Law

Act 84 of 1986, as amended June 15, 1993, February 26, 1996, and October 15, 1998 is an act requiring public agencies to hold certain meetings and hearings open to the public, and to provide penalties as listed under this act. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Sunshine Law.

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania finds that secrecy in public affairs undermines the faith of the public in government. Highlights of the Sunshine Law are:

- Official action and deliberation by a quorum of the members of an agency shall take place at a meeting open to the public.
- Written minutes shall be kept of all open meetings of agencies. – Public notice is not required in case of an emergency meeting or a conference.
- The board or council has the option to accept all public comment at the beginning of the meeting.
- A person attending the meeting of an agency shall have the right to use recording devices to record all proceedings.

Public Laws

Public involvement in the transportation planning and programming process has been a priority for federal, state and local officials since the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991; its successor, the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21); the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the present Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. HATS Public Participation and Environmental Justice policies must reflect the mandates of this federal legislation.

Specifically, §23 CFR 450.316 states:

The MPO shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing individuals, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, public ports, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation (including intercity bus operators, employer-based commuting programs, such as carpool program, vanpool program, transit benefit program, parking cash-out program, shuttle program, or telework program), representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

Title VI and Environmental Justice

Public involvement must also consider Presidential Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines Environmental Justice as the “fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, programs and policies.” Fair treatment means that no racial, ethnic or socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from the operation of industrial, municipal and commercial enterprises or from the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the federal law that protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of their race, color, or national origin in programs that receive federal financial assistance. In operating a federally assisted program, a recipient cannot, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, either directly or through contractual means deny program services, aid, or benefits; provide a different service, aid, or benefit, or separately treat individuals in any matter related to the receipt of any services, aid, or benefit.

The Federal Highway Administration articulates three fundamental environmental justice principles:

1. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
2. To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision making process.
3. To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities in services, programs and activities. Public entities are required to make programs accessible to individuals with disabilities including conducting meetings and hearings in ADA-compliant buildings. Special accommodations must be provided to ensure communications are equally effective for persons with disabilities in order to participate in meetings, planning, and programming activities.



Title VI Statements

HATS has developed two Title VI Statements to include in HATS public documents as a means of informing the public of compliance with Title VI and of the provisions of alternative language services and formats.

1. The first statement is to be added to meeting announcements to which the public and/or outside agencies/organizations are invited such as public meetings and/or open houses, both on-site and off-site, seminars and any HATS meetings:
“HATS is committed to compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of civil rights statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies. All locations for meetings open to the public will be accessible to persons with disabilities and reachable by public transit. With advance notification, accommodations may be provided for those with special needs related to language, speech, sight, or hearing. If you have a request for a special need, wish to file a complaint, or desire additional information, please contact Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, at (717) 234-2639; email: lweaver@tcrpc-pa.org.”
2. The second statement shall be included in all HATS public documents and publications:
“HATS fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. TCRPC’s website (www.tcrpc-pa.org) may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats, if requested. For translation, call (717) 234-2639.”

Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency”

Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), was issued in August 2000 to improve access to federally conducted and federally assisted programs and activities for persons limited in their English proficiency (limited ability to read, write or understand English). These individuals could have limited skills due to being non-native speakers or of limited educational background. The Order requires federal agencies to ensure that recipients of federal financial assistance provide meaningful access to their LEP applicants and beneficiaries. Language barriers may prohibit people who are LEP from obtaining services or information relating to various services and programs, and may limit individuals’ participation in public planning processes.

Federal guidelines require that recipients of federal financial assistance take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to federally funding programs, activities and publications for LEP persons. The “reasonable” standard is based on the following four guidelines, as set forth by the federal government, and incorporated into this plan:

- The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by a program, activity or service of the recipient or grantee.
- The frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program.
- The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided by the recipient to people’s lives.
- The resources available to the recipient and costs

As indicated in the above guidelines, the intent of the guidelines is to find a balance that ensures meaningful access by LEP persons to critical services and programs while not imposing undue burdens to recipient or sub-recipients.

Top 5 Most Prominent Limited English Proficiency Languages in the Tri-County Region (2019)

According to the US Census Bureau’s 2019 American Community Survey, the five most common Limited English Proficiency (LEP) languages spoken in the three-county region account for about 2.5% of the population and are:

	Language	Cumberland	Dauphin	Perry	Total
1	Spanish/Spanish Creole	2133	6221	212	8566
2	German or other West Germanic*	1159	842	0	2001
3	Chinese	548	1305	54**	1907
4	Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages	758	296	606***	1660
5	Vietnamese	183	474	0	657

* Includes Pennsylvania Dutch, Dutch, Afrikaans, Frisian

** Includes all Asian and Pacific Island languages

*** Includes all Indo-European languages

Source: US Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

These languages were determined based on total number of native speakers in the region who noted they speak English less than “very well”.

All HATS documents can be translated into any language. Executive summaries of HATS documents can be made available in the above languages. Full documents can also be translated upon request by filling out the translation request form found on the HATS Website. The TCRPC website is also accessible to non-English speaking visitors utilizing Google Translator.

For translation of documents or other downloaded material from the TCRPC website, an individual needs to contact planning@tcrpc-pa.org or (717) 234-2639.

Spanish:

Para la traducción de documentos u otro material descargado del sitio web de TCRPC, un individuo necesita contactar a planning@tcrpc-pa.org o al (717) 234-2639.

German

Für die Übersetzung von Dokumenten oder anderen heruntergeladenen Material von der

TCRPC-Website, muss eine individuelle Kontakt mit planning@tcrpc-pa.org oder (717) 234-2639.

Chinese:

對於從TCRPC網站翻譯文件或其他下載的材料, 個人需要聯繫 planning@tcrpc-pa.org 或 (717)234-2639.

Russian

Для перевода документов или других материалов, загруженных с веб-сайта TCRPC, физическое лицо должно связаться с планированием@tcrpc-pa.org или (717) 234-2639.

Polish

Aby przetłumaczyć dokumenty lub inne materiały pobrane ze strony internetowej TCRPC, należy skontaktować się z planowaniem@tcrpc-pa.org lub (717) 234-2639.

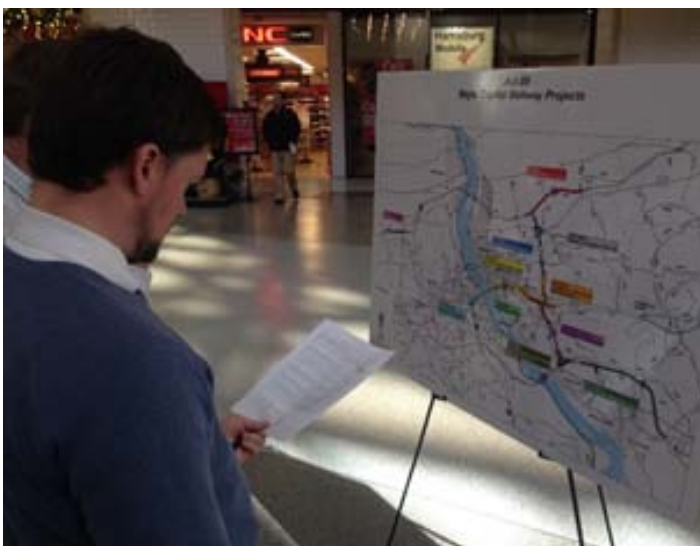
Vietnamese:

Đối với bản dịch tài liệu hoặc tài liệu tải khác từ trang web TCRPC, một cá nhân cần liên hệ với planning@tcrpc-pa.org hoặc (717) 234-2639.

Public Participation Objectives

In order to ensure HATS has a proactive and meaningful public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public input to key decision-making processes, and supports early and continuing involvement in developing regional plans and projects, and is in compliance with current federal surface transportation legislation, HATS shall pursue the following objectives:

- Inform and educate HATS stakeholders, share information, and increase overall awareness of regional planning, land use, and transportation issues and activities in the Tri-County area
- Provide opportunities for interested parties to identify regional concerns and priorities
- Provide public access to technical and policy information used in the development of plans and programs
- Increase the public's awareness of opportunities and activities to actively participate in the development of HATS plans and programs
- Ensure adequate notification and time to allow for public review and comment at key decision points
- Provide feedback to participants as a result of public comment provided during the planning process
- Encourage public participation among HATS's various audiences, including traditionally underserved groups
- Make public information available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the Internet, to afford reasonable opportunity for consideration and input
- Evaluate the Public Participation Plan to determine if it is effectively providing opportunity for involvement
- Develop transportation plans and programs in consultation with State and local agencies while providing reasonable opportunities for all interested parties to be involved in the planning process.
- Employ visualization techniques to describe HATS' plans and programs
- Conduct a mix of remote and in-person public outreach opportunities through the HATS Region, as appropriate, to optimize public involvement.
- Work with outside agencies such as the Latino Connects and International Service Center to provide any necessary language translations



Public Participation Strategies

Strategy	Public Participation Methods
Document Availability	Via website (Executive Summary & Full Document). County Planning Commission offices, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission offices, and libraries that fall within census tracts that contain a high proportion of minority or low income.
Comment Opportunities	Public Meeting, written comments accepted, online website; HATS Transportation Needs Form also found on website. Chat comments and poll questions are also documented from Zoom Meetings.
Public Meeting	One meeting prior to recommending adoption by HATS MPO.
Press Release & Public Service	Press announcements publicized in the Harrisburg Patriot News, PennLive.com and other media outlets (see Appendix)
Initial Notice Period	Thirty (30) calendar days prior to public comment period ending (RTP, TIP); Forty Five (45) calendar days prior to Public Comment Period ending (PPP)
Public Meeting Notice Period	Ten (10) days prior to the Public Comment Meeting
Amendment Notice Period	Thirty (30) days prior to Public Comment Period Ending (RTP)
Evaluation Technique	Number of Participants at meetings, number of comments received, and website page views and hits.
Comprehensive Plan Review	During the RTP update, county/local plans are used in conjunction with other local input to identify transportation-related issues and concerns of the local communities.
Visualization Techniques	Maps, Handouts, Presentations, online apps, Story maps
Task Forces	Formation and utilization of task forces to guide planning decisions and collect formal comment (ex. Bicycle-Pedestrian-Passenger Task Force; Cumberland Perry Joint Task Force)
Social Media and Online Platforms	Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, Interactive platforms such as Zoom, Esri Story Maps, and Survey Monkey. These platforms have been used by TCRPC/HATS over time for outreach analyses and decision-making.
Mailing Lists	Mass emails on news and events via Constant Contact, Commission-wide Mailing Lists
MPO Meeting Notices and Broadcasts	Municipal Government Notice of MPO Meetings: Four (4) weeks prior to the Technical Committee Meeting; Meeting notice publicized in Harrisburg Patriot News, PennLive.com two (2) weeks prior to the Technical Committee Meeting. Coordinating Committee Meetings are broadcasted live on Harrisburg's local government television station. Meetings and other informational videos are also posted on the TCRPC website and YouTube Channel.
TCRPC/HATS Website	All meeting schedules, minutes and recordings, agendas, current and draft documents can be found on the TCRPC/HATS website and are available to be accessed at any time.
Virtual Meetings	"Zoom" instructions on website on how to participate in any meeting; meeting links provided on website calendar at least one week prior to meeting; instructions sent to committee members; recordings posted to website after meeting; phone only participation accommodated.

Targeted Outreach Strategies

HATS may employ one or more targeted outreach strategies to involve traditionally underserved populations that may be impacted by a specific project. Targeted outreach strategies may include:

- Notifying agencies that work with minorities, low income populations, and persons with disabilities of HATS activities.
- Conducting an ongoing dialogue with groups representing potentially underserved populations.
- Seeking opportunities to speak at meetings of groups involving minority/low income and traditionally underserved populations.
- Organizing small meetings that may be less intimidating for those unfamiliar with the public involvement process.
- Targeting non-traditional media outlets and organizations.
- Posting information and meeting notices at transit stops and in transit/paratransit vehicles.
- Posting information and meeting notices in libraries, recreation centers, and shopping centers.
- Including information on the HATS website about how to request translation services.
- Researching traditional communication methods used by LEP populations.
- Posting flyers or notices, in appropriate languages, in areas identified as having LEP populations.
- Distributing information through religious or community organizations.
- Providing public service announcements in ethnic news media.
- Providing extensive use of visualization techniques, including maps and graphics.

The following agencies have been identified as organizations that work with traditionally underserved populations and will be included in public outreach activities. Others will be included as they are identified.

- United Cerebral Palsy of Central Pennsylvania
- Vision for Equality of Pennsylvania
- The Arc of Pennsylvania

- Tri-County Community Action
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Central PA
- Bethesda Mission
- YWCA of Greater Harrisburg
- Hadee Mosque, Harrisburg
- Pennsylvania NAACP
- Asian Indian Americans of Central PA
- Works for Me - PA

Planning Activities

As the MPO for the Harrisburg Region, HATS undertakes two significant, ongoing planning processes: the development and adoption of a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and the adoption and management of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

PennDOT Connects

As part of the overall transportation implementation process and public participation outreach efforts, HATS works with PennDOT and utilizes their new approach, PennDOT Connects. Through this approach, it is the goal to find creative solutions to sustain and expand mobility by considering community needs at the beginning of the planning process. To learn more about this program, click [HERE](#).

Regional Growth Management Plan

Developed by TCRPC, the RGMP serves as the primary regional comprehensive planning resource document for the HATS region, focusing on guiding physical development to areas in which public investments in infrastructure and services have already been made, as well as protecting our natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources. Incorporated into the RTP's land use component, the RGMP addresses multi-jurisdictional issues from a regional perspective, acts as an informational resource and provides an overarching model for development of more detailed and specific county and municipal comprehensive plans.

Regional Transportation Plan

HATS has mandated responsibility to develop a long-range plan with a 20-year timeframe, with forecasts of population, land use, employment, and travel trends that determine how federal transportation funds will be spent. Accompanying the development of the RTP is a public participation component, which may include visioning workshops, other public events, focus group meetings, stakeholder outreach, newsletters, and surveys. Before the long-range plan is adopted, a public comment period of at least 30 days must be held.

The following describes the minimum public participation program required during the review of a draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), or a draft of a major amendment to the Plan. These steps must be taken before HATS acts to adopt the draft document as final.

Transportation Problem Form

The HATS Transportation Problem Form is available on the TCRPC website. This allows the public to express concerns about transportation infrastructure and operations in the region as well as define transportation needs at a regional level. The submittal of this form to HATS staff initiates the project development process.

Web-Based Project Map

Access to the HATS Web-Based Project Map shall be made available on the TCRPC website. The map shall be updated as necessary to reflect the current listing of projects on the RTP. Project specific information shall include project type, description, project ranking based on regional need (defined by RTP criteria), and cost estimate.

Legal Notice

A legal notice shall be printed in the Harrisburg Patriot News and other local newspapers, as appropriate. The notice shall specify the date, time and location of the forthcoming public hearing to explain the plan and obtain comments and public input. The notice shall include a statement that translator services may be requested in advance. The notice shall also be submitted to each municipality in the Tri-County area.

Comment Period and Public Meeting

HATS shall allow a minimum of 30 days for public comments and shall hold a public information meeting during the public comment period. Opportunity for public comment on the plan shall be provided at every Coordinating and Technical Committee meeting.

Summary and Disposition of Comments

A summary of comments and the disposition of the comments shall be provided in the final document.

As the RTP is developed and implemented by HATS, staff must:

- Include a proactive and ongoing public participation process
- Be consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Environmental Justice requirements of Executive Order 12898.
- Identify actions necessary to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- Provide for the involvement of transportation advocacy groups, related agencies, authorities, private operators, and elected officials.
- Provide for the involvement of local, state, and federal environmental resource agencies, as appropriate.

Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is an agreed-upon list of priority projects. The TIP lists all projects for which federal funds are anticipated, along with non-federally funded projects that are regionally significant. In Pennsylvania, the TIP covers a four-year period and is updated every other year. The following describes the minimum public participation program required during the review of the draft HATS TIP, or the draft of a major amendment. These steps must be taken before HATS acts to adopt a draft document as final or official.

Legal Notice

A legal notice shall be printed in a newspaper of general circulation as per federal regulations and other local newspapers as appropriate. The notice shall specify the date, time and location of the forthcoming public hearing to explain the plan and obtain comments and public input. The notice shall also be submitted to each municipality in the Tri-County area.

Comment Period and Public Meeting

HATS shall allow 30 days for public comments and shall hold a public information meeting during the 30-day period. Opportunity for public comment on the TIP shall also be provided at every Coordinating and Technical Committee meeting during the comment period.

Summary and Disposition of Comments

A summary of comments and the disposition of the comments shall be provided in the final document.

PennDOT Section 5307 Program of Projects Satisfaction

Public involvement for the TIP is used to satisfy public involvement requirements for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Section 5307 program of projects.

Major TIP Amendment

A major TIP amendment is defined as one for which an air quality conformity report must be prepared. State and federal guidelines require an air quality conformity report must be prepared if one or more projects is of sufficient size, or of a certain type, that is expected to have a significant air quality impact.

Minor TIP Amendment

Standard procedures for Coordinating and Technical Committee meetings shall satisfy the public participation requirements for minor amendments. Provided the proposed minor amendment is included in the respective Coordinating and Technical Committee agenda packets, and those agendas have been sent to municipalities and respective committee mailing lists seven days in advance of the meeting, the public participation requirements shall be satisfied.

Administrative Modifications

Administrative modifications to the TIP are made when the change involves a simple matter such as moving a project from one year to another, a change in funding source, an increase in federal funds (not to exceed \$2 million) with no change in scope, or a decrease in cost. Since these changes are minor in nature and the projects have already been reviewed by the public through an earlier process as previously described, there will be no need for a formal vote by HATS.

Special Studies

Public participation plans for special studies will be developed on a case by case basis. For studies managed by HATS, HATS staff will develop a public participation plan. In the case of special studies conducted by PennDOT or others, the TCRPC staff will emphasize the need for public participation through the project development process.

Communication and Outreach Techniques

Public participation plans for special studies will be developed on a case by case basis. For studies managed by HATS, HATS staff will develop a public participation plan. In the case of special studies conducted by PennDOT or others, the TCRPC staff will emphasize the need for public participation through the project development process.

Interested Parties

Federal guidelines require the participation of interested parties in the development of public participation plans. “Interested parties” are defined as:

- Residents
- Affected public agencies
- Representatives of public transportation employees
- Freight shippers
- Private providers of transportation
- Representatives of users of public transportation
- Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities
- Representatives of the disabled
- Providers of freight transportation services
- Other interested parties

Public Meetings and Other Events

Public meetings, open houses, workshops, and information sessions will be scheduled, when appropriate, to allow the greatest opportunity for attendance by the general public and interested parties (i.e., evening or lunch meetings) based upon available staff and resources.

A public meeting will be held prior to action on HATS’s Regional Transportation Plan, TIP, and other major amendments. When possible, meetings will be conducted in locations that are ADA accessible and convenient to public transit. Sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aid requests can be accommodated when requested in advance. In addition, there will be a live stream and recording link for the meetings available on TCRPC’s website.

Where appropriate, visualization techniques will be employed throughout public participation activities to aid the public in understanding proposed plans. Examples of visualization techniques include sketches, drawings, artist renderings, physical models and maps, simulated photos, videos, computer modeled images, GIS based scenario planning tools, story maps, and computer simulation.

Privacy Statement

Public sign-in sheets may include the following disclaimer:

“If personal information is requested and volunteered by the user, state law and federal Privacy Act of 1974 may protect it. However, this information is a public record once you provide it, and may be subject to public inspection and duplication if not protected by federal or state law.”

TCRPC Resource Center

The TCRPC Resource Center serves as a clearinghouse and repository for the many publications TCRPC has produced, including a variety of newsletters, studies, and other transportation data and planning related documents. Many other studies and data are also available in the Center. The Center is open during regular business hours. The use of the Center is free. Some fees may apply to printing of publications or photocopies of documents.

TCRPC Website and Social Media

TCRPC's website is a continuously updated source of information on every aspect of the regional and transportation planning processes. A wide scope of resource material, covering all of TCRPC's planning areas is available, as well as an event calendar, regional data, community resources, meeting notices and agendas, information related to public participation activities, and Environmental Justice. The website also includes contact information for staff, Board members, as well as links to local governments and related agencies. The TCRPC website, including this Public Participation Plan, may be translated into multiple languages through Google Translator.

TCRPC is connected with various social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. These platforms serve as a gateway for public involvement on efforts pursued by TCRPC and HATS through polls and surveys as well as regular updates on the planning process. TCRPC social media also serves an informational purpose, keeping the region's residents informed on important regional news and happenings.

Annual Reports

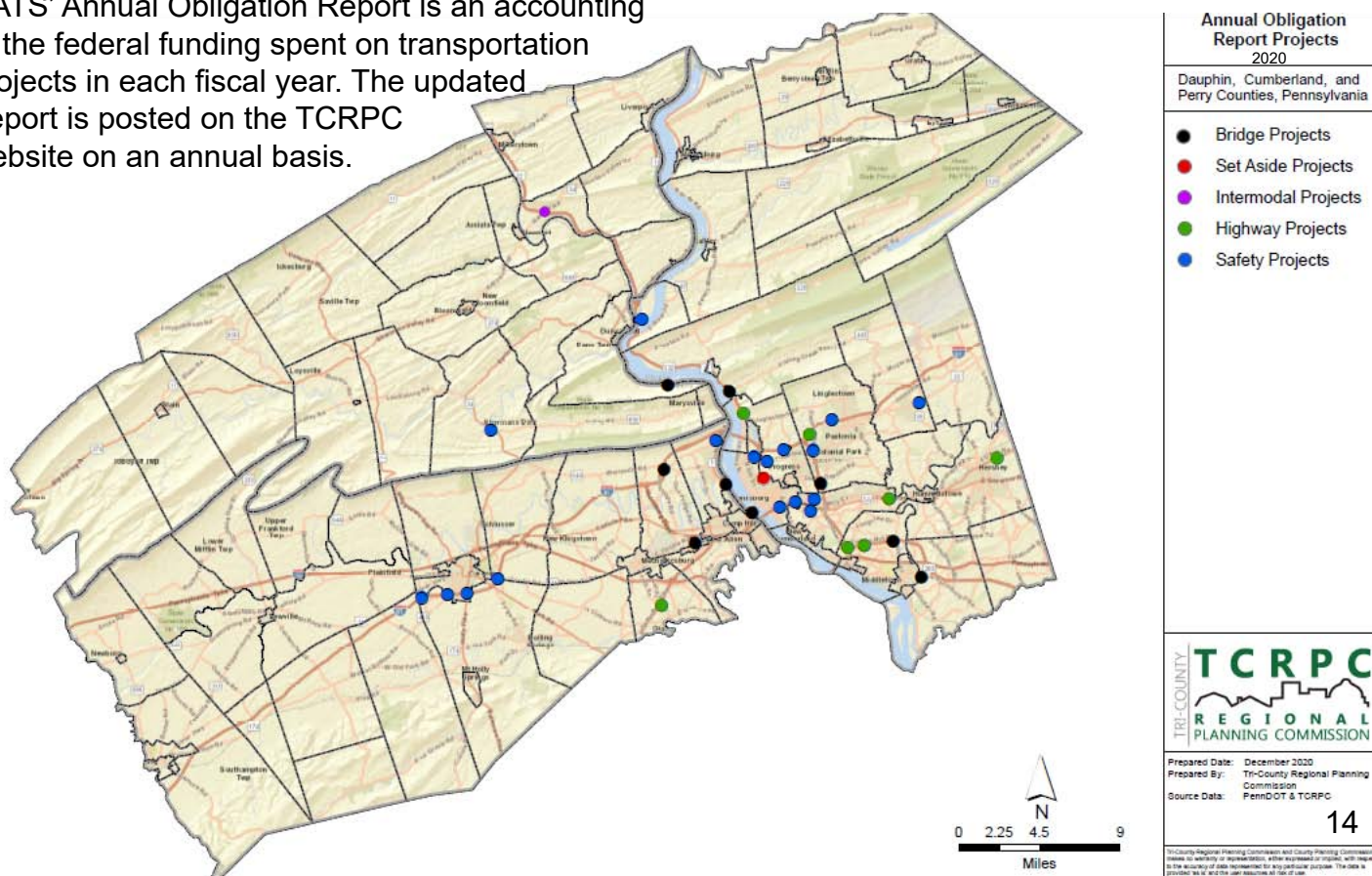
TCRPC, HATS, Cumberland County Planning Commission, Dauphin County Planning Commission and Perry County Planning Commission publish annual reports during the first quarter of each year. They summarize the activities of the prior calendar year. The reports are available in hard copy (upon request) and on the TCRPC website.

Annual Obligation Report

HATS' Annual Obligation Report is an accounting of the federal funding spent on transportation projects in each fiscal year. The updated report is posted on the TCRPC website on an annual basis.

TCRPC Newsletter

The TCRPC Newsletter is published four (4) times a year. The newsletter provides information about the HATS and the Commission's various projects and activities and includes information on how to contact the Commission and its staff. The newsletter is e-mailed to over 2,000 contacts, is available in printed format (upon request) and is posted on the TCRPC website.



Evaluation Procedures of Public Participation

HATS Public Participation Plan is not a static document, but an ongoing strategy to meet public outreach needs of HATS plans and programs. There is no singular approach to public engagement. Outreach and participation for specific projects may be different. The residents of this region are not a homogenous entity; therefore methods of outreach may also be different depending on the intended audience. In order to maintain a successful participation program, HATS will evaluate what worked and what did not work in the public participation process including the review of public meeting attendance, the number of public comments received, web uses analysis tools, public comments on the plan and any additional comments and suggestions. The findings will be incorporated into subsequent involvement activities and the Plan will be revised where appropriate.

The RTP Implementation Work Group was established shortly after the adoption of the RTP in 2019 to help TCRPC staff work through key implementation issues. The initial effort of this group was the development of a RTP Implementation Grant Program using STU funds. Following the FFY 2021-2024 TIP development process, this Work Group focused conducted an After Action Review, which identified the need for improved participation and outreach activities that may increase opportunities for input from the public. Goals and recommendations included the following:

Goal 2: Improve communication with (and education of) general public throughout planning process

Recommendation 2A: Coordinate public outreach with HATS committee members and stakeholders for a more collaborative approach.

Recommendation 2B: Conduct a mix of remote and in-person public outreach opportunities throughout the HATS region, as appropriate, to optimize public involvement.

Recommendation 2C: Develop outreach materials as the update process is initiated that explain the TIP development process and how it fits within the larger transportation planning process.

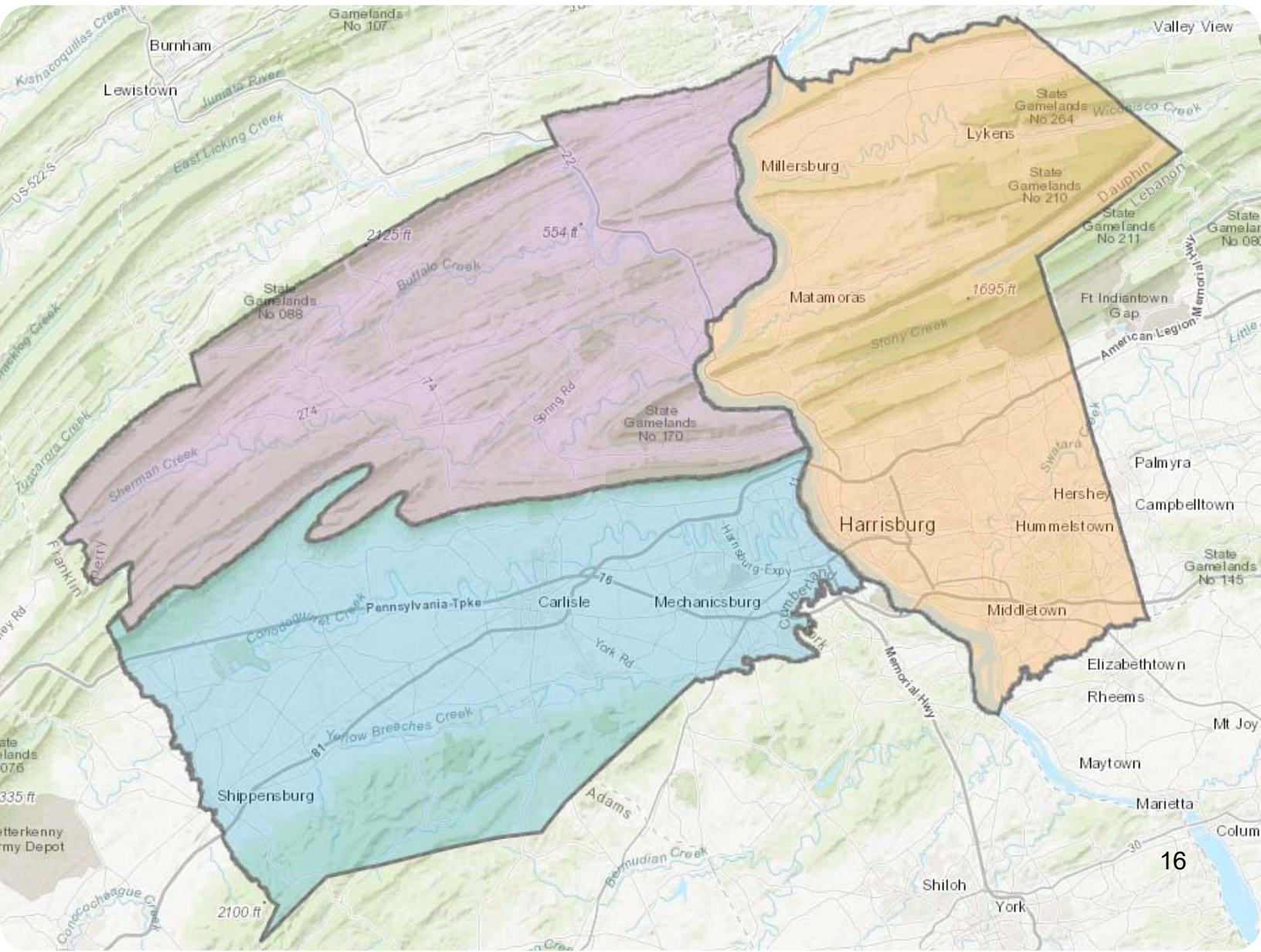
How to Get Involved

The TCRPC provides information to the community via standard mailings, email and the TCRPC website. If you want to get involved in the activities of the TCRPC, you can do the following:

- Visit the TCRPC website at www.tcrpc-pa.org
- Meeting schedules, agendas and minutes are posted on the website – translations are available
- Sign up for the TCRPC mailing list by contacting TCRPC staff at (717) 234-2639
- TCRPC meeting notices are advertised in the Harrisburg Patriot News
- All meetings are open to the public and there is a public comment item on all agendas.
- The Technical Committee currently meets bi-monthly the second Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m., at CAT offices and via live stream. (See website for exact dates)
- The Coordinating Committee currently meets bi-monthly the fourth Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m., at CAT offices and via live stream (See website for exact dates)
- We recommend confirming all meetings with TCRPC staff or via the website
- For access to the live stream meeting, attendees must register prior to the meeting and follow the guidelines that can be found when you click on the HATS Technical or Coordinating Committee meeting on our calendar page or call 717-234-2639 at least two days prior to the meeting for instructions to join by phone.

Contact Information

<i>Address</i>	112 Market Street 2nd Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101
<i>Phone</i>	(717) 234-2639
<i>Email</i>	planning@tcrpc-pa.org
<i>Website</i>	http://www.tcrpc-pa.org
<i>Accessibility</i>	Offices are ADA accessible
<i>Transportation</i>	Offices are available via Capital Area Transit (CAT). For route information, contact (717) 238-8304.



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Harrisburg Area Transportation Study Committee Members

(As of March 2021)

Organization	Coordinating Committee		Technical Committee	
	Member	Alternate	Member	Alternate
Chairman	Commissioner Jeff Haste		Steve Deck, AICP	
Vice-Chairman	Commissioner Gary Eby		Diane Myers-Krug, AICP (<i>non-voting</i>)	
Secretary	Commissioner Gary Eichelberger		Andrew Bomberger (<i>non-voting</i>)	
Cumberland County	Commissioner Jean Foschi	Vacant	Deborah Ealer	Vacant
	Toby Fauver	Kirk Stoner	Kirk Stoner	Elizabeth Grant
Dauphin County	Commissioner Jeff Haste	Scott Burford	Skip Memmi	George Conner
	Skip Memmi	George Conner	James Szyborski, AICP	Steve Deck, AICP
Perry County	Commissioner Gary Eby	Representative Perry Stambaugh	James Turner	Robert Schaffer, Sr.
	James Turner	Robert Schaffer, Sr.	Commissioner Gary Eby	Nina Fitchet
Harrisburg City	Wayne Martin	Dave Butcher	Wayne Martin	Dave Butcher
	Charlie White	Geoffrey Knight, AICP	Geoffrey Knight, AICP	Vacant
CAT	Eric Bugaile	Rich Farr	Rich Farr	Eric Maguire DeRon Jordan
PennDOT	Larry S. Shifflet	Ray Green Beth Raves	Ray Green	Beth Raves Anthony Sansone
	Mike Keiser	Nate Walker Michelle Tarquino	Michelle Tarquino	Nate Walker Jon Owens
Ex-officio Members	NOTE: the following are on both committees: Matt Smoker - FHWA Laura Keeley - FTA Rick Harner - FAA Chris Trostle - DEP Vacant - PA DCED		Holly Gattone/Brad Webber - Amtrak Rudy Husband - Norfolk Southern Dave Spaulding - SARAA Vacant - PMTA Will Clark - York County MPO Jon Fitzkee - Lebanon County MPO	

HATS Public Participation Plan Public Comment Notice

HARRISBURG AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY DRAFT 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP), PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP), AND AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION

The Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) is the organization that will consider and approve the plans and programs and the Federal and State funding for the highway and transit systems in the Harrisburg Urbanized Area and Tri-County Region. Organizational members include: the Counties of Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry, Harrisburg City, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Capital Area Transit. This notice appears pursuant to the HATS Public Participation Plan adopted April 21, 2017, and public involvement for the RTP is also used to satisfy public involvement requirements for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Section 5307 program of projects.

A 60-day public review and comment period for the draft HATS 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Public Participation Plan (PPP), and the associated Air Quality Conformity Determination will begin on Thursday July 1, 2021 and will end on Tuesday August 31, 2021.

The 2045 RTP Update is a comprehensive listing of all federally funded highway, bridge, transit, and miscellaneous transportation improvement projects in the HATS region for the next 20 years.

The Air Quality Conformity Determination demonstrates the forecast summer day VOC, NO_x and PM_{2.5}, and annual direct PM_{2.5} and NO_x emissions satisfy the applicable conformity tests for ozone and fine particulate standards.

Copies of the draft HATS 2045 RTP, PPP, and the Air Quality Conformity Determination are available for public review on the web and at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Office – 112 Market Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisburg; Cumberland County Planning Commission's Office – 310 Allen Road, Carlisle; Perry County Planning Commission's Office – Veterans Office Building, New Bloomfield provided the offices are reopened to the public based on guidelines set by the state and CDC concerning COVID-19.

To view the PPP and RTP materials please visit the following links:
PPP: <https://www.tcrpc-pa.org/s/DRAFT-2020-Public-Participation-Plan.pdf>
RTP and AQ: <https://www.hatsregionaltransportationplan.org/2045-rtp-draft>

Two virtual meetings will be held on July 14th, and August 11th to allow for additional comment opportunities on the RTP, PPP, and Air Quality Conformity Determination. For participation details, please visit www.tcrpc-pa.org/calendar/.

All comments should be submitted in writing to Lauren Weaver, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 112 Market Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisburg, PA, 17101-2015; email: lweaver@tcrpc-pa.org, no later than 9:00am on Tuesday August 31, 2021.

HATS will consider approving the RTP, PPP, and the associated Air Quality Conformity Determination at its meeting on Friday, September 24, 2021 to be held virtually. For details visit the TCRPC Calendar at www.tcrpc-pa.org/calendar/

HATS is committed to compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of applicable civil rights statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies. The meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. With advance notification, accommodations may be provided for those with special needs related to language, sight, speech, or hearing. If you have a request for a special need, wish to file a complaint, or desire additional information, please contact Lauren Weaver at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 717-234-2639.

HATS Sample Public Meeting Display Ad

MEETING NOTICE HARRISBURG AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) is the organization that will consider and approve the plans and programs and the Federal and State funding for the highway and transit systems in the Harrisburg Urbanized Area and Tri-County Region. Organizational members include: the Counties of Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry, Harrisburg City, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Capital Area Transit.

The Coordinating Committee is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the transportation systems in the Tri-County Region and is the decision-making body of HATS. The Technical Committee advises the Coordinating Committee.

Principal agenda items for the meetings include Regional Transportation Plan Updates and Public Participation Plan Updates. Visit our website (<http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/hatsmeetings>) for past meeting minutes, current meeting agenda and materials.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING —
Friday, December 4, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.
and
COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING —
Friday, December 18, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

Should public meetings be restricted to online access, the meetings will be conducted virtually. Instructions to access and participate in the meeting and meeting materials are available on TCRPC's website (<http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/hatsmeetings>). To join by telephone only, call 717-234-2639 (or email planning@tcrpc-pa.org) at least two days prior to the meeting and leave a message on how to contact you with meeting access information. The meeting will also be recorded and the recording posted on the website after the meeting.

Public attendance at HATS meetings is encouraged and persons wishing to comment on the transportation program will be heard. Public involvement for the TIP is used to satisfy public involvement requirements for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Section 5307 program of projects.

HATS is committed to compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of applicable civil rights statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. With advance notification, accommodations may be provided for those with special needs related to language, speech, sight, or hearing. If you have a request for a special need, wish to file a complaint, or desire additional information, please contact Lauren Weaver at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 717-234-2639 or lweaver@tcrpc-pa.org

HATS Sample Legal Ad

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

HARRISBURG AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY DRAFT FFY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION

The Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) is the organization that will consider and approve the plans and programs and the Federal and State funding for the highway and transit systems in the Harrisburg Urbanized Area and Tri-County Region. Organizational members include: the Counties of Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry, Harrisburg City, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Capital Area Transit. This notice appears pursuant to the HATS Public Participation Plan adopted April 21, 2017, and public involvement for the TIP is also used to satisfy public involvement requirements for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Section 5307 program of projects.

A 30-day public review and comment period for the draft HATS FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the associated Air Quality Conformity Determination will begin on Monday, May 18, 2020 and will end on Friday, June 19, 2020.

The draft HATS FFY 2021-2024 TIP includes a comprehensive listing of all federally funded transportation highway, bridge, transit and miscellaneous transportation improvement projects in the HATS area programmed for funding over the next four years.

The Air Quality Conformity Determination demonstrates the forecast summer day VOC, NOx and PM2.5, and annual direct PM2.5 and NOx emissions satisfy the applicable conformity tests for ozone and fine particulate standards.

Copies of the draft HATS FFY 2021-2024 TIP and the Air Quality Conformity Determination are available for public review on the web at <http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/tip/>, and at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Office – 112 Market Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisburg; Cumberland County Planning Commission's Office – 310 Allen Road, Carlisle; Perry County Planning Commission's Office – Veterans Office Building, New Bloomfield provided the offices are reopened to the public based on guidelines set by the state and CDC concerning COVID-19.

A display table at the Strawberry Square Atrium – 320 Market Street, Harrisburg – will be available on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm to allow for additional comment opportunities on the TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination.

All comments should be submitted in writing to Lauren Weaver, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 112 Market Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisburg, PA, 17101-2015; email: lweaver@tcrpc-pa.org, no later than 9:00am on Friday, June 19, 2020.

HATS will consider approving the TIP and the associated Air Quality Conformity Determination at its meeting on Friday, June 26, 2020 to be held in the 2nd Floor Board Room of the Capital Area Transit Offices, 901 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, starting at 9 am. Online access to the meeting is also available. For details visit the TCRPC Calendar at www.tcrpc-pa.org/calendar/

HATS is committed to compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of applicable civil rights statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies. The meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. With advance notification, accommodations may be provided for those with special needs related to language, sight, speech, or hearing. If you have a request for a special need, wish to file a complaint, or desire additional information, please contact Lauren Weaver at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 717-234-2639.

HATS Sample Local Government Notice



HARRISBURG AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

PLANNING STAFF OFFICE: TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
112 MARKET ST., 2nd FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101-2015
(717) 234-2639

November 2, 2020

To: Municipal Governments of the
HARRISBURG AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties

From: HATS Planning Staff

The next meetings of the HATS Technical and Coordinating Committees are scheduled as follows:

Technical Committee - Friday, May 1, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.
Coordinating Committee - Friday, May 15, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

These meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to participate. Principal agenda items for the meetings include Regional Transportation Plan Updates and Public Participation Plan Updates.

Meeting agendas and materials are posted on the HATS website <http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/hatsmeetings> one week prior to the Technical Committee meeting.

Final meeting dates are published in the Patriot News at least one week prior to HATS meetings. All meetings will be held in the 2nd Floor Board Room of Capital Area Transit offices, 901 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg and are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Should public meetings be restricted to online access, the meetings will be conducted virtually. Instructions to access and participate in the meeting and meeting materials are available on TCRPC's website (<http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/hatsmeetings>). The meeting will also be recorded and the recording posted on the website after the meeting.

Public involvement for the TIP is used to satisfy public involvement requirements for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Section 5307 program of projects.

HATS is committed to compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of civil rights statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies. All locations for meetings open to the public will be accessible to persons with disabilities and reachable by public transit. With advance notification, accommodations may be provided for those with special needs related to language, speech, sight, or hearing. If you have a request for a special need, wish to file a complaint, or desire additional information, please contact Lauren Weaver with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, at (717) 234-2639; email: lweaver@tcrpc-pa.org.

HATS Press Release Distribution List

Newspapers

- Carlisle Sentinel/Cumberlink
- Central Penn Business Journal
- Hummelstown Sun
- Middletown Press & Journal
- Paxton Herald
- PennLive/ Patriot News
- Perry County Times
- Shippensburg News-Chronicle/Newville Valley Times-Star
- Upper Dauphin Sentinel

“Non-Traditional” Outlets

- Today’s the Day Harrisburg
- Roxbury News
- TheBurg
- The Latino Connection

TV/Radio Stations

- FOX 43
- CBS 21
- WGAL NBC-8
- WHP-580AM
- WHTM ABC-27
- WITF
- WPMT
- WCHE
- WIOO
- WINK-104
- Radio PA

HATS Response to Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the public comment period - July 1st to August 31st.