

JOHNSTOWN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

CAMBRIA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

FY 2010-11

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**CAMBRIA COUNTY/JOHNSTOWN MPO
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN - UPDATE
FY 2010-11**

INTRODUCTION

Cambria County's Public Participation Plan (PPP) was initialized in April of 2007 and incorporated into the Johnstown MPO's 2007-2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. The PPP was a public involvement mandate as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU). The PPP enhanced the Johnstown MPO's existing public participation efforts and expanded its Environmental Justice Planning activities to include the participation of "Interested Parties" as per SAFETEA-LU regulations. The Public Participation Plan was adopted and made a part of the Johnstown MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan 2007-2035 Update in July of 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Johnstown MPO's Public Participation Plan is first and foremost a plan that provides all persons, regardless of race, color, or national origin, the opportunity to participate in the planning and development of transportation programs and projects. The Plan's overall intent and purpose is to provide a public forum for those "Interested Parties" and environmental justice groups that have been traditionally overlooked during the transportation development process. This group includes minority populations, low-income families, non-English speaking and persons with limited English proficiency, the elderly, persons with disabilities, truck freight shippers and haulers, public and private transportation systems, and rail freight haulers.

The Johnstown MPO will coordinate and integrate its public involvement agenda with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Cambria County Transit Authority (CamTran), and with the 63 municipal governments that comprise Cambria County.

PURPOSE

The overall purpose of the Johnstown MPO's Public Participation Plan Update is to address the desired "Future Planning Efforts" agenda for continued public participation in the transportation planning process. The future efforts are designed to improve the overall possibilities for greater public involvement by "Interested Parties" in the planning and development of transportation projects and programs. The PPP update is also intended to help meet SAFETEA-LU guidelines

for the on-going monitoring and evaluation of the Johnstown MPO's Public Participation Plan.

Environmental Justice Planning

The Johnstown MPO initiated Environmental Justice (EJ) transportation planning activities in 2002 pursuant to Executive Order #12898. This federal initiative is intended to allow minorities and low-income populations the opportunity, throughout the planning process, to review and comment on the region's transportation projects and improvements seeking federal funding assistance. Since this initial effort, the MPO has continued to expand upon specific EJ program requirements and to incorporate this effort into its future transportation planning agenda on a yearly basis.

The Johnstown MPO has made a concerted effort to insure that identified EJ population groups are notified and given the opportunity to provide public input in the development and implementation of transportation programs and projects. This public involvement in the transportation planning process is incorporated into the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on an annual basis.

SAFETEA-LU Planning

The Johnstown MPO will incorporate the expanded SAFETEA-LU requirements for "interested parties" into the EJ planning process as part of the Public Participation Plan. This will include expanding the existing EJ contact listing to include SAFETEA-LU "interested parties" and will add the following population groups and/or agency representatives to the Johnstown existing EJ contact mailing list: the elderly, the disabled, the limited English proficient, truck freight shippers and haulers, private transportation providers, representatives of public transportation systems, and rail freight haulers.

PPP Update Activities

The FY 2010-11 Public Participation Plan Update will address the following planning efforts in order to expand the involvement of "interested parties" and Environmental Justice Groups in the Johnstown MPO's transportation planning process:

<u>Planning Activity</u>	<u>End Product</u>
* Engage Interested Parties in the Planning and Development of Transportation Projects	* Survey Representatives of Interested Parties and Environmental Justice Groups
* Expand EJ Contact Agencies to Include SAFETEA-LU Interested Parties Listing	* Expand the Contact Database on Interested Parties and Environmental Justice Groups. Add E-Mail Addresses.
* Promote the Participation of Interested Parties in the Transportation Planning Process	* Provide Interested Parties and Environmental Justice Groups with MPO Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Planning Materials. Include Survey Participants.
* Consult Interested Parties Early On if a Transportation Project has the Potential to Impact Their Community	* Send Project Information Packet to Interested Parties and Environmental Justice Groups; Schedule Meeting and Workshops as Necessary. Add New Agencies from Survey.
* Engage Future Interested Parties in Transportation Projects and Programs	* Identify Potential New Groups and Seek Their Representation in the Planning Process. Include New Survey Groups.
* Monitor and Evaluate the Public Participation Plan on an Annual Basis	* Make Adjustments as Necessary to Meet SAFETEA-LU Requirements. Revise Based on Survey Responses and Public Feedback.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SURVEY

The 2010-2011 Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update will be based on the tabulated results of a Transportation Planning Survey. The survey is designed to expand and further engage both Environmental Justice (EJ) and Interested Parties (IP) population groups. The survey represents the Johnstown MPO's ongoing efforts to provide increased opportunities for "interested parties" to participate in the planning of transportation programs and projects.

Survey Format

In October of 2010, a cover letter and transportation survey were sent to 50 businesses/agencies that utilize transportation facilities and/or services for their daily operations. The survey listing included 30 trucking freight shippers and haulers, 14 public and private transportation systems, and six (6) railroad systems. The cover letter was attached to the survey explaining the intent and purpose of the information being collected. Emphasis was placed on the need for each business or agency to respond to the survey based upon their unique transportation needs or on the individual requirements of the clients that they serve. The survey was mail-out (mail-back) and included a self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope. A listing of the transportation orientated business and/or agencies surveyed is presented on Exhibit 1.

Survey Design

The transportation survey was designed to gather information relative to the transportation and travel needs of the customer base that each business or agency represents. The survey contained the following three primary headings:

- I. Agency Provider Profile
- II. Transportation Network Assessment
- III. Transportation System Improvements

The survey contained seven (7) questions that were answered by short completion or check-off and took an average of ten (10) minutes to complete. A copy of the Johnstown MPO's transportation planning survey is presented as Exhibit 2.

EXHIBIT 1

**JOHNSTOWN MPO - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SURVEY
MAILING ADDRESS LISTING**

FY 2010-11

TRUCK FREIGHT SHIPPERS AND HAULERS

Fast Freight Expeditors
250 Seanor Road
Windber, PA 15963

W. C. McQuaide Freight Lines, Inc.
153 Macridge Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Old Star Transport Inc.
111 Hipp Street
Johnstown, PA 15909

Ritchey Transport
Bakerton Road
Northern Cambria, PA
15714

Thomas S. Stem Trucking
140 Wilson Street
Johnstown, PA 15906

Michael A. Tokarsky Trucking, Inc.
4646 Clearshade Drive
Windber, PA 15963

Wright Motor Lines, Inc.
652 E. Philadelphia St.
Ext.
Armagh, PA 15920

Birk Transfer, Inc.
360 Wheatland Avenue
Conemaugh, PA 15909

Fed Ex Freight East
100 B & W Road
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Walter Hillman Trucking
809 Front Street
Cresson, PA 16630

Keystone Logistical Services
696 Level Road
Cresson, PA 16630

Nileski Trucking
1420 W. 2nd Street
Cresson, PA 16630

Samuel D. Brink Trucking,
Inc.
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Sassano Trucking
610 W. High Street
Ebensburg, PA 15931

LBH Trucking Inc.
3912 Admiral Peary Highway
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Advantage Tank Lines
335 Needs Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15904

Bulk Transportation Services
234 Merlo Road
Mineral Point, PA 15942

East Hills Enterprises
1672 Solomon Run Road
Johnstown, PA 15904

Dunlo Transfer Company
159 Tire Hill Road
Johnstown, PA 15905

ELT Inc.
1379 Solomon Run Road
Johnstown, PA 15904

John Hruska Trucking Inc.
4320 Dark Shade Drive
Windber, PA 15963

J & M Eppley Trucking
119 Lucille Lane
Johnstown, PA 15901

Lee's Disposal
452 Ice Plant Road
Loretto, PA 15940

Sheetz Inc.
1401 13th Street
Altoona, PA 16601

Yesenosky Brothers Trucking
Mineral Point, PA 15942

Sleek Trucking
132 Mossy Lane
Johnstown, PA 15905

David Somogyi Trucking
470 Rose Branch
Johnstown, PA 15909

Synergistiks Incl.
303 Industrial Park Road
Johnstown, PA 15904

Yanko Bros. Trucking, Inc.
300 Parkhill Drive
Johnstown, PA 15905

Con-Way Freight
8 Progress Drive
Bedford, PA 155322

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Cambria Co. Transit Authority
726 Central Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15902

Health Ride Plus
404 Magnolia Street
Northern Cambria, PA 15714

Yellow Cab Greater Johnstown
1301 Frankstown Road
Johnstown, PA 15909

McIlwain School Bus Lines, Inc.
932 Mount Airy Drive
Johnstown, PA 15904

Lodestar Bus Lines & Tours
970 Eisenhower Boulevard
Johnstown, PA 15904

McIlwain Charter & Tours, Inc.
1551 Ferndale Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Greyhound Bus Lines
125 West High Street
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Wilkinson Bus Lines, Inc.
140 Industrial Drive
Cresson, PA 16630

Wilkinson Petroleum Supply, Inc.
7503 Admiral Peary Highway
Cresson, PA 16630

Johnstown Cambria County
Airport
479 Airport Road
Johnstown, PA 15904

Med-Van Transport
1311 Philadelphia Avenue
Northern Cambria, PA 15714

C.C. Area Agency on Aging
Central Park Complex, Suite 400
Johnstown, PA 15901

Cambria Co. Transit Authority
1226 N. Center Street
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Greyhound Bus Lines
126 Clinton Street
Johnstown, PA 15901

RAILROAD SYSTEMS

AMTRAK
47 Walnut Street
Johnstown, PA 15901

Norfolk Southern Corporation
4600 Deer Path Road
Suite 202
Harrisburg, PA 17110

R. J. Corman Railroad Company/
Pennsylvania Lines, Inc.
P.O. Box 751
Clearfield, PA 16830-0751

CSX Transportation, Inc.
935 7th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701-2313

Conemaugh & Blacklick Railroad
Company
825 Iron Street
Johnstown, PA 15901

Johnstown American Corporation
(JAC)
17 Johns Street
Johnstown, PA 15901

EXHIBIT 2

CAMBRIA COUNTY- JOHNSTOWN MPO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SURVEY

I. Agency Provider Profile

This section of the survey is designed to provide some background information about your business or agency.

1. **Agency Name:** _____ **Contact Person:** _____
Phone Number: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

2. Please check the mode of transportation that you use most frequently in your daily operations or that your clients utilize to access your service.

Car Bus Van Taxi Truck Rail Air Multi-Modes

3. Is your business/agency familiar with the transportation planning process that is carried out by the Johnstown Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)? This process involves the prioritizing and scheduling of highway, bridge, and mass transit programs and projects in Cambria County.

Yes No

II. Transportation Network Assessment

This section of the survey is designed to assess your agency's opinions on the existing transportation system serving Cambria County.

4. Which of the following highways are most important to your business and/or to the clientele that you serve?

U.S. Route 219 U.S. Route 22 U.S. Route 422 PA Route 271

PA Route 56 PA Route 403 PA Route 53 PA Route 36

Other Important Highways: _____

5. Of the following transportation system issues, which do you consider as having the greatest impact on your business and/or your clients?

Highway Maintenance Mobility and Access Street Lighting Dedicated Crosswalks

Public Safety Signage Traffic Signalization Handicapped Accessibility

Other Important Issues: _____

(Continued on Back)

III. Transportation System Improvements

The following responses are designed to address present and future transportation needs and improvements to the local transportation system.

6. Presented below is a listing of the kinds of transportation improvement projects that can be scheduled in Cambria County.

Please indicate the most important to your business/agency and its clientele base.

- Maintenance and repairs to local streets and roads
- Maintenance and repairs to Federal and State roads
- Widening and drainage improvements that improve safety
- Upgraded signalization and lighting at key interchanges and intersections
- Repair and/or the replacement of local and state bridges
- Improved lighting and sidewalks along local streets
- Improvements to at-grade railroad crossings, warning signals and lighting
- Reduced traffic congestion at key interchanges and intersections
- Other Transportation Improvements: _____

7. Would your business/agency like to be kept informed and be given the opportunity to provide input about future transportation programs and projects in Cambria County?

Yes

No

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS SURVEY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

THANK YOU!

SURVEY SUMMATION

I. Agency Provider Profile

1. Background Information

Transportation agency background profiles were developed for the 20 agencies/organizations that responded to the survey. The 40% response rate provides for a valid statistical tabulation of the transportation survey results. The named agencies listed below also provided a phone number, contact person, and e-mail address and will subsequently be added to the Johnstown MPO's public participation outreach mailing list: (See Appendix.)

Truck Freight Shippers and Haulers

- Samuel D. Brink Trucking, Inc.
- Dunlo Transfer Company
- East Hills Enterprises
- ELT Inc.
- John Hruska Trucking Inc.
- Sleek Trucking
- Synergistiks Inc.
- Wright Motor Lines Inc.
- Ritchey Transport
- Advantage Tank Lines

Public and Private Transportation Carriers

- Health Ride Plus
- McIlwain Charters and Tours, Inc.
- Wilkinson Bus Lines, Inc.
- Wilkinson Petroleum Supply, Inc.
- Johnstown Cambria County Airport
- Med-Van Transport
- Cambria County Area Agency on Aging

Railroad Systems

- AMTRAK
- R. J. Corman Railroad Company
- CSX Transportation, Inc.

2. Mode of Transportation

The modes of transportation most frequently used by the agency or its clients to access services were as follows:

<u>Transportation Mode</u>	<u>No. of Responses</u>	<u>Percent of Total Responses</u>
Car	4	16%
Bus	2	8%
Van	4	16%
Taxi	0	0%
Truck	11	44%
Rail	2	8%
Air	1	4%
Multi-Modes	<u>1</u>	<u>4%</u>
Total Responses	25	100%

3. Familiarity with Johnstown MPO

The MPO transportation planning process involves the prioritizing and scheduling of highway, bridge, and mass transit programs and projects in Cambria County. Sixteen (16) agencies or 80% were not familiar with MPO activities while four (4) or 20% were.

II. Transportation Network Assessment

This section of the survey was designed to assess the responding agency's opinion of the existing major highway systems serving Cambria County.

4. Most Important Highways

The highways that were most important to the agency and the clients that they serve were tabulated as follows:

<u>Highways</u>	<u>No. of Responses</u>	<u>Percent of Total Responses</u>
U.S. Route 219	15	22%
U.S. Route 22	13	19%
PA Route 56	9	13%
PA Route 403	7	10%
PA Route 271	6	9%
U.S. Route 422	8	11%
PA Route 53	6	9%
PA Route 36	<u>5</u>	<u>7%</u>
Total Responses	69	100%

Other Important Highways: Two (2) Responses

- PA Turnpike East and West
- U.S. Route 219 North/South as Four (4) Lane

5. Transportation System Issues

The following transportation system issues were considered as having the greatest impact on the responding agencies and their clients.

<u>Transportation Issue</u>	<u>No. of Responses</u>	<u>Percent of Total Responses</u>
Mobility and Access	5	13%
Handicapped Accessibility	0	0%
Highway Maintenance	17	44%
Public Safety	7	18%
Dedicated Crosswalks	1	2%
Signage	4	10%
Street Lighting	2	5%
Traffic Signalization	<u>3</u>	<u>8%</u>
Total Responses	39	100%

Other Transportation Issues: One (1) Response

- New Roadways, i.e, U.S. Route 219 and I-99

III. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The following responses are designed to address present and future transportation needs and improvements to the local transportation system.

6. Needs and Improvements

The kinds of transportation improvement projects that were most important to agencies and their clientele base are recorded below.

<u>Transportation Improvement</u>	<u>No. of Responses</u>	<u>Percent of Total Responses</u>
Maintenance and Repairs to Local Streets And Roads	8	22%
Improved Lighting and Sidewalks along Local Streets	0	0%
Maintenance and Repairs to Federal and State Roads	14	38%
Reduce Traffic Congestion at Key Interchanges/Intersections	4	11%
Repair and/or Replacement of Local and State Bridges	3	8%
Widening and Drainage Improvements that Improve Safety	2	5%
Upgraded Signalization/Lighting at Key Interchanges/Intersections	2	5%
Improvements to At-Grade Railroad Crossing (Signals and Lighting)	<u>4</u>	<u>11%</u>
Total Responses	37	100%

Other Transportation Improvements: Two (2) Responses

- More federal/state money for railroads
- The extension of U.S. Route 219 North and South

7. Question Number 7 was designed to determine if the survey respondents acting on behalf of the population groups that they serve would like to be kept updated and informed about future MPO transportation programs and projects. Nineteen agencies or 95% of those responding would like to be kept advised of future MPO transportation planning activities.

SURVEY CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the Transportation Planning Survey was well received by the representative sample of truck freight shippers and haulers, public and private transportation carriers, and railroad facilities. The 20 businesses and agencies that responded to the survey provided tangible input into the Johnstown MPO's expanded program to engage the public in transportation planning. The survey findings will help guide the MPO in its on-going efforts to schedule transportation projects and programs that are responsive to the needs of all transportation providers and users. Presented below are some definable conclusions resulting from the survey.

Question 1: Background Information

The 20 survey respondents provided some key background information about their respective organizations. This included the business name, contact person, phone number, and e-mail address. This information will be incorporated into the MPO's contact address listing for public participation. The 40% response rate shows that 4 out of 10 agencies surveyed were interested in the transportation system that serves Cambria County.

Question 2: Mode of Transportation

The most frequently used mode of transportation for the organizations responding was the truck (11 responses or 44%), followed by the car and van, each with 4 responses or 16%. The bus (2 surveys) and railroad (2 surveys) each represented 8% of the total responses. Air and multi-modes forms of transportation were only utilized by two (2) survey respondents, each representing 4% of the total. There were 25 responses to the mode of transportation question, 19 of them or 76% utilized the truck, car, or van most often.

Question 3: Familiarity with Johnstown MPO

Question No. 3 wanted to know how many of the organizations surveyed were familiar with the transportation planning activities being carried out by the Johnstown MPO. The majority of respondents (16 or 80%) of the total returned indicated that they had no knowledge of the Johnstown MPO and its activities.

Question 4: Most Important Highways

This survey question was concerned with identifying the major highways in Cambria County that were most important to the agency's daily operations and the clients that they serve. The eight (8) major highways listed received a total of 69 responses. The most important highway was U.S. Route 219 with 15 responses or 22% of the total. U.S. Route 22 tallied 13 responses and represented 19% of the total for all highways. PA Route 56 (9 responses or 13%) and U.S. Route 422 (8 responses or 11%) were the third and fourth most important survey responses. In combination, U.S. 219, U.S. 22, PA 56, and U.S. 422 totaled 45 responses, which represented 65% of the total.

Question 5: Transportation System Issues

The fifth survey question was designed to gather information on the transportation issues and concerns that have the greatest impact on each organization and their respective customer base. Highway Maintenance (17 responses or 44%) was the number one concern of the respondents. Public Safety (7 responses or 18%) and Mobility and Access (5 responses or 13%) were the second and third most important transportation issues tabulated. Highway Maintenance, Public Safety, and Mobility/Access in combination represented 75% of the total responses.

Question 6: Needs and Improvements

The next to last survey question wanted to know what kinds of transportation improvement projects were most important to the businesses/agencies surveyed. A total of 37 responses were tabulated for the eight (8) pre-selected transportation improvements. Fourteen or 38% of the responses were for the continued maintenance and repairs to federal and state roads. The second most-requested improvement was for maintenance and repairs to local streets and roads (8 responses or 22%), followed by the reduced traffic congestion at key interchanges and intersections and improvements to at-grade railroad crossings with four (4) or 11% each.

Question 7: Agency Participation

The final survey question asked each business or agency if they wanted to be kept informed and receive information concerning the Johnstown MPO's future transportation planning programs and projects. The overwhelming majority (19 respondents or 95%) wanted to be kept informed of planning activities and will be added to the MPO's outreach contact mailing list. (See Appendix.)

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

JOHNSTOWN MPO – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN CONTACT OUTREACH LISTING

Truck Freight Shippers and Haulers

- Samuel D. Brink Trucking, Inc.
- Dunlo Transfer Company
- East Hills Enterprises
- ELT Inc.
- John Hruska Trucking Inc.
- Sleek Trucking
- Synergistiks Inc.
- Wright Motor Lines inc.
- Ritchey Transport
- Advantage Tank Lines

Public and Private Transportation Carriers

- Health Ride Plus
- McIlwain Charters of Tours, Inc.
- Wilkinson bus Lines, Inc.
- Wilkinson Petroleum Supply, Inc.
- Johnstown Cambria County Airport
- Med-Van Transport
- Cambria County Area Agency on Aging

Railroad Systems

- AMTRAK
- R.J. Corman Railroad Company
- CSX Transportation, Inc.

Minority and Low Income

- Birthright of Johnstown, Inc.
- Goodwill Industries of the Conemaugh Valley, Inc.
- Southern Alleghenies Legal Aid, Inc.
- Conemaugh Home Health
- New Choices/New Options

Elderly

- Cambria County Area on Aging
- Senior Community Services Employment Program

Disabled

- Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped
- Cambria County Veterans Services
- Easter Seal Society of Western Pennsylvania
- Cambria County mental health Program
- Hiram G. Andrews Center
- Cambria County Multiple Sclerosis Society
- CERMUSA at Saint Francis College

Limited English Proficient

- Community Action Partnership of Cambria County
- Salvation Army