

## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

The purpose of this update is two-fold: (1) address statutory planning and programming requirements for SAFETEA-LU compliance; and (2) extend our current long range transportation plan by 5 years to be consistent with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission transportation plan (Pittsburgh MPO).

### Statutory Requirements

In order for the Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan to be consistent with the latest federal legislation regarding future transportation development (SAFETEA-LU), the following federal requirements must be addressed:

- Metropolitan transportation plans must be updated at least every 4 years in air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas, and every 5 years in attainment areas;
- Each year the MPO must review the existing process for the development of an **annual listing of transportation projects**. This list must specifically include bicycle/pedestrian projects for which federal funds were obligated;
- Metropolitan transportation plans must **adjust the Transportation Planning Factors** by making the "safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users," and the "security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users" as new stand-alone factors;
- Metropolitan transportation plans must **promote consistency** between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- Metropolitan transportation plans must review and **reaffirm fiscal constraint** on all plans and programs to be included in the current plan update;
- Metropolitan transportation plans must include a narrative on the types of potential **environmental mitigation** activities to be developed in consultation with federal and state wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies;

- Metropolitan planning organizations must **consult with state and local agencies** responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation in developing long range transportation plans;
- Metropolitan transportation plans will need updating for **air quality conformity** every 4 years instead of 3 years as previously required;
- Metropolitan transportation plans must address the **coordination of Public Transit** - Human Services Transportation Planning;
- Metropolitan transportation plans must include operational and management strategies to improve the **performance of existing transportation facilities** including the Congestion Management Process;
- Metropolitan planning organizations must **develop and utilize a participation plan** that provides reasonable opportunities for interested parties to comment on the content of transportation plans and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs);
- Metropolitan planning organizations must publish or otherwise **make available for public review** transportation plans and TIPs including electronically-accessible formats such as the World Wide Web (www); and
- Metropolitan planning organizations must utilize **visualization techniques** to depict metropolitan transportation plans.

### Regional Consistency

Due to the issuance of stronger federal air pollution regulations (PM 2.5), the Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan must be made consistent with our adjacent Pittsburgh MPO (Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission). Cambria County, along with portions of adjacent Indiana County, have now been designated as non-attainment areas for the annual standard of Particulate Matter (PM 2.5). Since Indiana County is part of the Pittsburgh MPO, Cambria County must now coordinate its long range transportation planning efforts, including the PM 2.5 air quality testing and public involvement activities, with the Pittsburgh MPO. The reason for Cambria County's non-attainment of air quality standards is in large part due to the large coal-fired electric generation stations located in adjacent Indiana

County. Therefore, to be consistent with the Pittsburgh MPO, the Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan must be extended to the year 2040.

Extending the Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan five (5) years to 2040 will be based on the currently adopted 2011-2014 TIP and the 2011-2022 Twelve Year Plan (TYP). During this time period (2011-2040), no new transportation projects will be added to the long range plan. Therefore, no further Air Quality Conformity testing will be required for this plan update.

#### Plan Update Components

This update of the Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan is composed of three (3) major components. These components include a narrative describing the **SAFETEA-LU compliance plan**, as previously outlined under Statutory Requirements in this Introduction; a narrative reviewing the **existing and future conditions** found in Cambria County, including population trends, employment, economic base, and anticipated growth areas; and a detailed narrative reviewing the proposed **Surface Transportation Plan**, which includes a review of the various transportation systems, financial plan, future costs, and project listings.