

HUNTINGDON COUNTY ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 29, 2025

Committee Members: Matt Price, George Conrad, Matt Bjorkman, Nathan Query, Alisha Grove

Stakeholders, visitors, and ex-officio members: Laurie Nearhood, James Campbell, Brian Wiser, Jeff McCauley, Commissioner Patrick Reeder

Review and Action on May 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Matt Price called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. A motion to approve the June 27, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Alisha Grove and seconded by George Conrad. The motion carried.

9/11 Trail/Main Line Canal Greenway Subcommittee Report:

Matt Price mentioned that there was no new action on Segment 13. Matt will reach out to Northeast Track Solutions to begin moving work on that segment along. Nathan discussed his continued attempts to get in touch with Benjamin Ramsey. Nathan mentioned that several years ago Mr. Ramsey was approached about putting the Mapleton Trail through the property and he was against it. Nathan wants to be careful to not be overbearing in his attempts to contact him. Alicia Grove mentioned that the negotiations for Segment 19 are still ongoing and she will update the Committee when there is more information.

Outreach and Education Subcommittee Report:

Matt Bjorkman updated the Committee on the Bedford County Trail Coordinator position. Bedford County is in the hiring process to bring on a full-time Trails Coordinator. It is expected that the position will be filled by the end of the year. Matt Bjorkman mentioned that the Saxton Trail Connectivity Study is in its final draft form. SAP&DC and Bedford County are pleased with the final product of the study. Laurie Nearhood provided the project cost estimates from the study to the Committee. Matt Bjorkman provided the link to the study for the Committee members. Matt Price gave a brief description of the potential routes through Saxton that will connect in to Huntingdon County. He mentioned that the most ambitious route will be creating a bridge across the southern end of Raystown Lake near the VFW softball fields in Stonerstown. George Conrad asked about the SAP&DC trail counters that are located throughout the Southern Alleghenies region. Matt Bjorkman responded saying that they are in the process of bringing them in for maintenance and will look for new locations to put them since their initial deployment in 2018-2019. Matt will ask the Committee for recommendations for deployment locations.

Lifeways Subcommittee Report:

Matt Price said that the Dollar General in Broad Top City is now open for business. Laurie Nearhood said the engineers were submitting their plans to Warriors Mark Township for the proposed Dollar General. Warriors Mark has a new engineering company and the coordination effort has slowed the project, slightly. Matt Price discussed the importance of Dollar General stores and DG Market stores in rural areas. He said that they are locations where residents can purchase essential grocery needs, making them a lifeways destination in the community. The plans would then go to

the County for review. Jeff McCauley asked Matt Price if there has been any success in contacting representatives for Norfolk Southern. Matt said he has not had any recent contact, but he will reach back out to discuss land usage for Segment 13.

Trail Network Connections Subcommittee Report:

Matt Price discussed the dedication for the newly resurfaced Mount Union Riverwalk on September 11, 2025. The project was funded through the Visitors Bureau's Trail Maintenance Fund.

Commissioner Reeder mentioned that Mount Union is in the process of finalizing rules for camping along the Riverwalk and in Riverside Park. George informed the Committee that DCNR has hired an Education Outreach Specialist. George is going to meet with them in the coming weeks to discuss the happenings in the County. George also received notification that Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps is looking for projects to do in 2026. They will be gathering information this fall for these projects, but are also looking for other input. George thinks the new hire at DCNR and the PA Outdoor Corps does provide some potential to move some projects forward that have yet to come to fruition. Matt Price gave an update on the Rothrock Trail Alliance projects. Phase 1 in Musser's Gap has been completed, and Phase 2 towards Whipple Dam is in development. When completed, this project will provide a connection between Rothrock State Forest and Centre County.

Other Business:

Matt Price shared that for the last year there has not been a scout group in the Mount Union area. A scouting version of Canal Area Day is being held on September 6, 2025. It is the hopes that this event will help facilitate the creation of a scouting group in the Mount Union area. Blair County just instituted their Trail Authority, so there may be an opportunity to share experiences with Huntingdon County.

Matt Price discussed the planning efforts under way for the 250th Anniversary of America. Matt said he brought up an idea to the Ultramarathoners about the possibility of creating a "challenge" centered around the event. He mentioned Huntingdon has an ~130 mile arc of trails, which is almost 250 kilometers. He said Huntingdon has the opportunity to hold a 250 kilometer or 250 mile challenge to residents. The challenge will get people out using the the outdoor amenities whether it be running, hiking, biking, paddling on water trails, etc. The Committee will brainstorm different kinds of "250 Challenges" that can be organized.

George Conrad brought up that the Committee should start thinking about membership, with some members having expiring terms at the end of the year. At the end of the term new or repeat members will need to be appointed/reappointed by the County Commissioners.

The next ATC meeting will be September 26, 2025. With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned.