

**HUNTINGDON COUNTY ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 25, 2025

Committee Members: Matt Price, George Conrad, Matt Bjorkman, Laura White, Nathan Querry, Judy Scott, Jane Sheffield, Alisha Grove, Debra Clark.

Stakeholders, visitors, and ex-officio members: Commissioner Patrick Reeder, Laurie Nearhood (Ex-Officio), James Campbell, Brian Wiser (Ex-Officio), James Lettiere (Mifflin County).

Review and Action on March 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Matt Price called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. No corrections to the meeting minutes were made. A motion to approve the March 28, 2025 meeting minutes was made by George Conrad and seconded by Jane Sheffield. The motion carried.

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

Judy Scott provided updates on segment 1. Work is being done to finalize details before approaching Acco Brands about the segment. Acco is currently the only stakeholder that still needs to be approached, but the subcommittee is preparing a comprehensive proposal with specific details for Acco. Judy stated that Rails to Trails of Central Pennsylvania have offered to become the governing body of the trail, taking on ownership and the responsibility of maintenance. The connection of segment 1 to segment 2 was discussed. Judy mentioned that Alexandria Borough Main Street improvements along segment 2 and that bike users will be directed to Canal Street. To date, no design for the segment 1 trail has been completed. Nathan Querry did not have any major updates for segment 17. He plans to attend the May Mapleton Borough meeting to discuss the segment. Alisha Grove had no updates on segment 19. The Committee and Mifflin County Planning Director Jim Lettiere discussed a potential trailhead for segment 19. Jim mentioned that there is currently no committee in Mifflin County for trail projects, but he is hoping the county will form one soon.

Outreach and Education Subcommittee Report:

Jane Sheffield mentioned attempting to work with a consultant to update their Management Action Plan. She mentioned that the Committee will likely be asked to participate in that process and share their wants and needs. The Management Action Plan is being updated with collaboration from DCED and DCNR. The hope is that the plan will result in projects that will be able to utilize grant funding from those agencies for implementation. Matt Bjorkman talked to Jen Marsh from BCDA about their outdoor and recreation plans. Bedford County is looking to hire a full-time outdoor recreation coordinator. Bedford County is also completing their County-wide Master Connectivity Plan in the summer timeframe. Laurie Nearhood mentioned that Huntingdon County Planning Commission submitted a letter of support to SAP&DC for their DCED application to

update their six-county Greenways Plan. Jane Sheffield stated that Blair County has announced that a trail authority will be created and housed under the ABCD Corporation. Jane has been asked to participate in the authority.

Lifeways Subcommittee Report:

Matt Price mentioned he received word of a plan to build a new Dollar General in Cassville. Laurie Nearhood noted nothing had been submitted to the County Planning Department. Judy Scott said Dollar General reached out to a landowner about some farm land between Alexandria and Petersburg to potentially build a store.

Trail Network Connections Subcommittee Report:

Matt Bjorkman provided a brief update on the Saxton Trail Connectivity Study. He mentioned that the public outreach phase is almost complete and that a Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for mid-May. The project is estimated to be completed in July or August of this year. Matt Price said that the construction of Phase 1 for the Rothrock Trail Alliance project in Musser Gap is almost complete. A contractor has been selected for Phase 2 of the project.

Recreation and Trails Authority:

Matt Price asked Jim Lettiere if the Mifflin County Commissioners would be interested in potentially forming a multi-county authority. Jim stated he would need to know more about the idea before presenting it to the Commissioners. Matt Price mentioned that there appears to be a directive within the Department of Defense (DoD) to make plans for the privatization of recreation facilities. A potential option is forming an authority that could take on the management of the current Army Corp properties. These facilities could serve as a revenue source for other trail and recreation projects. There is no official strategy from the DoD as it is still in the planning phase. If an authority was formed, the hope is that it would be focused on trail corridors, and house and manage grant funds. There is also potential for the authority to have increased responsibilities including, but not limited to, corridor ownership. Members of the authority would have governing documents with members appointed by Commissioners. Staffing may be needed based on the responsibilities of the authority. Funding for staffing could come from grant sources. Laura White volunteered to request the founding document for the York County Authority to provide a basis for what an authority in Huntingdon County would look like.

Other Business:

Laurie Nearhood mentioned an email she received from LTAP that contained a statewide survey about transportation needs. Laurie submitted a survey and said she will send the link to committee members. James Campbell provided a quick update on the EBT projects heading south.