Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
2013 Annual Report

TCRPC
Serving Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties
We are pleased to present you with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Annual Report for 2013. This report is provided as a service to the citizens of Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties and to the general public at large.

It is also aimed at updating our county commissioners and planning commission members on our activities and accomplishments during the past year.

TCRPC has worked tirelessly in 2013 to fulfill its mission of fostering the “long-term livability and vitality of our communities, counties and region.” The commission staff has undertaken multiple, high-profile projects aimed at making the region a better place to live, work and play.

This year saw a first-of-its kind, all-electronic Origin-Destination Study conducted to give planners better information on how people travel around and through the region. Transportation planners also delved into a bicycle/pedestrian study, as well as taking a closer look at possible improvements to the bridges that connect Harrisburg with the West Shore over the Susquehanna River.

Our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department is also breaking new ground. Map making has expanded to include colorful visualizations illustrating trends in population, income levels and access to food across the region. These maps are now all available online through the new GIS section of the TCRPC website (http://www.tcrpc-pa.org/GIS/Pages/default.aspx).

The commission is also looking into emerging issues that are likely to have an impact on the region. These include examining how communities can provide facilities and services for a growing population of older adults, determining how to address increasing poverty in the suburbs, and looking carefully at our region’s food supply.

We have increased our communications and outreach efforts this year, growing our social media presence and creating a redesigned website to share information with the public. Stories about the projects undertaken by TCRPC staff have appeared in numerous newspaper and news website articles and in TV and radio reports throughout the year.

Staff members are also making more frequent presentations on various topics to interested groups across the region, and the commission is working to be a better resource for its municipalities through its Local Planning Assistance program.

2013 has been a year of action and excitement for the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. It is our goal to continue to grow as a vital player in helping build a better future for Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties.

Chairman’s Message

Paul D. Clark
Chairman, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
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Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) strives to improve the quality of life in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties by working with communities, elected leaders and planning partners. TCRPC leads regional planning and transportation planning programs while providing support for the Dauphin County Planning Commission and Perry County Planning Commission.

Deteriorating roads and bridges, increased traffic congestion, rapidly dispersed development, flooding and drainage concerns and increasing demand for public recreation facilities are some examples of issues that transcend community and county boundaries. TCRPC works on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive regional planning effort to address these and many other issues.

TCRPC serves 103 municipalities in the region and also provides planning and administrative support services to the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS). HATS is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Tri-County Region. It has the responsibility to ensure the transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with federal and state regulations while the HATS Coordinating Committee takes official action about the use of federal funds for transportation system improvements.

TCRPC has prepared a Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP) that serves as a guide for our work. Through the RGMP we promote growth and revitalization in our communities by supporting programs integrating transportation, land use, economic development, natural resource protection and other factors. TCRPC prepares recommendations to counties and municipalities for various measures to implement the RGMP, which may include capital improvement programming, zoning, subdivision and land development and other planning practices which may be appropriate.

Through implementation of the RGMP, trends relevant to the future development of the region are identified that could have an impact on the quality of life in the three counties we serve. These issues include “Aging in Place,” which examines how we serve an ever-growing segment of older adults with the housing, transportation and community services they need. “Access to Food” is another emerging issue where land use, environmental protection and economic growth intertwine. Additionally, “Suburban Poverty” is a growing issue nationally. Our region reflects similar suburban trends with median income decreasing and the percentage of families in poverty increasing over the last decade.

Our planners have developed an online planning toolkit, which includes best practices to address issues involving building stock, cultural resources, infrastructure, land development, open spaces and transportation. The toolkit is continually updated and is available at TCRPC’s website: www.tcrpc-pa.org

Guiding TCRPC’s work is a 31-member board appointed by municipal and county elected officials. As detailed in the commission’s bylaws, 13 members represent municipalities through geographically assigned Plan Development Sections. Twelve members represent county planning commissions. One county commissioner from Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties and one at-large member from each county also serve on the board.

TCRPC meets regional needs with a small staff of 13 who provide technical expertise, educational and training opportunities and support in a spirit of collaboration.

Details of the Dauphin County Planning Commission, Perry County Planning Commission and Harrisburg Area Transportation Study program activities, which TCRPC staff also supports, can be found in their respective Annual Reports.
Planning Staff

Timothy P. Reardon, AICP
Executive Director

Diane M. Myers-Krug, AICP
Associate Director

Leah Pearlman-Storch, AICP
Dauphin County Planner

Jason R. Finnerty
Perry County Planning Coordinator

Janine M. Park
County Planner (through Dec., 2013)

Timothy J. Smith
Transportation Planning Coordinator

Jamie C. Lemon
Transportation Planner

Elijah Yearick
Transportation Planner (hired April, 2013)

Michael D. Kmiecinski
Transportation Planner (through Jan., 2013)

Will Soper
Regional Planner (through Dec., 2013)

Craig Layne
Communications Coordinator (hired Sept., 2013)

Beth Kanagy
Communications Coordinator (through May, 2013)

Timothy R. Jones
HPMS Coordinator/GIS Technician

Stephen Cline
GIS Planner (hired April, 2013)

Eliz Akaeva
CDBG Planning Coordinator (through May, 2013)

Patty L. Buggy
HR/Finance Assistant

Donna L. Clay
Administrative Assistant

Justin Cappiello
Intern

Carl Feldman
Intern

Back Row (Left to Right): Tim Reardon, Diane Myers-Krug, Patty Buggy, Justin Cappiello, Tim Jones, Steve Cline, Jason Finnerty, Tim Smith. Front Row (Left to Right): Craig Layne, Leah Pearlman-Storch, Elijah Yearick, Jamie Lemon, Donna Clay
2013 Commission Membership

**Chairman:** Paul D. Clark
**Vice Chairman:** Chris Knarr, AICP
**Secretary:** Dan Tunnell
**Treasurer:** James Turner, Esq.

Cumberland County Board of Commissioners:
  *Commissioner’s Alternate:

Dauphin County Board of Commissioners:
  *Commissioner’s Alternate:

Perry County Board of Commissioners:

Cumberland County Planning Commission:

Cumberland County Planning Commission:

Dauphin County Planning Commission:

Dauphin County Planning Commission:

Dauphin County Planning Commission:

Perry County Planning Commission:

Perry County Planning Commission:

Perry County Planning Commission:

Cumberland County Member-at-Large:

Dauphin County Member-at-Large:

Perry County Member-at-Large:

Cumberland East Plan Development Section:

Cumberland East Plan Development Section:

Cumberland Central Plan Development Section:

Cumberland West Plan Development Section:

Dauphin Southwest Plan Development Section:

Dauphin Southwest Plan Development Section:

Dauphin Southeast Plan Development Section:

Dauphin North Plan Development Section:

Perry Northeast Plan Development Section:

Perry West Plan Development Section:

Perry Southeast Plan Development Section:

Harrisburg City Plan Development Section:

Harrisburg City Plan Development Section:

**See Plan Development Sections on Opposite Page Map**

Jim Hertzler
Kirk Stoner, AICP
Mike Pries
August “Skip” Memmi
Stephen C. Naylor
Vacant
Rick Trynoski
Bruce Rosendale
Gary Lenker
John Kerschner, AICP
Dan Tunnell
Harry Stambaugh
Tom Graupensperger
Robert Shaffer
Al Bienstock
Fred Lighty, Esq.
Richard Stees
Dan Flint
Scott Wyland, Esq.
Philip Kehoe (Resigned 10/12)
Brian O’Neill (Appointed 1/13)
Brian L. Garman, Jr.
E. Denny Beaver
William Hawk
Michael Spivey
Ron Umholtz
Robert Sharar
Tom Bell
Robert Rhoades
Jack A. Robinson
Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP) Implementation

The core function of the Regional Planning Commission is to prepare and implement a regional comprehensive plan by working closely with all units of government within the Tri-County Region. TCRPC staff accomplishes this function in the development of the Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP) and in the ongoing activities of our work program to achieve the RGMP goals and support its policy direction. Two main initiatives are the planning toolkit and the Regional Connections grant program.

The regional planning support program builds upon the message of sustainability (fiscal and environmental) to underscore our connections within the region and with other regions, with emphasis areas defined by the RGMP, ongoing TCRPC representatives’ input, and long-term emerging regional trends and demographic indicators. To that end, TCRPC staff also participates in a variety of regional and statewide committees and task forces, such as the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC), Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership (SRTP), Modern Transit Partnership (MTP), and various PennDOT subcommittees to represent our regional planning interests.

Planning Toolkit

2013 saw the continual development of the toolkit as a product for individuals, municipalities and other planning partners interested in smart growth to learn more about concepts and policies available to build better communities. More than 20 tools were added and the toolkit was migrated to the new website, making it more prominent and easier to use. Additional training continues to be developed in an effort to promote these tools.

Regional Connections

The Regional Connections program was created in 2011 to make funding available for local planning projects to support linkages between land use and transportation activities among our municipalities to create a more sustainable region. Now in its third year, the program has made nearly $300,000 in planning funds available for nine projects. Two projects have been completed and are being implemented at the local level, three projects are nearing completion, and four more are currently in the contracting phase. Planning issues being addressed through these plans include regional bike trails, connections and design, corridor improvement alternatives, joint comprehensive plans, form-based codes and an official map and ordinance. The Regional Connections program has been funded through Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) supplemental planning funds distributed by PennDOT. Funding has been requested for a fourth round of the program.
Education and Training

In order to be effective, TCRPC needs to promote a culture of collaboration and an understanding and appreciation of planning; what it is and isn’t; and how it is used as a tool to meet the needs of the region’s municipalities, individually and collectively. To this end, the regional planning support program sets education and training as its foundation.

During 2013, TCRPC arranged 19 different activities with the purpose of providing training about the basics of planning, its applications, and local tools which can be applied toward achieving the goals of the RGMP. Training topics were based on survey responses to gauge interest and need, as well as input from TCRPC representatives, municipalities, partnering organizations, and professional staff. The programs were attended by 238 people representing nearly 100 different organizations. The topics of greatest interest as reflected by attendance included: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Bicycle Facilities Training, Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) Course in Zoning Administration, Potential Marcellus Shale Community Impacts, Land Use and Transportation Linkages, and Creating an Implementable Comprehensive Plan.

AASHTO Bicycle Facilities Training

On September 26, 2013, TCRPC, in conjunction with the Lebanon, York and Lancaster MPOs, as well as a consortium of public and private sponsors, hosted a training session for the fourth edition of the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.

More than 90 people heard about the importance of bicycle/pedestrian planning from PennDOT District 8-0 Executive Mike Keiser and received hands on training about the guidebook from representatives of Toole Design Group. Toole Design Group was the consultant that authored the guide and has expressed interest in doing a follow-up training session sometime in 2014. Images from the training are below and right.
Communications Update

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is committed to keeping the public, elected leaders, its partners and commission members up to date with the latest information about its activities. In a spirit of transparency, the Commission has worked to increase its public presence and expand its communications efforts in 2013.

TCRPC is mentioned in or has contributed to 33 news articles and reports in 2013. This includes stories in the Patriot-News of Harrisburg, the Carlisle Sentinel, the Central Penn Business Journal, Middletown Press & Journal, Upper Dauphin Sentinel, Perry County Times, Shippensburg News-Chronicle and Mode Magazine. The total also includes three radio stories on WITF, two television stories on WHTM, one on WGAL and one on WPMT. In addition, TCRPC Executive Director Tim Reardon was a guest on WITF’s Radio Smart Talk program on May 13 to discuss transportation issues in the region.

In September, the Commission welcomed Craig Layne to the role of Communications Coordinator. The Cumberland County native comes to TCRPC with six years of experience in broadcast journalism, most recently as WITF’s Morning Edition host. One of Layne’s major goals is to strengthen TCRPC’s relationship with the local media to make the Commission a “go-to” source for information about planning and transportation issues across the region.

2013 saw the launch of a new TCRPC website. It is specifically designed to provide easy-to-use information about the Commission’s work, including meeting dates and information, publications and the education and training event schedule. The site also hosts our Planning Toolkit. It can also be used to quickly convey promotional information about studies or services being offered by the Commission. The Commission’s three annual newsletters are available on the website (paper copies are available in our offices or on request), as are the annual reports for the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study, Dauphin County Planning Commission and Perry County Planning Commission.
Communications Update

The past year has been a time of growth for TCRPC’s social media efforts. The reach of our Facebook page (facebook.com/TriCounty) and our Twitter feed (@TCRPC) grew substantially throughout the year as staff took a more active role in posting information on both sites. We see both of these tools as essential to our communications program going forward. TCRPC also uses Constant Contact for targeted email messages that remind recipients of upcoming events or issues important to the Commission. The same software also allows us to complete online registrations for events. 2013 also saw frequent use of SurveyMonkey as a tool to gather public participation input. The year concluded with a first-of-its kind all-electronic Origin-Destination Study conducted through a specially designed website.

While the Internet offers the ability to spread news about the Commission quickly and efficiently, we also believe in the importance of face-to-face communication. The 2013 Annual Dinner, held in May, welcomed Brad Mallory, PennDOT Executive Deputy Secretary for Administration, as keynote speaker. This was the second year for the Annual Dinner, a well-attended event we intend on holding in 2014 and beyond. Also in 2013, we were proud to be a part of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC’s Business Expo in November. Staff members also worked tirelessly to foster better relationships with our elected officials, planning partners, contractors, vendors and the public at large. Staff traveled to various speaking engagements throughout the year. We also pursued public input for our Cross-River Connections Study during an October open house at the Lemoyne Borough Hall. Staff also accompanied a traveling computer kiosk to several locations throughout the Tri-County Region to interact with the public and gather additional survey results for our Origin-Destination Study in November.
GIS is an important planning tool that provides benefits to TCRPC by supporting regional, county, and local planning and technical projects. This core function allows TCRPC to provide GIS services and technical assistance to planning staff, municipalities, other agencies and outside interests. During 2013, TCRPC continued to enhance the sharing of technology and information collection to insure that pertinent information is readily available to the region’s governments and decision makers.

In 2013, planning and technical staff were responsible for maintaining various GIS datasets used for transportation planning purposes. Continuous updates to the regional land use and subdivision point layers were carried out to reflect developmental changes that occurred in Dauphin and Perry Counties over the past year. Additionally, staff made revisions to the agricultural easements and agricultural securities datasets as needed. The Environmental Resource Application, an internal tool used by planners to assist in determining potential impacts of transportation projects, was enhanced to include more robust, accurate data.

With the advancement of GIS technology, TCRPC has transitioned its GIS to a new software version. All GIS staff and planners now use ESRI’s ArcGIS 10.1. This version includes new tools for analysis and a subscription to ArcGIS Online, ESRI’s platform for publishing web maps. GIS staff has also been developing new web mapping applications that will launch on the TCRPC website in early 2014. To increase our web presence and overhaul our online map designs, new open-source cartography tools have been used to develop regional web-tile maps that are quick to load and interesting to view.

Staff has also launched a weekly internal email of “Friday Facts” where we present different data, graphics, maps, and information related to our planning operations. This is done to keep our planners informed of regional data trends and new technologies. Many times, this includes the creation of visually rich infographics as a tool to better present data. In addition to our in-house GIS efforts, our staff participated in two major GIS outreach and education events. We had the opportunity to present at GIS Day in November at the Harrisburg Area Community College on the topic of web cartography, and we worked with PennDOT on their pilot implementation of “PennShare” which is their implementation of ArcGIS Online for Planning and NEPA.

Below is a list of a few of the notable projects and maps that were undertaken this year:
- Updating Dauphin and Perry SALDO points
- Update Dauphin Ag Easements and Securities
- Update Dauphin Zoning layer
- CAT Title VI maps
- Urban Area Modification for PennDOT
- Geocode CAT Bus Stops
- Enterprise Zones and KOZs maps
- Perry County Comp Plan maps
- Aging in Place infographic
- Affordable Housing infographic for DCAHTF
- Journey to Work Infographic
- Radon web map
- Poverty and Median income bivariate web map
- Municipal Contacts web map
- FFY 2013 - 2016 TIP Maps
Administration

Administration includes activities necessary to execute the Commission Strategic Plan, develop the Commission work program and support its implementation, monitor program progress, prepare and submit required applications and contract documents, fulfill designated regional agency functions, as well as the day-to-day functions of managing the office.

Intergovernmental Reviews

All applicants requesting federal and state grant funds are required to submit their application to a regional clearinghouse for review and comment. This review is to ensure the intended public investments are consistent with the regional goals, policies and direction of our Regional Growth Management Plan, share planning information, and to give opportunity for the public to comment.

Functioning as a designated clearinghouse agency, TCRPC reviewed 48 applications during 2013, totaling nearly $123 million with the majority coming from federal sources ($87 million). The applicants for this funding varied from local governments to private businesses and projects included pollution prevention, community conservation, parks and recreation, water/sewer system improvements, and clean water/drinking water loans.

Affiliate Data Center

As an affiliate to the Pennsylvania State Data Center (SDC), TCRPC has free access to decennial and economic census data, American Community Survey data, US Department of Agriculture publications and data and other specialized publications of the SDC. TCRPC is obligated to disseminate, promote and assist potential data users. During 2013, TCRPC responded to more than 100 data requests from government, business, non-profits and private citizens. As the US Census Bureau continues to publish data, TCRPC will also use it in comprehensive plan updates, assist municipalities in data research, grant applications, transportation planning, and regional planning programs.

Professional Development

TCRPC staff logged 456 hours of training in order to stay current in the field of planning, advance the delivery of our work program, and improve skills to be a resource for the region.
Financial Information

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is committed to the proper and thoughtful use of public and private dollars entrusted to us for the betterment of the region.

The illustrations on the opposite page summarize the finances of TCRPC during 2013, which encompass a total budget of $1,405,142.

Revenues

Federal/State or other contributions to funding make up 48 percent of our revenues. Other contributions are comprised of subdivision and land development fees paid by developers and interest income.

Local county and municipal funds contribute 52 percent of TCRPC’s operating revenues.

Expenditures

The vast majority of the expenditures involve labor expenses directed to program delivery for transportation planning, regional planning and county planning support. The remaining expenditures are other direct costs for operations, facilities and equipment.

Please note “pass-through” funding awarded directly to professional consultants for various planning projects through a competitive selection process is not included above.

Complete details regarding TCRPC programs and expenditures are available in the annual audit report, which is completed by September 30 of each year and in monthly financial statements presented to the Commission.
**Financial Information**

### TCRPC Revenues 2013

- Federal: 32%
- State: 12%
- Local: 52%
- Other: 4%

### TCRPC Expenditures 2013

- Transportation Planning: 51%
- Regional Planning: 23%
- County Planning Support: 18%
- CDBG: 2%
- Special Projects: 5%