

Upper Dauphin and Perry Counties Park and Ride Project
March 20, 2009 Kick-off Meeting

Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
Kick-off Meeting Notes

Attendees

This list of attendees is attached at the end of this document. Nick DiFrancesco, John Kennedy, Sharon Okin, and Dan Walston were invited, but did not attend.

Notes

The meeting started with introductions and then Drew Ames reviewed the scope of work.

- The group discussed the contracting procedures and concluded that the process used to select the consultant for the SRTP (Commuter Services) project could be used for this project.
- Jim Hoffer suggested that the CAT board of directors should be involved in the final approval of the preferred alternative(s).
- Brandy Heilman stated that Commuter Services is willing to perform surveys specific to this project and share data from other surveys they've conducted. Jim Turner suggested windshield surveys of cars parked at existing park & ride lots. Brandy said that Commuter Services staff could do that work.
- A lot of discussion centered on what features make a good park and ride lot. The consensus is that good lighting, security, police patrols, commercial services/amenities, visibility from the road, and an attractive design are important. Care must be taken to balance the maintenance requirements of landscaping with the benefits.
- A lot of discussion concerned who would own and operate the park and ride lot(s) resulting from this project and the possibility of good public/private partnerships and economic development opportunities with the project. Skip Memmi stated that commercial businesses would appreciate some sort of relief from zoning ordinance requirements (for example) if they locate at a park and ride lot.
- The concept of mixing uses (other than commercial establishments at the lots) got a lot of discussion. Many people suggested ways that lots could be located near other attractions and used during the off-peak times. Dennis Sloand stated that park and ride lots built with federal money *may* need to be available full-time. The project team will need to research this issue further.

Next Steps

- The next meeting will be in mid May.
- Drew will research what process TCRPC used to select a consultant for the SRTP contract and follow that same process for this project. **The goal is to have proposals to review by the next meeting.**
- Drew will send scans/copies of the existing studies to the PAC members.
- Steve Naylor recommended that Barry Deaven, the chair of the Perry County Economic Development Corp. be invited to join the project. Drew will invite him.
- Dennis Sloand will see if PennDOT county managers and somebody from their traffic section can join the project PAC.
- County commissioners, county representatives, and TCRPC plan development area representatives will talk with municipal officials and citizens to get an idea of what the problems/needs are regarding park and ride lots in the study area.