

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

The Cambria County Planning Commission (CCPC) maintains an ongoing planning process, necessary for the continued development and implementation of the State Twelve Year Transportation Program (TYP) and Federal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This planning process, consistent with the Johnstown MPO's adopted Public Participation Plan (PPP), provides for the early notification and coordination of required planning activities. Early in the development process, the Planning Commission notifies the County Commissioners, the County's 63 municipal governments, and interested community and economic development agencies of pending State Transportation Commission (STC) public hearings. The municipalities and interested parties are surveyed for needed highway and bridge projects and are requested to identify their transportation need and priorities on the Recommended Highway and Bridge Improvement Forms provided by the Planning Commission. Copies of the most current adopted Twelve Year Program are provided to aid in the selection of their project priorities.

Following this introductory phase, all municipal project requests received are updated in the County's inventory of highway and bridge projects and local priorities noted. Utilizing the County's established prioritizing criteria and point computation sheets for both highways and bridges, an updated listing of recommended priorities is prepared and shared with PennDOT's District 9-0 office, Hollidaysburg, PA. Negotiations and meeting with the Department's Central and District offices are then held until a final draft of the recommended Twelve Year Program and TIP is prepared for voting consideration by the Johnstown MPO. During this development process, the Planning Commission continues its outreach and coordination efforts by notifying municipal and county officials of the region's STC public involvement process, scheduling public testimony, and presenting testimony to the STC.

A chronology of the Planning Commission's efforts in the development of the 2021 Cambria County Transportation Program (2021-2032 Twelve year Program; 2021-2024 TIP) update, as well as the 2021-2045 Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) can be documented as follows:

TIP and TYP Development:

- March-April, 2019: Municipal project requests and priorities for the 2021 Transportation Program update were gathered via the PennDOT Connects process
- April 30, 2019: The Planning Commission met with the Department's District 9-0 staff to review municipal priorities and update the County's priorities. 2021 transportation program update candidate projects were discussed, and Congestion Mitigation – Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects were selected. See the separate CMAQ selection process document for detailed information about the CMAQ selection process.
- June 19, 2019: The Planning Commission staff gave a presentation on the 2021 transportation program update to the Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee

- August 29, 2019: Planning Commission PennDOT Central Office, and PennDOT District 9-0 staff performed visioning field views on 2021 transportation program update candidate projects
- October 10, 2019: The Planning Commission met with PennDOT District 9-0 staff to prioritize and select candidate local bridge projects for the 2021 Transportation Program Update.
- November 13, 2019: The draft 2021-2024 Highway/Bridge and Public Transit TIPs were presented for approval to the Johnstown MPO Technical and Coordinating committees. Approval was unanimous.
- May 22, 2020: The air quality conformity review report encompassing the Cambria County 2021-2045 LRTP, as well as the 2021-2024 TIP and 2021-2032 TYP was completed by consultants working through the PennDOT Central Office.

LRTP Development:

- April 17, 2019: Cambria County Planning Commission, FHWA, PennDOT Central Office and PennDOT District 9-0 staff met to discuss LRTP guidance and requirements.
- July 30, 2019: Cambria County Planning Commission met with PennDOT Central Office and District 9-0 staff to further discuss LRTP guidance and requirements. A schedule and framework for the LRTP update was drafted
- October 30, 2019: A kick-off meeting of the LRTP Steering Committee was held. The plan framework and schedule were reviewed, and a strategy for public involvement was devised.
- November 10, 2019: The Cambria County Planning Commission Executive Director and Transportation Planner recorded an episode of the Alleghenies Ahead Podcast in which the transportation planning process, including the LRTP update, was discussed. The podcast episode was released on all popular streaming platforms in December, 2019, and was promoted on the Planning Commission's website and social media platforms.
- January 15, 2020: Cambria County Planning Commission, PennDOT Central Office, and PennDOT District 9-0 staff held a conference call to discuss the progress of the LRTP.
- January 29, 2020: A Cambria County MPO Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting was held in which the Cambria County Transportation Planner gave a presentation on the progress of the LRTP.

- January – February, 2020: An initial round of public outreach was conducted, the goal of which was to gather input on the needs, goals, objectives, and priorities for the plan. An online survey was conducted which produced over three hundred responses. Additionally, in-person public meetings were held in Patton, PA on February 26, 2020 and in Johnstown, PA on February 27, 2020. A total of approximately fifteen (15) members of the public attended the meetings. All of these public involvement activities were promoted on the Planning Commission’s website and social media pages, as well as through email and via a notice in the Johnstown Tribune Democrat newspaper.
- March 4, 2020: A meeting of the LRTP Steering Committee was held. Discussion included goals and objectives for the plan, as well as a review of the public input received.
- March – April, 2020: Updates to the narrative sections of the LRTP, as well as the financial plan and project list were completed by Cambria County Planning Commission staff.
- April 29, 2020: Cambria County Planning Commission, PennDOT Central Office, PennDOT District 9-0, and FHWA staff held a conference call to discuss the progress of the LRTP, and final steps toward completing the plan update.
- April 30, 2020: The draft 2021-2045 LRTP project list and financial plan tables were forwarded to FHWA and PennDOT Central Office for review as well as air quality conformity analysis.
- May 5, 2020: An initial draft of the LRTP is made available for review by PennDOT, FHWA, and the Agency Coordination Committee members.
- May 27, 2020: Cambria County Planning Commission staff present the 2021 LRTP update and environmental analysis at the Agency Coordination Meeting (ACM).

LRTP, TIP, and TYP Public Review and Approval:

- May 22 – June 24, 2020: A draft of the 2021-2045 LRTP update, 2021 Transportation Program update draft, and related documents are made available for public review and comments. Copies of the TIP documents are posted on the Planning Commission’s website. Letters and emails are sent to interested parties identified in the Cambria County MPO’s Public Participation Plan, and a notice is placed in the Johnstown Tribune Democrat indicating the public comment period dates, and date of the public meeting, as well as instructions on how to obtain the program update documents for review, how to provide comments, and how to participate in the public meeting.
- June 3, 2020: A public meeting to review the 2021 LRTP update and 2021 Transportation Program Update documents and receive public input about the TIP will be held online and via conference call. Members of the public are invited to contact the Cambria

County Planning Commission to receive instructions on how to participate in the meeting.

- June, 2020: All FHWA, PennDOT, ACM, and public comments are incorporated into the draft LRTP.
- June 24, 2020: The Cambria County MPO Technical and Coordinating Committees votes on approval of the 2021-2045 Cambria County Long Range Transportation Plan, 2021-2024 Highway and Bridge TIP, Public Transit TIP and related documents.