Background Information

Lebanon County Comprehensive Plan and Lebanon County MPO LRTP focus on:
1. Fostering distinctive areas with a strong sense of place
2. Directing development toward existing communities and where adequate infrastructure already exists
3. Preserving open space, farmland, natural beauty, critical environmental features and cultural/historic places
4. Providing a variety of transportation choices over time
5. Encouraging community and stakeholder collaboration and involvement from the general public
6. Making development decisions predictable and fair
7. Coordinating land use and transportation decision-making early on
Lebanon County Challenges

- Revitalizing our existing communities
- Preserving open space, agricultural, natural and cultural/historic resources
- Accommodating growth and development/redevelopment where sustainable and appropriate
- Creating more jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits
- Maintaining the transportation system and keeping our key transportation corridors operating safely and efficiently
Lebanon County Planning Department

- Handle subdivision and land development reviews and approvals for most municipalities in Lebanon County
- Manage on-lot sewage enforcement for most municipalities in Lebanon County
- Do zoning enforcement and residential building code enforcement
- Involved in meeting MS4 requirements and securing NPDES permits
- Is the staff agency for the LEOCO MPO
Lebanon County MPO

- Have been an MPO since 2003
- Limited staff
- Small “budgets” for planning and project development ... by comparison the LEBCO MPO gets about $230,000 annually for planning; the Lancaster MPO gets nearly $770,000; we get about $11.0 million each FFY for road/bridge projects; the Lancaster MPO gets around $54.3 million
- Excellent working relationships with PennDOT, DCNR, PHMC, etc.
“Presently 75% of the population lies within 3 miles of US Route 422, and by 2040 we want that density to increase to 90% along that corridor and the PA Route 72 corridor to better support transit, low cost roadway & traffic signal enhancements and bike/ped initiatives and to continue to preserve/protect our culture and heritage.”
Overview
Corridors of Concern
LRTP Projects

- 2015 – 2040 LRTP only contains three capacity adding projects – completion of the half interchange between I-78 and US Route 22 in Bethel Township, building a new full interchange at the intersection of I-78 and US Rt. 72 in Union Township and widen to two lanes a Norfolk Southern Railroad underpass in N. Lebanon Township.

- 2015 – 2040 LRTP focuses on road and bridge maintenance, low cost safety and operational improvements, transit system enhancements and rail-trail and on-road bike/ped improvements.
Prime Ag Soils
Ag Security Areas/Preserved Farms
High Quality Streams
Natural Habitat Areas
Municipal Parks, and State Forest/Game Lands
Exploratory Meeting with PHMC’s Bureau of Historic Preservation

- September 6, 2012 meeting with PHMC staff to discuss our strengths and weaknesses and how they might assist us.
- The staff (Andrea MacDonald, Bryan Van Sweden, and others) gave us an excellent overview of the data they have and how it could be shared with us, via the CRGIS and their cooperative agreement for data sharing.
- They helped us to put a focus on our agricultural landscapes.
- They provided much needed site specific information for two new 100% developer-funded projects that were advancing at the time.
- And they were willing to spend a half day with us in the future to showcase their data and data sharing tools with the municipalities in Lebanon County.
- They agreed to do a comprehensive investigation of the critical resources along our six corridors of concern.
March 20, 2013 PHMC Meeting with Lebanon County Municipalities

Met for 3.5 hours, including a working lunch to:
1. Receive a presentation from PHMC staff on the CRGIS
2. Have a Q & A session with the PHMC staff
3. Hear an update on the MPO’s upcoming planning and programming initiatives
4. Obtain candidate projects for the next LRTP/TIP update
5. Conduct a breakout session to identify resources of local importance ... unique businesses, rural view sheds, potentially historic barns and farmsteads, architecturally-significant buildings, old mills, etc.
6. Reach agreement on “next steps” for the development of a county GIS data base of these local resources
The report was provided to the LEBCO MPO in February of 2014 ... just in time for the update of the transportation program.

The report provided an excellent overview of the county’s key resources.

It also clearly identifies resources of historic and cultural value along the County’s six corridors of concern; where more information can be found related to these resources; and what future steps the County and LEBCO MPO can take to preserve and enhance these resources.

Because we’re a county planning department and we’re growing slowing, we’re involved in every TIS, TIA and HOP with PennDOT or others locally as developments occur. We regularly use this corridor data and CRGIS data to point out resources of concern to PennDOT, municipalities, developers, municipal authorities, etc.

This PHMC data is also critical to us as we complete Level #2 Linking Planning and NEPA forms for all new LEBCO MPO TIP projects.
TIP and DOI Proposals by Resource with Potential Environmental Impacts
*Based on GIS survey of proximity of resources
Other Possible Project Concerns

- 13 projects could impact municipal and county parks
- 45 projects could impact transit routes and nodes (park and ride lots or bus stop/shelter locations)
- 232 projects could impact Lebanon Valley Bicycle Coalition key roadways
- 37 PNDI “hits” for all TIP and Decade of Investment (DOI) structurally deficient (SD) bridges in Lebanon County
Programmatic Commitments

- Remain committed to working with all local, regional, state and federal organizations and agencies to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts from TIP and LRTP projects and to improve project delivery
- Make all LPN Level #2 forms as robust as possible based upon resource agency and/or local data to avoid “surprises” during project development
Programmatic Commitments Contd.

- Work with PennDOT and the farming community to reduce ag impacts ... fewer strip takes, better storm water management, maintaining access to working fields, etc.
- Remain committed to farmland preservation ... more intense, sustainable development along US Route 422 and PA Route 72 and no near term zoning amendments that convert farm lands into residential development
- Continue to use the approved Amish Community Involvement Process as appropriate
Programmatic Commitments Contd.

- Continue working with PHMC to identify and preserve all key cultural and historic resources along the LEBCO MPO’s 6 Corridors of Concern, and if needed to identify and implement advanced mitigation strategies.

- Continue to identify and map resources of local importance that are not listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (view sheds, old mills, unique urban/suburban buildings, farmsteads, barns, walls, etc.).
Mill St. Bridges (Post Improvements)

Historic Stonewall northeast corner of Rocherty Road and Cornwall Road (Pre- Improvements)

Mill St. Bridges (Pre- Improvements)

South Spruce Street Bridge (Pre- Improvements)
Note historic building looking south
Programmatic Commitments Contd.

- Keep development and new infrastructure out of the Blue Mountain – Kittatinny Ridge and The Highlands.
- Continue to participate in TIP project scoping field views ... be advocates for all agencies, organizations and individuals.
Structure Type: Steel Thru Truss Bridge
Year Built: 1899
Spans: 1 @ 151.2’
Skew: 90’
Structure Length: 157.1’
Underclearance: 19.5’
Deck Type: Open Steel Grid
Substructure Type: Stone Masonry