

SHENANGO VALLEY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Unified Planning Work Program

Introduction

The Unified Planning Work Program establishes an outline of work tasks to be undertaken by the Shenango Valley Area Transportation Study (SVATS) during the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year. The SVATS Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has the responsibility to plan and program transportation projects receiving federal funding for all of Mercer County. The SVATS MPO has undertaken this duty since its inception in 1981.

One Rural Planning Organization (RPO), one Pennsylvania MPO, and one MPO serving the Youngstown, Ohio area border the SVATS MPO. Due to changes in the urbanized area of the MPO, Mercer County has been combined with the Youngstown area. With this change it became necessary to develop a “memorandum of understanding” (MOU), which outlines the working relationship between the two MPOs. The SVATS MPO adopted the MOU on January 31, 2003.

Long Range Plan

In order to undertake the transportation planning process in Mercer County, a Long Range Plan (LRP) was developed. The original plan was adopted by the SVATS MPO in November of 1994, with amendments being made in 1997. A newly approved LRP was adopted by the MPO and the Mercer County Commissioners as part of the County Comprehensive plan in April of 2006. The LRP provides information necessary to the planning and programming process. Information contained in the LRP includes data on such items as population, land use, existing facilities, planning factors, 25-year project listing, and congestion/intermodal management issues. Because Mercer County has been redesignated as a non-attainment county for Air Quality, we will once again be required to update our LRP on a three-year cycle. The LRP provides a closer look at the major corridors within the County and is modeled after the statewide plan. As changes occur in the future to the TIP they will be reflected and reviewed for consistency with the comprehensive plan

TEA-21 & Clean Air Act Amendments

What is contained in the LRP is based on two federal laws, the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for 21st Century (TEA-21) and the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990. All transportation related planning in Mercer County is based on these two laws. In addition to the requirements of having a LRP, the SVATS MPO also produces a local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which contains the short range listing of transportation improvements for the County.

The CAAA establishes a program and sets a timetable for improving the nation's air quality. Mercer County currently classified as a “basic” ozone non-attainment area.

MPO Committees & Responsibilities

The SVATS MPO is a federally mandated organization responsible for transportation related issues in Mercer County. Professional staff members of the Mercer County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) run the daily business of the MPO. PennDOT District 1-0 and Central Office staffs work with the MCRPC staff on a regular basis and are intimately involved with the programming of funds and the implementation of projects.

The SVATS MPO consists of two committees. The larger of the two committees is the Coordinating Committee. This group is responsible for insuring the maintenance of planning eligibility for state and federal grants and the maintenance of both the Long-Range Plan (LRP) and the more short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This committee meets on at least a quarterly basis to vote on any action items that come before the MPO and to discuss transportation-related issues in Mercer County. During 2000, the Coordinating Committee grew by four communities, and two more communities joined in 2008. As a result, the MPO now has 25 members, the maximum currently allowed according to MPO Bylaws. The SVATS MPO continues to promote equal representation throughout the County.

The Coordinating Committee is made up of twenty-five voting members as listed below:

City of Farrell	Borough of Wheatland	Springfield Township
City of Hermitage	Findley Township	Wilmington Township
City of Sharon	Hempfield Township	Wolf Creek Township
Borough of Clark	Jefferson Township	Mercer County
Borough of Greenville	Liberty Township	Mercer County Regional COG
Borough of Grove City	Pine Township	PennDOT District 1-0
Borough of Mercer	Pymatuning Township	PennDOT Central Office
Borough of Sharpsville	Shenango Township	
Borough of W. Middlesex	S. Pymatuning Township	

The other MPO committee is the Technical Committee, which has the duty to study and report on technical aspects as directed by the Coordinating Committee and to initiate studies and recommendations on technical aspects in pursuance of the objectives of the UPWP. This committee meets on an as-needed basis and has been historically less-active than the Coordinating Committee.

The Technical Committee is comprised of the following twelve members:

City of Farrell	Borough of Grove City	Mercer County Regional COG
City of Hermitage	Borough of Sharpsville	PennDOT District 1-0
City of Sharon	Township Association	PennDOT Central Office
Borough of Greenville	MCRPC (2 votes)	

The SVATS MPO also works closely with the major transit providers for the County—Shenango Valley Shuttle Service (SVSS) and Mercer County Community Transit (MCCT). The SVSS runs several routes providing fixed route service to the Shenango Valley. The MCCT provides on demand service to all areas of Mercer County.

I. PLANS and PROGRAMS

TASK I A. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Task Description:

Work during the fiscal year will continue to focus on implementing the existing Long Range Transportation Plan. Work will continue to focus on the significant corridors found within the County, and monitor project(s) that will be needed in the future to maintain a safe and efficient transportation system. The plan will also be closely monitored to ensure consistency between land use and transportation projects. In addition, the LRP is a volume of information that is included in the County comprehensive plan which was adopted in April, 2006. This will also help to ensure it ties in with economic development and other factors. Additional work in this area will focus on continued coordination with Mercer County municipalities in identifying additional maintenance of the system.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO continues to use the LRP in discussion on the development and implementation of projects throughout the County. This work will be a guide to assist the MPO in current and future TIP updates.

The MPO also continues to work closely with its planning partners at the Youngstown, OH MPO.

2009-2010 Tasks:

- Continued implementation of the Long Range Plan for Mercer County
- Assistance and participation with PENNDOT and local communities in the development of transportation projects with long/short term effects to the transportation system
- Use the LRP in the development of the 2011-2015 TIP update and preparations for the State Transportation Commission hearings.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$6,800
Federal Transit Administration	\$6,800
PA Department of Transportation	\$1,314
Local	\$2,086
Total	\$17,000

I. PLANS and PROGRAMS

TASK I B. PROGRAMMING

Task Description:

SVATS will assist PENNDOT in the management and implementation of the Federal Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Program. This work will include making necessary amendments to both the Highway and Transit portions of the 2009-2012 TIP, and maintaining a fiscally constrained program. All amendments will meet the requirements of future federal legislation, and the CAAA of 1990.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO continued to work with PENNDOT to see that the 2008 UPWP work elements were completed in a timely manner. The MPO has also had several meetings with PENNDOT District 1-0 and Central office personnel on the development of the 2009-2012 TIP. These discussions are ongoing and have included several discussions about ACT 44 funding. The MPO adopted the 2009-2012 TIP and modified both the 2007-2010 and 2009-2012 TIPs as necessary. The MPO continued to meet with PENNDOT and project consultants as necessary on various major projects.

2009-2010 Tasks:

The MPO will continue to maintain a fiscally constrained 2009-2012 program that meets the needs of the County. The MPO will also work closely with PENNDOT to help improve the eSTIP process when possible. Work will also focus on the use of Multimodal Project Management System (MPMS) data as necessary.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission
Shenango Valley Shuttle & Mercer County Community Transit

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$11,760
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	2,272
Local	667
Total	\$14,700

I. PLANS and PROGRAMS

TASK I C. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH/ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Task Description:

The SVATS MPO will continue to look at ways to more fully incorporate the requirements of environmental justice into its plans and programs, which will allow greater public input into the process and ensure that all areas of the SVATS MPO have equal input into the transportation planning process. The MPO continues to use census data to identify areas of minority populations and to analyze whether these populations are being fairly treated in the areas of planning and programming. Additional Benefits and Burdens analysis will be conducted under the guidance of FHWA.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO conducted additional EJ analysis for the 2009-2012 TIP and in preparation for the FHWA/FTA Performance Review. The MPO used the available 2000 Census data to identify areas in which the tenants of the environmental justices rules would have a major effect on the maintenance and development of the transportation system in Mercer County. Discussions relating to environmental justice and how it is handled by the transit operator in Mercer County were continued with the Youngstown, OH MPO. The MPO continues to use GIS mapping to identify minority and low income populations for use in the development of the future TIPs. The MPO has also worked the local transit operators (SVSS/MCCT) to complete a Coordinated Services Plan which has identified potential projects which would benefit EJ populations. Finally, the MPO adopted a Public Participation Plan which meets all federal requirements for EJ and outlines methods to involve additional groups and citizens in the transportation planning process. The MPO continues to expand its mailing list and encourage greater participation.

2009-2010 Tasks:

The MPO will work with federal highway to learn about and subsequently conduct Benefits and Burdens analysis in order to fully comply with FHWA requirements. The MPO will conduct greater outreach to advocate and ensure a greater public knowledge of how the transportation program works, and to continue the process of developing public input into LRP and TIP. In addition, the MPO will continue to address issues relating to minority populations and how these populations may be effected by current and future transportation projects.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$1,800
Federal Transit Administration	1,800
PA Department of Transportation	348
Local	557
Total	\$ 4,500

I. PLANS and PROGRAMS

TASK I D. INTERMODAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Task Description:

Work will involve the monitoring of the IMS for Mercer County. Additional work to assist intermodal providers will take place on an as needed basis.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO continues to assist those companies that need information related to intermodal movements within the County. Assistance is also given as needed in the development of local Rail Freight Assistance Program applications.

2009-2010 Tasks:

- Continued monitoring of the IMS for Mercer County
- Provide assistance to those intermodal providers as necessary
- Assist in the development of grant programs to promote the development of intermodal facilities, i.e., RFAP

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission
Shenango Valley Shuttle & Mercer County Community Transit

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$1,600
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	309
Local	91
Total	\$2,000

TASK I. PLANS and PROGRAMS

TASK I E. TRANSIT PLANNING

Task Description:

Transit Planning and assistance will be provided to the local transit operators (SVSS, MCCT) through a consultant and the MCRPC. The ADA services plan will be updated annually, as necessary.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO assisted the local transit providers as necessary in order to complete the transit portion of the 2009-2012 TIP. The MPO continues to be heavily involved in the development and splitting of federal transit related dollars that now come to the urbanized area (OH/PA). The MPO/MCRPC continues to coordinate with the SVSS, Warren Western Reserve Transit and the City of Niles on transit related issues. Meetings on this issue will continue to be held annually. The MCRPC also assisted the SVSS in the development of a Coordinated Services Plan for the County, which wrapped up during the year.

2009-2010 Tasks:

Maintenance of a fiscally constrained TIP that will meet the need of the local municipalities. Development of a funding scenario split for current and future year transit funds. Completion of annual NTD information.

The MPO, along with the Ohio transit providers, will continue to monitor the recently-completed coordinated services plan. The plan has identified potential users for the federal JARC and New Freedom funds that are available to the MPO. This information will be used with regard to future planning decisions.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission
Shenango Valley Shuttle Service (SVSS) & Mercer County Community Transit (MCCT)

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$ 0
Federal Transit Administration	27,172
PA Department of Transportation	0
Local	6,793
Total	\$33,965

II. PLANNING TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

TASK II A. HIGHWAY PLANNING

Task Description:

SVATS will continue to monitor and participate in agency coordination meeting activities for regional projects, as necessary. The MPO will participate in project needs studies for transportation projects (if appropriate), as identified by the MPO and PENNDOT. SVATS will also assist PENNDOT with the various EIS analyses associated with major capital projects, especially trend analysis (land use, economic development, etc.) and cumulative effect analysis, as needed. The MPO will also identify if appropriate and major projects that would have significant impacts on land use.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO worked with PENNDOT to develop the 2009-2012 TIP. The MPO also continued to monitor local projects of regional significance particularly in the area of planning and development (Broadway Corridor, US-62 bridges and others). Members of the MCRPC attended public meetings as necessary to assist PENNDOT in the development of various projects throughout the County. SVATS ranked applications for 2008's round of FRSTS funding and assisted with the submittal of PCTI applications. The MCRPC staff continues to provide assistance to those communities and groups that have received TE funding in the past to ensure that their projects move forward.

2009-2010 Tasks:

- Continued participation in various project coordination meetings
- Assist PENNDOT in various EIS analyses associated with major capital projects
- Assist PENNDOT with Land Use issues and how they affect major transportation projects.
- Continue to work with local communities that received Transportation Enhancement funding to see projects through to completion.
- Review and rank TE or SRTS projects should any new funding be offered this year.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$13,600
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	2,628
Local	772
Total	\$17,000

II. PLANNING TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

TASK II B. SMART TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Task Description:

The MPO will work PENNDOT to advance opportunities to link the planning process with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), improve the efficiency of project implementation, and make the best use of available transportation funds through Smart Transportation philosophies of project development and programming.

SVATS, along with PENNDOT, will help advocate and provide training on Smart Transportation policy and initiatives to local stakeholders.

The MPO will work with PENNDOT to implement items identified as part of the Strategic Agenda for Smart Transportation and implement the new project development process when adding new projects to the TIP. Increase cooperation between SVATS and PENNDOT District 1-0 to ensure that implementation is successful and that projects with the best scope and cost are advanced through the TIP.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO worked with PENNDOT and local communities to ensure that as projects are being developed that Smart Transportation philosophies are closely looked at. MPO staff attended several sessions at the state and district level discussing upcoming Smart Transportation ideology. The MPO has continued to be mindful of fiscal constraints and looked and developed projects that will meet the current needs of communities along with long term needs. MPO Staff submitted a PCTI application in Mercer Borough for a study that would utilize Smart Transportation principles.

2009-2010 Tasks:

- The MPO will work with PENNDOT and the local municipalities in the development of projects as needed.
- The MPO will help advocate Smart Transportation principles to local municipal officials and other stakeholders as needed.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$2,320
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	448
Local	132
Total	\$2,900

II. PLANNING TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

TASK II C. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT

Task Description:

The SVATS MPO will continue to monitor the status of identified congested corridors and intersections, for use in the development of future projects. The MPO will also take a closer look at all major corridors as they are identified in the LRP to ensure that any congestion related issues are addressed in the plan with available funding. NOTE: Most congestion-related work will be placed toward the development of a CMP (see section VII)

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO embarked in the process of developing a Congestion Management Processes Plan after receiving \$110,000 in special studies funds (this is further-detailed in section VII). In addition, the MPO reviewed the available HPMS sample sections and held discussions with municipal officials to identify data items that directly relate (i.e., v/c ratio) to congestion. Discussions on projects which may affect the transportation system along the PA/OH border are held with our planning partners as needed.

2009-2010 Tasks:

Much of the future congestion management efforts will be applied toward the congestion management process identified in section VII. In the meantime, the MPO will update data to assess the current affects of congestion on the previously identified system. In addition, the MPO will work closely with the Eastgate MPO (Mahoning and Trumbull Counties) in Ohio to coordinate CMS efforts to ensure a fully functional CMS between the two (2) MPOs. This work will include sharing of data between the MPOs.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$3,200
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	\$618
Local	\$182
Total	\$4,000

II. PLANNING TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

TASK II D. ITS

Task Description:

The MPO will continue to assess the need and appropriateness of ITS activities through the Long Range Plan. The MPO will also work with the Department in maintaining a regional ITS architecture.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO has had limited involvement in the area of ITS. However, the MPO has worked with the PENNDOT—when needed—on projects where ITS activities are relevant.

2009-2010 Tasks:

The MPO will work with PENNDOT to plan and program ITS projects on the long range transportation plan and 2009-2012 TIP as needed. Maintenance activities related to the newly adopted ITS architecture will also be monitored. The MPO will also work with PennDOT District 1-0 to implement projects that were placed on the current TIP.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$2,400
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	464
Local	136
Total	\$3,000

TASK III. DATA COLLECTION and ANALYSIS

TASK III A&B. HIGHWAY PERFORMANCE MONITORING SYSTEM (HPMS) TRAFFIC MONITORING SYSTEM (TMS/H)

Task Description:

The SVATS MPO will conduct traffic counts on 75 TMS/H sites throughout the County. In addition, the SVATS MPO will conduct local traffic counts at the request of municipalities. This data will then be downloaded and sent into the PENNDOT Central Office for analysis, by the end of the month in which the count was taken. The SVATS MPO will also be verifying and updating HPMS data on 118 sample sections throughout the County.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The SVATS MPO successfully completed and entered all traffic counts required by PENNDOT. Three new TimeMark Delta counters were purchased in the summer of 2008. In addition, all HPMS sample sections were verified in late 2008 and updated in early 2009. The SVATS MPO also continues to use the HPMS software that has allowed for ease of data entry and identification of sample section errors. The MPO used the web software this season to upload HPMS section data. Finally, MPO staff submitted a request to PENNDOT to designate two roads as local federal-aid roads that were not previously on the system.

2009-2010 Tasks:

- Collect (by November 2009) and submit approximately 75 traffic counts (of which, 23 will be classification counts) in support of HPMS and the Commonwealth's Traffic Monitoring System (TMS), including supplemental and any additional counts by December 31, 2009. These counts may be outsourced to a third party service provider, particularly through the Commonwealth's statewide contract for Traffic Count Services.
- Verify and update roadway inventory and performance measures on approximately 118 Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) sample sections in accord with HPMS manual specifications by January 31, 2010.
- Separate the charges on all invoices submitted for HPMS sample reviews and traffic counts to enable the Department to distinguish the cost of each activity.
- The MPO will make changes to the functional classification system for highways, federal aid system and National Highway System, as needed.
- The MPO will send appropriate staff to one (1) HPMS and one (1) Traffic workshop.
- The MPO will purchase traffic counters and counting supplies as needed. The MPO anticipates the purchase of traffic counting supplies (straps, tape, nails, etc.)
- The MPO will host a Traffic County workshop, if needed.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$10,970
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	2,120
Local	623
Total	\$13,712

TASK III. DATA COLLECTION and ANALYSIS

TASK III C. GIS DATABASE

Task Description:

The MPO will continue the development of GIS data to assist with transportation related projects and long range planning efforts.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO continued to use the GIS information provided by PENNDOT and additional information created locally in its development of local transportation related issues. The MPO through the MCRPC also continues to develop zoning maps for communities in Mercer County, which can and are being used for transportation planning purposes. The MPO previously hired a consultant to develop various layers of GIS data to be used in the transportation planning process. This work was completed during this year.

2009-2010 Tasks:

The MPO will update (as needed) the County's GIS system to assist with transportation planning. *NOTE: The MPO recently completed the development of GIS data layers (road centerline, parcel and planimetrics) that will provide greater detail for future project analysis and development. .*

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$7,200
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	1,391
Local	409
Total	\$9,000

IV. ECONOMIC STIMULUS

TASK IV A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

Task Description:

The MPO will work with the Governor's Action Team to promote regional and national economic stimulus projects as needed. The MPO will also continue to work with economic development staff and provide assistance as projects are identified.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

MCRPC staff continues to work with the economic development agency for the County. Periodic meetings of a "sites development committee" were attended, as needed. Transportation system information is shared with the group to assist in development projects, which will aid in identifying future needs.

2009-2010 Tasks:

- Work with the Governor's Action Team to promote economic development
- Work with PENNDOT and Penn Northwest (the county economic development agency) to utilize federal stimulus dollars to spawn job creation and promote job retention.
- Promote the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank for economic stimulus
- Liaison with economic development partners to promote projects with regional significance.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$6,400
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	1,237
Local	363
Total	\$8,000

V. LAND USE and TRANSPORTATION

TASK V A. LAND USE TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Task Description:

The MPO will identify projects that will have significant impacts on land use and the transportation system. Projects that are identified may be considered as candidates for possible funding under the transportation/land use program. The MPO will also assist the PENNDOT with any training activities aimed at local governments dealing with land use issues such as comprehensive planning, access management, transit oriented design, interchange development, etc.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MCRPC and MPO continue to review the transportation system along with current and future land uses. Projects and land use issues are continually reviewed in an attempt to avoid future problems with the transportation system. As projects go from concept to engineer studies, the MPO/MCRPC staff review these details to ensure that they are consistent with local and County plans.

2009-2010 Tasks:

Identify projects that will have significant effects on land use and transportation
Coordinate all land use planning with the County Comprehensive Plan and local multi-municipal plans
Assist PENNDOT with training activities
Initiate Scenic Byways Planning if deemed appropriate

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$6,800
Federal Transit Administration	0
PA Department of Transportation	1,314
Local	386
Total	\$8,500

VIII. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

TASK VIII A&B. ADMINISTRATION & COORDINATION

Task Description:

The MPO will develop and submit for PENNDOT approval a 2009-2010 UPWP. The SVATS MPO will also schedule and coordinate all MPO meetings, arrange for advertising of those meetings, and preparing minutes of those meetings. In addition, SVATS will submit quarterly invoices and progress reports to PENNDOT for their review and approval, including the required Title VI and Environmental Justice information. Assist PENNDOT in LTAP activities as needed.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

- MCRPC staff successfully prepared for each of the MPO meetings during the FY2008
- Adopted the 2008-2009 UPWP
- Invoicing and preparation of quarterly progress reports was completed in a timely manner
- Two members of the MCRPC staff attending various planning partner meetings as they were scheduled
- MCRPC staff attended various PENNDOT taskforce meetings as needed

The MPO has worked closely with the PENNDOT District 1-0 office on several local projects to ensure good coordination between all those involved.

2009-2010 Tasks:

Adoption of Annual UPWP by February 28, 2009.

Coordination of MPO meetings

Preparation of MPO meeting minutes within two weeks following the conclusion of the meeting.

Submission of Quarterly invoices and progress reports within 15 days following the end of each quarter.

Attendance of Planning Partner meetings

Attendance by MCRPC staff of various project meetings called by the District 1-0 Office

Coordination efforts between the Shenango Valley Shuttle Service & Western Reserve Transit Authority

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$11,200
Federal Transit Administration	11,200
PA Department of Transportation	2,164
Local	3,436
Total	\$28,000

SPECIAL PROJECT(S)

TASK A. US-19 CORRIDOR STUDY (PCTI)

Task Description:

The MPO has been allocated \$200,000 in PCTI funding to complete a corridor study along US-19 (and surrounding area) from just south of Interstate 80 (Exit 15) in East Lackawannock Township to the northern boundary of Mercer Borough. Total length of the corridor to be studied is approximately 3.1 miles.

2008-2009 Accomplishments:

The MPO applied for and received funding to complete the study. The application was submitted in December, 2008 and approved in May, 2009.

2009-2010 Tasks:

The MCRPC will solicit proposals to complete the corridor study, which will look at two broad issues: (1.) moving traffic efficiently through the congested Borough of Mercer while being mindful of the historic and traditional community character. (2.) studying the area near the I-80/US-19 interchange, looking at how future land-use scenarios might have an impact upon traffic patterns.

At a minimum, the corridor study will be comprised of the following components:

- Detailed examination of present traffic conditions and volumes along/adjacent to the corridor including analysis of traffic signals, parking conditions, and the impacts of unique traffic generators (e.g. schools, PennDOT's maintenance office, the Amish)
- Predictions of how land use changes, signal re-timing and/or replacement, addition of potential new signals, changes in road alignments/characteristics, turning radii, addition of pedestrian facilities and other factors might affect traffic in the future.
- List and description of suggestions on how the borough can become more pedestrian-friendly through items like intersection and signal reconfiguring, pedestrian facilities and upgraded crosswalks and how changes to the existing transportation system can be economically implemented while being respectful of the historic character of the community and safety of pedestrians.
- Significant efforts to conduct public outreach, involving citizens, local officials and other stakeholders in the planning process.
- Establishment of an implementation and funding plan for improvements along US-19 and its cross streets. This should include short, mid and long-term recommendations and detailed cost estimates.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

Federal Highway Administration	\$200,000
Total	\$200,000