



# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas

North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (North Central RPO)  
Connor Vecellio, Transportation and Municipal Support Manager

August 7, 2025



# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas Peer Exchange Packet – August 7, 2025



## Agenda

- I. Region Overview
- II. RPO Designation, Authority & Responsibilities
- III. Public Engagement
- IV. Funding Opportunities
- V. Questions Comments



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## Region Overview



212,792\*



5,080 mi<sup>2</sup>  
42 people per mi<sup>2</sup>



6,334,262 Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled\*\*  
6,532 Linear Roadway Miles\*\*



1,328 State Bridges ≥ 8' long<sup>†</sup>  
290 Local Bridges ≥ 20' long<sup>†</sup>  
266 Local Bridges 8' - 19' long<sup>†</sup>



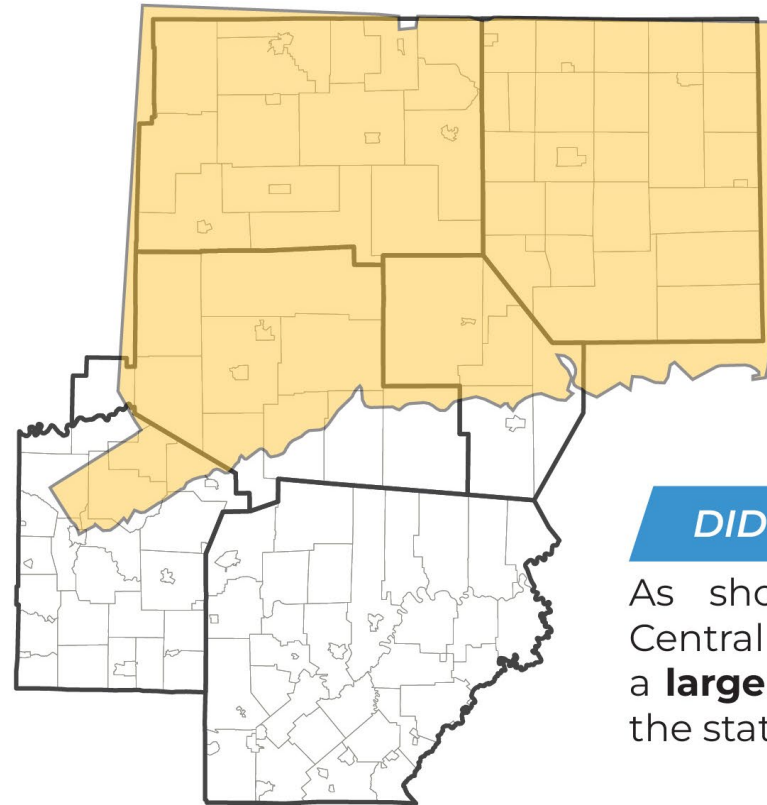
Area Transportation Authority (ATA)



Bradford Regional Airport (BFD)  
DuBois Regional Airport (DUJ)



Buffalo & Pittsburgh (B&P)  
R.J. Corman (RJCP)  
Western NY & PA (WNYP)



### DID YOU KNOW?

As shown, the North Central RPO region has a **larger land area** than the state of Connecticut.

*\*2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates \*\*2024: PennDOT Roadway Management System † 2024: PennDOT Bridge Management System*



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## Responsibilities and Authorities



The North Central RPO is responsible for and is considered the lead agency in the North Central Pennsylvania Planning area of Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean and Potter Counties in conducting transportation planning and programming activities pursuant to 23 CFR Part 450.



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## Responsibilities and Authorities



### U.S. Code

Specific sections of the U.S. Code, especially **Title 23 (Highways)** and **Title 49 (Transportation)**, codify the requirements for MPOs, detailing their roles in the planning process, requirements for metropolitan transportation plans and programs, public participation processes, and the criteria for transportation project selection.

**Title 49 of the US Code, Section 5304, Sub-Section (l)(1)** also specifies that "To carry out the transportation planning process required by this section, a State may establish and designate regional transportation planning organizations to enhance the planning, coordination, and implementation of statewide strategic long-range transportation plans and transportation improvement programs, with an emphasis on addressing the needs of nonmetropolitan areas of the State."





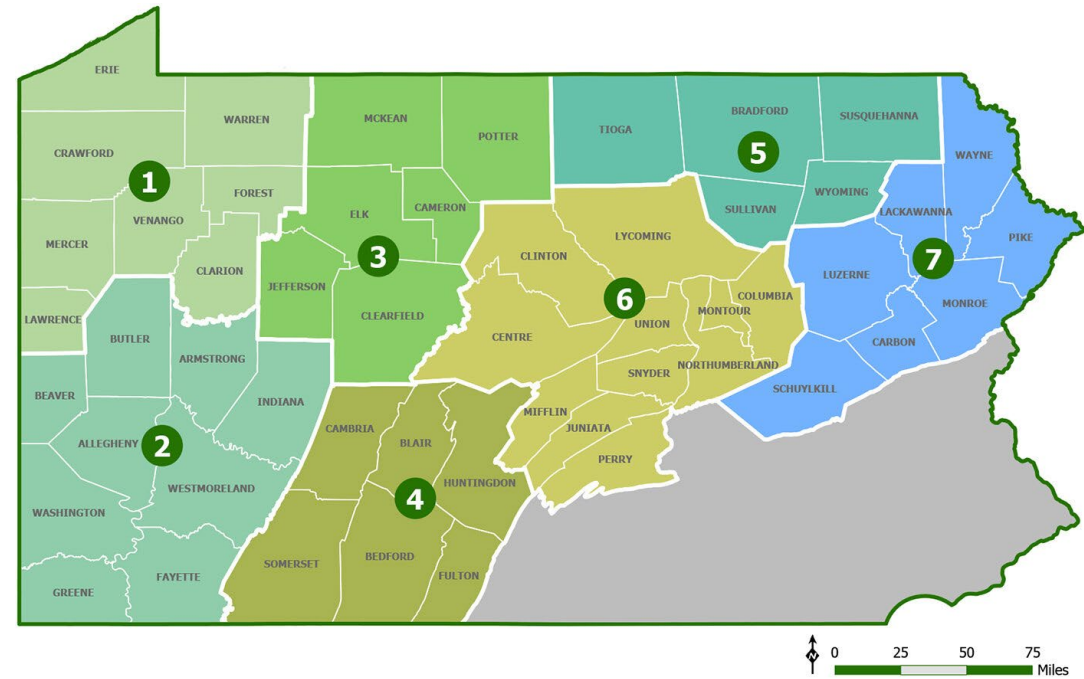
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## Responsibilities and Authorities



### State and Local Agreements

At the Commonwealth level, Title 75 of the PA Consolidated Statutes, Section 8915.6., Sub-Section (c) defines a Rural Planning Organization as "The organization of counties with populations of less than 50,000 created and designated as Local Development Districts (LDDs) and which carry out the rural transportation planning process." There are seven LDDs in Pennsylvania, 4 of which serve as RPOs and 3 who serve as MPOs



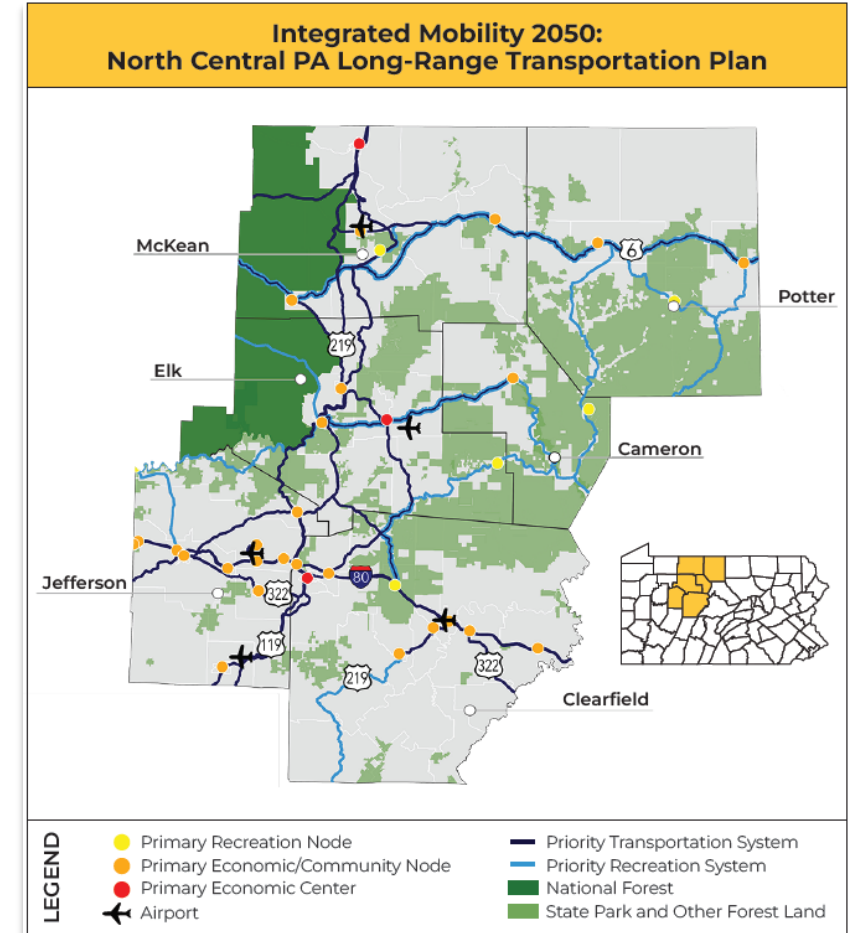
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## Responsibilities and Authorities



### Core Functions as RPO

1. Establish a regional setting for effective decision making
2. Identify and evaluate alternative transportation improvement options
3. Prepare and maintain a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
4. Develop a fiscally constrained Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in conjunction with the Statewide TIP (STIP) and Twelve-Year Program
5. Identify and assess performance measure targets
6. **Involve the public through effective and meaningful engagement strategies**



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## Responsibilities and Authorities



### Transportation Planning Committee:

- County Planners from the six-county region
- Representatives from PennDOT  
Districts 2-0, 10-0, and Central Office
- Public Transit
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- Engineering Firms
- North Central
- Local Municipalities
- Trucking
- Airport Authorities
- Railroads
- Local Community and  
Economic Development Groups
- Tourism Organizations
- Public Citizens





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## Public Engagement/Participation

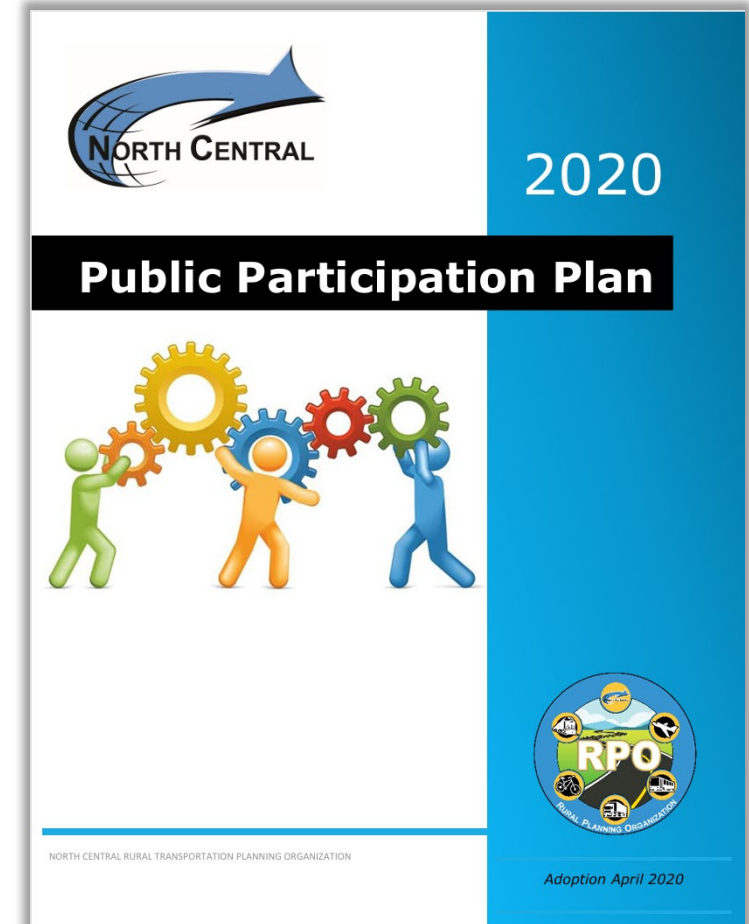


### 3-Cs Transportation Planning Process

North Central implements the USDOT's **continuous**, **cooperative**, and **comprehensive** planning process to ensure a two-way conversation with stakeholders about transportation needs, challenges, and solutions.

The RPO solicits public review and comment on the work, projects, and products proposed and created by the RPO.

Solicitation is conducted through a variety of methods and is guided by the [Public Participation Plan \(PPP\)](#).



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## Public Engagement/Participation

### Public Participation Plan (PPP) Goals

- **A.** It is the citizen's right and responsibility to be actively involved with the transportation planning process.
- **B.** Citizens should be informed about the needs/concerns and are encouraged to engage in finding solutions.
- **C.** Early and timely involvement of citizens is necessary to build community agreement on the needs and solutions before courses of action are proposed.
- **D.** Unanimous agreement on the final proposed action is desirable; however, this is not always the case. Negotiation/compromise are essential building blocks when constructing an agreement.
- **E.** The means by which the RPO reaches a decision is as essential as the end result.
- **F.** Once the RPO determines a course of action, they will communicate and follow-up with engaged parties to preserve trust built with the community involvement process.



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## Public Engagement/Participation

### Public Participation Plan (PPP) Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Present the public with a means for input and be responsive to such input.
- **Objective 2:** Document any input and any follow-ups and results of that input. Make results publicly available.
- **Objective 3:** Raise the level of understanding of the transportation planning process throughout the region through various public outreach activities.
- **Objective 4:** Maintain contact with “interested parties” and key stakeholders throughout the transportation planning process.
- **Objective 5:** Inform and educate planning committee members, county commissioners and advisory groups regarding the RPO’s programs.
- **Objective 6:** Determine a procedure and performance metrics for evaluating the RPO’s responsiveness to public participation.
- **Objective 7:** Seek out and consider the needs of “interested parties” and those traditionally underserved by the existing transportation systems.



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## Public Engagement/Participation



### Outreach Networks, Processes, and Programs

- [Local Technical Assistance Program \(LTAP\)](#) for local municipalities
- Human service and transit provider network as developed through [Coordinated Human Service Plan](#) and accompanying Regional Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RRTAC)
- [PennDOT Connects](#) process for individual highway and bridge LRTP/TIP Projects
- Distributing information through community groups, housing authority, school districts, career links and underserved community networks
- [State Transportation Commission](#) – Twelve Year Transportation Program
- Interested Parties Listing



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## Public Engagement/Participation

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### **Outreach Strategies for Plans and Programs**

- Document Availability
- Comment Period/ Opportunities
- Public Meetings
- Press Releases & Public Service Announcements
- Initial Notice Period/Type
- Public Meeting Notice Period/Type
- Amendment Notice Period/Type
- Visualization Techniques





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## Public Engagement/Participation

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### Public Meetings

- RPO Meetings
- Special Meetings
- Hybrid capabilities
- Meeting Recording
- Reasonable Assistance – ADA/LEP/Title VI



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## Public Engagement/Participation



### General Outreach Methods

- Phone, e-blasts
- Social Media
- Visualization Tools
- RPO Website
- Newsletter
- Online Surveys
- Brochures
- Press Releases
- Data Requests



# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas Peer Exchange Packet – August 7, 2025

## Public Engagement/Participation



### General Outreach Methods

- E-blasts

Good Morning,

**Public Review Alert: May 1 - 31, 2024:**

The North Central RPO invites feedback on the Draft FY 2025-2028 TIP, Air Quality Conformity Analysis & related docs.

Hybrid Meeting: May 23, 10:30 AM EST at 49 Ridgmont Dr, Ridgway, PA & Online. More Info: <https://rpo.ncentral.com/transportation-improvement-plan/>

Submit your comments using the online form here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bYEFJwuPDdkeOj6Mx85EWcRxdqGPM3NdJlg8hZ7o7FmIUmk9FQzcxVTU5UTE3WUM5NDNQUMxSFIOWC4u>

Or use the QR code below to access the comment form:

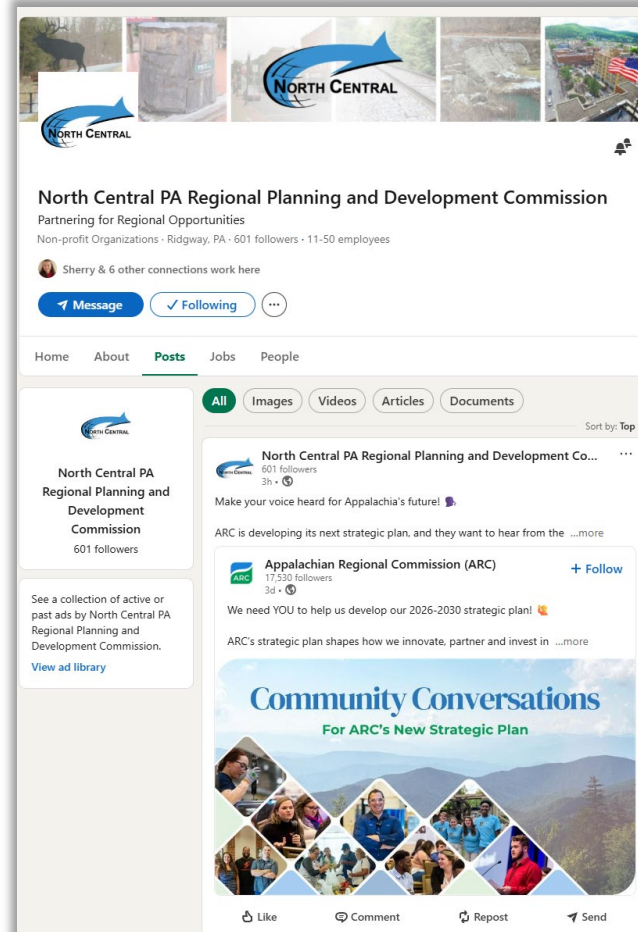


# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas Peer Exchange Packet – August 7, 2025 Public Engagement/Participation



## General Outreach Methods

- Social Media



# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas Peer Exchange Packet – August 7, 2025

## Public Engagement/Participation



### Visualization Tools

- PennDOT's TIP Visualization Map

### Projects Near You

PennDOT is responsible for a continuous string of projects and programs designed to improve transportation across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This page is resource to help educate the public on the projects that are in the planning, public comment, and construction phases in your local community.

[Search Map of This Year's Construction Projects](#)

[Search Map of Projects on the 4-Year and 12-Year Plans](#)

Map of Pennsylvania showing project locations by district. The map is color-coded by district: District 1 (blue), District 2 (orange), District 3 (green), District 4 (red), District 5 (purple), and District 6 (brown). Numbers 1 through 6 are placed on the map to indicate the districts.

**Locate Project Details by District**

Refer to the map photo above or the county list below to find your local PennDOT Engineering District. Click the district link to view a list of active and proposed projects in that region where you can get the latest information on scope, timing, traffic impacts, public involvement opportunities, and more.

<b>District 1</b> Crawford County, Erie County, Forest County, Mercer County, Venango County, Warren County	<b>District 2</b> Cameron County, Centre County, Clearfield County, Clinton County, Elk County, Juniata County, McKean County, Mifflin County, Potter County	<b>District 3</b> Bradford County, Columbia County, Lycoming County, Montour County, Northumberland County, Snyder County, Sullivan County, Tioga County, Union County
<b>District 4</b> Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, Pike County, Susquehanna County, Wayne County, Wyoming County	<b>District 5</b> Berks County, Carbon County, Lehigh County, Monroe County, Northampton County, Schuylkill County	<b>District 6</b> Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Montgomery County, Philadelphia County

- One Map

### PENNDOT ONE MAP

Enter search here...

Maps Layers Change Area of Interest Tools

#### TIP Map

Show map description

- ☒ TIP - Completed
- ☒ TIP - Under Construction
- ☒ TIP - In Development
- ☒ TIP - Future Development
- ☒ TIP - Other
- ☐ MPMS - TIP - All
- ☒ Planning Partner: North Central

Map of Pennsylvania showing project locations by district. The map is color-coded by district: District 1 (blue), District 2 (orange), District 3 (green), District 4 (red), District 5 (purple), and District 6 (brown). Numbers 1 through 6 are placed on the map to indicate the districts.





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## Public Engagement/Participation



### RPO Website



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## Additional Outreach Opportunities



### RPO Website Request Form

#### Citizens Request Center

Department\* 

-- Select Department --


Name\*

Email\*

email@email.com

Phone\*

Issue\* 

Preferred Method of Contact\* 

☒ Email ☐ Phone

☐ I'm not a robot



Submit



# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas Peer Exchange Packet – August 7, 2025

## Public Engagement/Participation



### Brochures

### Planning Committee

Cameron County Government  
Clearfield County Planning Department  
Elk County Planning Commission  
Jefferson County Department of Development  
McKean County Planning Commission  
Potter County Planning Commission  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)  
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)  
Economic Development Agencies

Railroads    Trucking    Public Transit    Airport Authorities  
Housing & Redevelopment    Local Municipalities  
Tourism    Engineering Firms    North Central    Public Citizens

### Contact Us

North Central Pennsylvania Regional  
Planning and Development Commission

49 Ridgmont Drive  
Ridgway, PA 15853

(814) 773-3162    [rpo.ncentral.com](http://rpo.ncentral.com)

### North Central RPO Region

212,792'    5,080 mi<sup>2</sup>  
42 people per mi<sup>2</sup>

6,334,262 Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled  
6,532 Linear Roadway Miles

1,328 State Bridges ≥ 8' long  
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Area Transportation Authority (ATA)

Bradford Regional Airport (BFD)  
DuBois Regional Airport (DUJ)

Buffalo & Pittsburgh (B&P)  
R.J. Corman (RJC)  
Western NY & PA (WVNP)

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
As shown, the North Central Region has a larger land area than the state of Connecticut

### Staff

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Marketing and Communications Coordinator

### North Central Rural Planning Organization

Partnering for  
Regional Opportunities

  
a PennDOT Planning Partner

### The North Central Rural Planning Organization

The North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission is the state-designated Rural Planning Organization (RPO) serving Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter Counties.

The RPO, operating via an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), approves the development and implementation of highways, bridges, active transportation, and other transportation facilities and services.

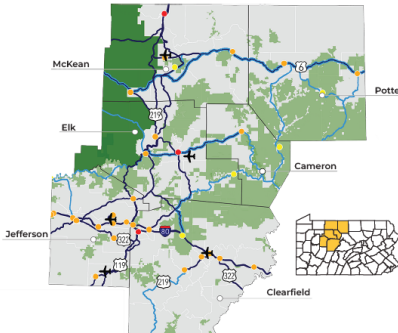
### Major Duties

As the coordinating agency, the RPO plays a vital role in regional transportation by carrying out six core functions:

- 1 Establish a regional setting for effective decision making
- 2 Identify and evaluate alternative transportation improvement options
- 3 Prepare and maintain a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- 4 Develop a fiscally constrained Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in conjunction with the Statewide TIP (STIP) and Twelve-Year Program
- 5 Identify and assess performance measure targets
- 6 Involve the public through effective and meaningful engagement strategies

The Community Development/Regional Planning Director at NCRPDC manages the day-to-day operations of the RPO with support from the Transportation Planning Coordinator.

### Integrated Mobility 2050: North Central PA Long-Range Transportation Plan



**LEGEND**

- Primary Recreation Node
- Primary Economic/Community Node
- Primary Economic Center
- Airport
- Priority Transportation System
- Priority Recreation System
- National Forest
- State Park and Other Forest Land

### L RTP Overview

The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) articulates the transportation priorities through 2050 for the six-county region making up North Central PA. It identifies a transportation vision and big-picture goals as well as objectives, actions, and projects to help meet those goals with regard to existing conditions & trends in North Central PA. The plan was developed by the North Central RPO in collaboration with PennDOT, FHWA, FTA, and regional stakeholders.

### Goal Areas

- Safety & Security
- Reliable Multimodal Travel
- Equity & Access
- Resiliency
- System Condition
- Reducing Environmental Impacts
- Planning for a Changing Demand

### Core Planning Documents

Plan Name	Required Adoption	Update Requirements
Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)	July 2027	Every 5 Years
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	June 2026	Every 2 Years
Public Participation Plan (PPP)	June 2025	Periodic Review & Update
Title IX & Limited English Proficiency	June 2025	Periodic Review & Update
Coordinated Transit and Human Services Plan	October 2025	Every 5 Years
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	January 2026	Every 2 Years

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## Public Engagement/Participation



### Performance Measures

2020 PERFORMANCE MEASURES		
PERFORMANCE TITLE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
Website Hits	# of Hits on ncentral.com/trans website	Google Analytics
Website Hits 2 Stat Counter	# of Hits on ncentral.com/trans website	Stat Counter
Speaking Engagements	# of speaking engagements attended by Staff	Staff
LEP Encounters	# of LEP citizens encountered	Staff
Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE)	# of DBE Contracts	Staff
Public Service Announcements	# of PSA's sent out	Staff
Public Attendance at Meetings	# of Citizens attending	Staff
Surveys	# of Survey Responses	Survey Results
Bidders List	# of Consulting Firms on NC RPO Bidders List	Staff
Brochures	# of Brochures Distributed	Staff
Social Media (Twitter)	# of Followers	Twitter
Social Media Facebook	# of registrations	Facebook
Email	# of Emails Sent	File
Other	Uncategorized	Staff
Mailing List	Mailing List	Staff



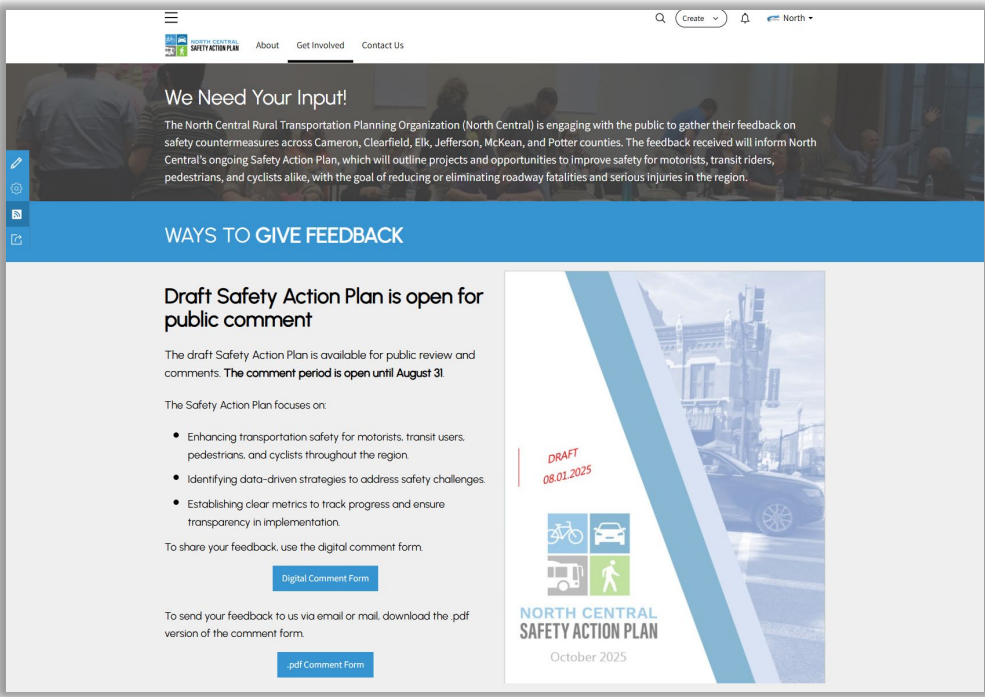
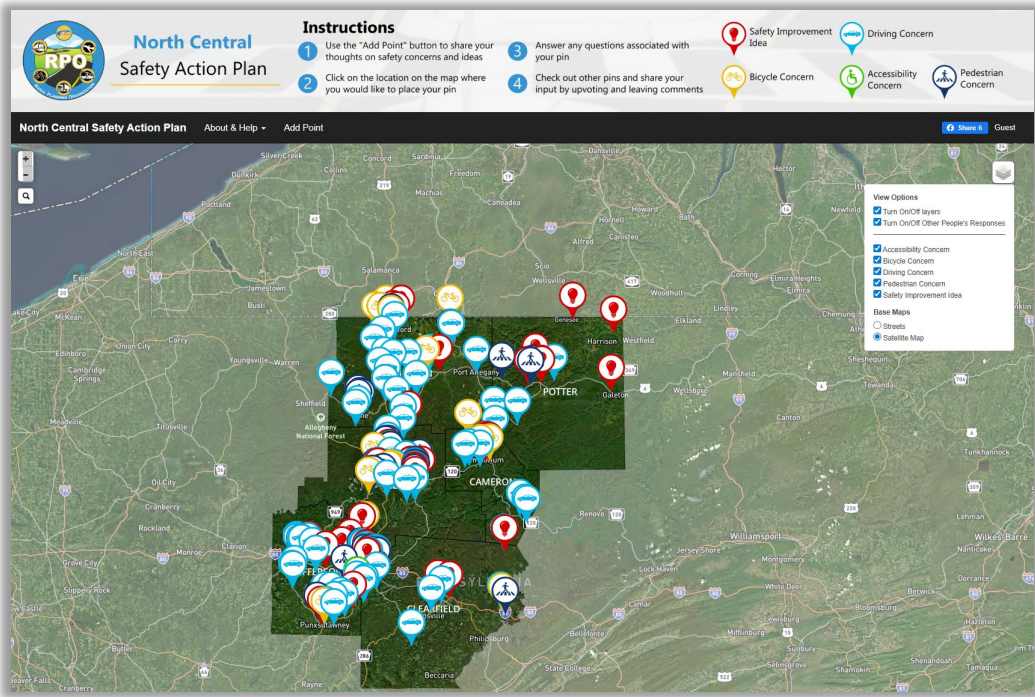


# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas Peer Exchange Packet – August 7, 2025

## Recent Public Engagement



### Regional Safety Action Plan






# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas Peer Exchange

## Packet – August 7, 2025

### Funding Opportunities



### Discretionary Programs

Local Transportation Funding Discretionary Programs Overview					
Common Transportation Funding Opportunities for Pennsylvania Municipalities					
Program Name	Agency	Overview of eligible activities	Award Limits	Match Requirements	Deadline
<a href="#">Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF)</a> 	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)	Road and bridge improvements, traffic signal enhancements, transit facilities, streetscapes, traffic calming measures, trails, Intelligent Transportation Systems, safety improvements, including those for intersections, school zones, or bike/ped facilities.	\$100,000 to \$3 million	30% of MTF award	Annually in Fall (TBD)



# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas Peer Exchange

## Packet – August 7, 2025

# Funding Opportunities



### Discretionary Programs

U.S. Department of Transportation

ABOUT DOT ▾ PRIORITIES ▾ CONNECT ▾

Q

[Home](#) ▾ [Grants](#)

DOT Navigator Home

Find Grant Opportunities >

Overview

Calendar of Funding Opportunities

DOT Competitive Grants Dashboard

IIJA Launchpad

Search Resource Library

Grant Application Resources >

Data & Mapping Tools >

Funding and Match Requirements >

Webinars

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Find Transportation Contacts Near You

ROUTES Home

Related Links

- [FHWA Tribal Funding Opportunities](#)
- [EV Funding Opportunities](#)
- [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#)
- [Rural Eligibility](#)

DOT Competitive Grants Dashboard

The DOT Competitive Grants Dashboard provides communities with an overview of competitive grant opportunities that can help meet their transportation infrastructure needs. Designed with all communities in mind, the Dashboard identifies grant programs with rural and Tribal set-asides or match waivers available. The Dashboard also includes Federal grant programs outside of DOT that may be of particular interest to [rural communities](#). The Dashboard is updated weekly.

Additional Resource: [The DOT Navigator](#) is a resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.

[Download CSV](#)

Eligible Activities

- Any -

Eligible Applicants

- Any -

Agency/Office

- Any -

Transportation Type

- Any -

Match Waiver

- Any -

Rural Set-Aside

- Any -

Tribal Set-Aside

- Any -

Keywords

Status

- Any -

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

- Any -

Apply

Displaying 1 - 101 of 101

Agency/Office ▴	Program Name And Description ▴	Transportation Type(s)
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# Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas Peer Exchange Packet – August 7, 2025 Questions/Comments



?????



**Connor Vecellio**

Transportation and Municipal Support Manager

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