

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
June 19, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 10 a.m., at the Young People's Community Center, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Chairwoman, Melissa Komar, called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Melissa Komar  
Charles Koren  
Scott Eberhart  
Ron Rovansek  
Shawn Veneskey  
Diane Waksmunski

ABSENT

Paul Kundrod  
Danea Koss  
Debra Orner

STAFF

Mark Lazzari  
Colleen Bukowski  
Shanna Sosko  
Jacob Zerby

There being no changes to the agenda, Ms. Komar called for continuation of the meeting as per posted agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Dr. Koren, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, the May 15, 2025 meeting minutes were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The June Treasurer's Report was read by the Executive Director and reviewed by those present. Mr. Lazzari reported the June 1, 2025 balances for the Commission's regular checking account as \$152,793.40 and the Money Market Account as \$25,525.69. There being no comments or questions on the report, Mr. Eberhart made a motion that the June Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Koren and passed unanimously.

Approval of Recommended Projects for the Cambria County Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program (Round 2) and Authorization for Executive Director to Transmit Recommended Projects to Cambria County Commissioners

Mr. Lazzari commented that staff has reviewed a total of nine project applications submitted for funding consideration under the County Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program, which utilizes Act 13 and Act 89 funds. Transportation Planner Jacob Zerby provided a brief synopsis of the project applications and funding recommendations to be submitted to the

County Commissioners in Round 2: Act 13 Funds: Hinkston Run Road Bridge/East Taylor Township; Act 89 Funds: Mt. Carmel Drive Paving/Ehrenfeld Borough; Bedford Street Stormwater Project/Geistown Borough; Kepple Road/Middle Taylor Township; Cottonwood Street Bridge/Northern Cambria Borough; and Southmont Paving/Southmont Borough. Explaining each project application in further detail, Mr. Zerby stated that the Hunt Road Bridge involves improvements to the Hinkston Run spillway bridge; the Mt. Carmel Drive paving project is being partially funded through the Conservation District's Gravel & Dirt Road Program; Kepple Road in Middle Township Township is heavily used by first responders; the Northern Cambria Bridge involves removal of an used structure to alleviate liability concerns; and the Southmont Borough paving project application is a resubmission of the borough's Round 1 application, as per PennDOT advisement. Both Mr. Zerby and Mr. Lazzari stressed that final funding award remains with the County Commissioners and is contingent upon PennDOT's determination that the project is eligible for the type of funding being requested. Mr. Veneskey made a motion that the Executive Director be authorized to transmit the recommended project listing (as presented) to the County Commissioners for funding consideration/approval through Round 2 of the Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program. The motion was seconded by Ms. Waksmunski and passed unanimously.

In response to a question by Dr. Koren about the future of this program, Mr. Zerby stated that he expects that application submissions under the MIAP will increase next year as municipal officials become aware of the program's first year funding successes, public outreach is enhanced, and municipal engineers are encouraged to submit funding applications on behalf of the municipalities they represent.

Ms. Komar inquired about the status of the County Bridge Engineer Request for Qualifications (RFQ). In response, Mr. Zerby stated that Commission staff has continued to coordinate this endeavor with the County Commissioners and has also provided the Commissioners with a PennDOT contact who is available to assist with the advertising and selection process. Mr. Lazzari commented that although CCPC staff will continue to assist in moving this process forward, advertisement/selection remains with the County Commissioners.

#### STATUS REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES

Commission staff provided updates on the following initiatives:

- West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Sosko stated that coordination meetings between CCPC staff and members of the Stuart Group consulting team continue on a weekly basis and a steering committee for plan formation is being organized. Noting that a kick-off meeting is being planned for July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Westmont Grove recreational facility, Ms. Sosko stated that future meetings will be held throughout the West Hills region to showcase the region's public amenities.

- Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan

Mr. Zerby explained that as a result of Commission staff coordination and cooperation with PennDOT planning partners, preparation of this plan will be funded through the 2025-2027

Unified Planning Work Program utilizing the state's open-ended agreement with Michael Baker and Associates. Plan development will be monitored by both CCPC and CamTran staff.

- JHA Choice Neighborhoods Project

Ms. Sosko reported that Commission staff participated in a neighborhood block party held at the Coopersdale Homes. She explained that the purpose of the event was to foster outreach with community residents. She noted that Commission staff and other project team members and Johnstown community leaders participated in a field trip to the Larimer neighborhood in Pittsburgh to tour a revitalized HUD-funded public housing project.

- Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Lazzari and Mr. Zerby apprised the members that the 2025-2027 Unified Work Program has been officially executed and the Notice to Proceed has been issued, effective July 1, 2025.

- Cambria County Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program

Ms. Sosko stated that staff attended the 2025 Aerium Summit in May and continues hands-on training to pilot UAVs for the County's drone team. She also indicated that she attended a demonstration by Drone 814 at Johnstown High School which was very well received by the high school students in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Lazzari reported that, at PennDOT's request, staff has developed and published an on-line survey to gather public input regarding future Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure within the County. He explained that the survey is geared to residents, community organization, businesses, and service providers in an effort to garner information that will help guide future planning, funding opportunities, and potential charging station locations. Mr. Zerby added that a community engagement meeting focusing on the survey and the EV infrastructure concept will be held following today's CCPC meeting.

Noting that the CCPC 2023-2024 audit has been disseminated to all Commission members for review, Mr. Lazzari stated that the document will be considered for acceptance at the next regular meeting of the CCPC.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the July CCPC meeting with all those present expressing their agreement in favor of cancelling the meeting. Mr. Lazzari indicated that all members will be notified of the July meeting cancellation and the next regularly-scheduled meeting will be held on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Dr. Koren, seconded by Mr. Veneskey. The motion passed unanimously.