

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
August 20, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 12 noon, at the Young Peoples Community Center, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Chairwoman Melissa Komar called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Melissa Komar
Scott Eberhart
Charles Koren
Paul Kundrod
Heather McCloskey
Debra Orner
Ron Rovansek
Shawn Veneskey
Diane Waksmunski

STAFF

Mark Lazzari
Jacob Zerby
Shanna Sosko
Colleen Bukowski

GUESTS

Commissioner Keith Rager

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 Mr. Eberhart, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, the minutes of the June 18, 2026 meeting were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The July-August Treasurer's Report was read by the Executive Director. Mr. Lazzari noted that two invoices under the 2025-26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) remain outstanding, however, payment is expected with the next four weeks. After review by those present and no inquiries expressed about the expenses listed for payment, Mr. Kundrod made a motion to approve the July-August Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. McCloskey and passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan

Providing an update on the West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan, Ms. Sosko stated that plan development is transitioning from the public outreach phase to preparation of the draft document. Mr. Lazzari explained that in addition to writing the planning document, the consulting team is preparing for the public comment period and municipal adoption activities which will follow. Ms. Komar commented on the positive press releases/newspaper coverage of the regional comprehensive plan initiative.

Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Lazzari reported that staff continues to coordinate with the consultant regarding preparation of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan. He stated that the findings of CamTran's Local Match Funding Study will be incorporated into the final Public Human Services Transportation Plan. Both documents are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026.

Johnstown Housing Authority (JHA) - West End Choice Neighborhood Plan

Ms. Sosko reported that an initial draft of the plan has been reviewed by staff of the CCPC, JHA, and Center for Population Health, with pertinent comments submitted to the consultant. She stated that the suggested early action project, a community garden, is slightly delayed from the original schedule. Both Ms. Sosko and Mr. Lazzari explained that HUD requires an Environmental Assessment be prepared on the specified site, which is located on JHA-owned property; and an Environmental Review must also be submitted to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Staff members were unclear as to whether City officials and/or JHA staff have agreed to file the necessary paperwork to continue the early action initiative. Ms. Komar commented that cancellation of implementation of the early action project may have a negative impact on future HUD funding to the JHA. After further discussion, Commission board members recommended that Mr. Lazzari contact Johnstown Housing Authority Executive Director Mike Alberts to offer CCPC staff assistance in coordinating and/or preparing the paperwork needed to advance the early action project.

County Bike/Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Lazzari and Ms. Sosko apprised the members that preparation of the County Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan has been initiated. They commented that the plan, which will be prepared in-house as an active transportation plan, will address a current gap between the County's excellent off-road trail system and municipal on-road bicycling and pedestrian networks. Staff indicated that a Project Steering Committee will be established which will include representatives chosen to provide municipal, health and wellness, and outdoor recreation perspectives on established and potential future on-road bicycling and pedestrian routes.

Stackhouse Park Master Plan

Noting that an agreement between the CCPC and Powell Stackhouse Park, Inc. for assistance in preparation of the Stackhouse Park Master Site Development Plan is in place, the Executive Director stated that he will be taking the lead in this initiative. He explained that Stackhouse Park, Inc.

has received a \$30,000 grant from the PA Department of Community and Natural Resources (DCNR) for preparation of this planning document. Mr. Lazzari stated that the Plan's scope of work includes Site Inventory and Analysis; Activity, Programming, and Facility Analysis; Implementation Framework; Design Considerations; Design Process; Recommendations and Implementation; and Overview of Maintenance and Operation Costs/Revenue.

Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Zerby reported that the first funding cycle (2025-26) of the Commission's Unified Planning Program (UPWP) has been completed and funds remaining will be transferred for continued planning activities under the second year (2026-27) of the program. He also noted that staff continues to participate in working group meetings in preparation for submission of the 2027-2029 Unified Planning Work Program.

The Transportation Planner distributed copies of correspondence sent to every municipality in the County requesting candidate projects for inclusion in the Twelve-Year Highway and Bridge Program update. He explained that this update will identify municipal/county transportation needs for state and federal funding consideration. Mr. Zerby requested that CCPC members encourage their respective municipal officials and economic development agencies to complete and return the project submission form to the CCPC.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEM

CamTran - Local Match Funding Study

Ms. Komar apprised those present of the July 2nd municipal listening session facilitated by the CCPC in regard to the CamTran Local Match Formula Funding Study. She indicated that there was good municipal representation at the meeting and those involved in facilitating completion of the funding study are hopeful that participation will increase as the study progresses and additional municipal meetings are scheduled. Mr. Lazzari noted that pertinent information was shared during a Question and Answer period; and the consultant, Michael Baker International, presented several slides depicting aspects of CamTran's operations, local match conditions, and a matrix of how similar transit systems calculate their local matches. Several Commission members noted the importance of maintaining public transportation services in the County and briefly discussed the pros and cons of various formulas to secure the local share match needed to capture state and federal funding for public transit.

Smart Start Community Impact Council

Mr. Lazzari stated that he will represent the CCPC on the Smart Start Community Impact Council, recently organized to support Pennsylvania Highlands Community College in the Smart Start Promise Program. He explained that this program provides recent high school graduates, regardless of family income, an opportunity to enroll at Penn Highlands tuition and comprehensive fee free for one year.

Seat to Seat Bike Ride

Mr. Lazzari informed those present that the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development has invited CCPC staff to participate in the planning of the 2nd annual Indiana and Cambria County Seat-to-Seat Bike Ride

Event to be held on September 19th. Mr. Lazzari commented that staff involvement in this initiative will create a partnership with the Cambria & Indiana (C&I) Council, which works to support, promote, and advocate for the continued development, enhancement, and preservation of trail networks through Cambria and Indiana Counties.

Amtrak

Both Mr. Lazzari and Mr. Zerby touted the addition of a second daily Amtrak Pennsylvanian passenger train between Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and New York. Mr. Zerby stated that although no information regarding start date or scheduling has been released, he has been encouraging local officials to organize an event to celebrate and promote Amtrak's expanded service. Mr. Zerby will keep aware of any celebration events and will offer CCPC assistance and involvement.

Five County Regional Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Lazzari reported that Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAP&DC) has applied to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development requesting \$175,000 through the Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) to assist in funding an update to the Regional Comprehensive Plan, *Alleghenies Ahead*. Mr. Lazzari stated that Cambria, Blair, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Fulton counties have agreed to participate in this endeavor and provide the local match needed to complete the update. Mr. Lazzari noted that Jessica Sheets has been hired as the new Executive Director of the Blair County Planning Commission.

Other Discussion

Mr. Lazzari commented that initial conversations with South Fork Borough and Portage Borough representatives have been held regarding local planning efforts and possible PA DCED funding considerations.

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Roansek, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski. Motion passed unanimously.