

SHENANGO VALLEY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Fiscal Year 2016-2018 Unified Planning Work Program

Introduction

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) establishes an outline of work tasks to be undertaken by the Shenango Valley Area Transportation Study (SVATS) during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Fiscal Years. This task is completed biennially. The SVATS Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has the responsibility to plan and program transportation projects receiving federal funding within the 48 municipalities comprising Mercer County. The SVATS MPO has undertaken this duty since its inception in 1981.

The SVATS MPO is bordered by the Northwest Rural Planning Organization (RPO) representing several counties including Crawford and Venango, The Southwestern Planning Commission MPO representing neighboring Lawrence and Butler Counties plus eight other counties, and the Eastgate MPO serving Mahoning and Trumbull Counties in Ohio. Mercer County was combined with the Youngstown area's Metropolitan Statistical Area after the 2000 U.S. Census. As a result, Mercer County is part of a Transportation Management Area (TMA), which is defined as having an urbanized area of over 200,000 citizens. This requires the MPO to adhere to additional FHWA requirements and develop additional planning and programming tools. Other results include receiving STU funding and our transit funding being split among the Ohio and Pennsylvania transit agencies. Because of the consolidation of our urbanized areas, it became necessary to develop a "memorandum of understanding" (MOU), which outlines the working relationship between the two MPOs.

Long Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Program

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was developed in order to facilitate the transportation planning process in Mercer County. The original plan was adopted by the SVATS MPO in November of 1994, and subsequent amendments occurred. The last full update of the LRTP was completed and adopted by the MPO and the Mercer County Commissioners as part of the County Comprehensive plan in April of 2006. More recently, in 2011, the MPO adopted a revised LRTP. This partial update of the LRTP includes several changes, most notably an updated project listing and revised methods for ranking projects.

The MPO is currently in the beginning stages of updating the LRTP once again, and will work collaboratively with various stakeholders ensure that the plan is more relevant and useable, and that it adheres to all current federal regulations. The LRTP will continue to provide information necessary toward facilitating the planning and programming process. Components of the LRTP update will include (1.) an overview of the transportation system and the geographical context of Mercer County, (2.) analysis of present issues, needs, future trends and the implications of each, (3.) development of performance measures that are relevant to Mercer County and satisfactory from a federal FAST ACT standpoint, (4.) transportation needs and project ideas synthesized through the public involvement process, development of Linking Planning and NEPA (LPN) forms, and already-developed project prioritization criteria (5.) an asset management approach to planning with resulting consistency with the statewide goals to reflect system preservation and management of transportation facilities, (6.) planning consistent with other key concepts such as PennDOT's Smart Transportation initiative, The Commonwealth's Keystone Principles, Complete Streets principles and other modern and flexible initiatives that lead to a transportation system in-line with federal goals, and (7.) a fiscally constrained plan based on project revenues over the next 20+ years.

On a biennial basis, the MPO produces a local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which contains the programmed transportation projects throughout Mercer County. This shorter-range document is developed with significant collaboration with PennDOT. MPO and PennDOT staffs work increasingly closely to develop a TIP that takes into account the LRTP's priorities. Significant strides have been made in recent years to ensure that the TIP is developed collaboratively and that it represents logical and beneficial projects for the region.

FAST Act and Clean Air Act Amendments

What is currently contained in the LRTP is based on two federal laws, 2012's *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century* (MAP-21) and the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990. The new LRTP will be compliant with the newly-passed (December, 2015) *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act* (FAST Act) legislation. The CAAA establishes a program and sets a timetable for improving the nation's air quality. All transportation-related planning in Mercer County is based on these laws

MPO Organization: Employees, Committees Their 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. One employee is almost completely (90+%) devoted to transportation planning/MPO-related activities, and the Executive Director and two other staff members assist on a part-time basis. PennDOT District 1-0 and Central Office staffs work with the MCRPC staff on a near-daily basis and are intimately involved with the programming of funds and the implementation of projects. Staff also regularly coordinates with other MPOs and RPOs by sharing best practices, collaborating on ideas and other tasks.

Two committees direct the work that the aforementioned staff accomplishes. 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 Transportation Plan (LRTP) 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. The MPO has 25 members, the maximum currently allowed according to MPO Bylaws. Most members are municipal-based, though the county's transit provider and PennDOT both have membership as well. 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. It was essentially dormant for several years until being more effectively re-configured in 2012, and has met several times since.

The Technical Committee is currently comprised of the following nine members (note that some members have two votes):

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| City of Farrell | Mercer County Regional COG | Townships Association | (2 votes) |
| City of Hermitage | PennDOT District 1-0 | Boroughs Association | (2 votes) |
| City of Sharon | PennDOT Central Office | MCRPC/County | (2 votes) |

Transit Coordination

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). As noted above, the transit provider has a vote on both MPO committees. The SVSS runs four routes providing fixed route service to the more-urbanized communities comprising the Shenango Valley. The MCCT provides on demand service to all areas of Mercer County. The MPO is currently working with our local and regional transit partners on updating the bi-state Coordinated Human Services/Transportation Plan.

Work Tasks

The following pages demonstrate the work tasks involving the MPO. Several changes have been made in this year's UPWP to reflect PennDOT's *Actions and Procedures FY 2016-2018* guidance.

I. PLANS and PROGRAMS

TASK I A. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Task Description:

Staff will continue to focus on implementing the current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), as well as the forthcoming LRTP that is to be completed in November, 2016 (SEE TASK VI. A. – 2016-2017) Work will continue to focus on the monitoring of projects 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. Additional work in this area will focus on continued coordination with Mercer County municipalities in identifying additional maintenance of the system.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

The MPO continues to use the LRTP in discussion on the development and implementation of projects throughout the County. The LRTP continues to be used as a guide when assisting the MPO in current and future TIP updates. The MPO also continues to work closely with its planning partners at the Youngstown, OH MPO who have recently updated their LRTP. Staff has been in several conversations with pertinent PennDOT staff regarding the need to have a more viable, useful plan and what that would mean for the selection of projects.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks

Staff will continue to implement the LRTP for Mercer County. Staff will also assist PENNDOT and local communities in the development of transportation projects with long/short term effects to the transportation system. The updated LRTP will include a greater emphasis on the tasks outlined on TASK VI. A. – 2016-2017.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$7,400 | \$7,400 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$7,400 | \$7,400 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$1,110 | \$1,110 |
| Local | \$2,590 | \$2,590 |
| Total | \$18,500 | \$18,500 |

I. PLANS and PROGRAMS

TASK I B. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM/PROJECT DELIVERY

Task Description:

SVATS will assist PENNDOT in the management and implementation of the Federal Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Programs. This work will include making necessary amendments to both the Highway and Transit portions of the TIP, and maintaining a fiscally constrained program. The MPO will work with PennDOT on finalizing the 2017-2020 TIP. All amendments will meet the requirements of FAST Act federal legislation, and the CAAA of 1990.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

The MPO continued to work with PENNDOT to see that the 2015-2016 UPWP work elements were completed in a timely manner. The MPO has also had several meetings and teleconferences with appropriate PENNDOT District 1-0 and Central office staff regarding various project delivery-related issues. The MPO modified the 2015-2018 TIP as necessary. The MPO continued to meet with PENNDOT and project consultants as necessary on various major projects.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks:

The MPO will continue to maintain a fiscally constrained program that meets the needs of the County. Work will also focus on the use of Multimodal Project Management System (MPMS) data as necessary. Staff will also work with the department, as necessary, to promote public/private partnerships (P3s) and incentive/innovative financing opportunities in support of economic development.

Responsible Agencies:

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

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$24,680 | \$24,400 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$3,702 | \$3,660 |
| Local | \$2,468 | \$2,440 |
| Total | \$30,850 | \$30,500 |

I. PLANS and PROGRAMS

TASK I C. 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 analyses associated with major capital projects as needed. The MPO will also identify if appropriate any major projects that would have significant impacts on land use. The MPO will continue to assess the need and appropriateness of ITS activities and work with the Department in maintaining a regional ITS architecture. The MPO will help move forward and advocate for projects in the 2017-2020 TIP update. In addition, staff will work with communities who have applied for STU or TAP funding and work to plan out viable projects.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

The MPO worked with PENNDOT to maintain the 2015-2018 TIP. The MPO also continued to monitor local projects of regional significance particularly in the area of planning and development (most notably the State Street/Business Rt. 62 and SR 718 corridors). Members of the MCRPC attended public meetings as necessary to assist PENNDOT in the development of various projects throughout the County. The MCRPC staff continues to provide assistance to those communities and groups that have received various types of enhancement funding in the past to ensure that their projects move forward.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks:

The MPO will continue to participate in various project coordination meetings. As needed, the MPO staff will assist PENNDOT in various analyses associated with the upfront work on major capital projects. Staff will also assist PENNDOT with land use issues and how they affect major transportation projects. Staff will also continue to work with project sponsors who received TAP and STU funding to make sure these projects are completed, and also review and rank new projects as necessary. Work will continue with the department on developing and expanding regional ITS architecture as well as supporting intermodal freight connections and other network linkages. MPO staff will also review, as necessary, existing functional classification roadway designations and make recommended changes. Preparations will be made for Federal and State planning certification reviews as necessary.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| Local | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Total | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |

TASK I. PLANS and PROGRAMS

TASK I D. TRANSIT PLANNING

Task Description:

Transit Planning and assistance will be provided to the local transit operators (SVSS, MCCT) the MCRPC, and planning consultants as-needed.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

The MPO assisted the local transit providers as necessary in order to maintain the transit portion of the 2015-2018 TIP. Staff has been working with our transit partners on the Coordinated Human Services/Transportation Plan update. The MPO continues to be 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, the Mahoning and Trumbull County transit providers, as well as the Eastgate COG MPO on transit related issues.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks:

The MPO will work closely with SVSS/MCCT staff to maintain and amend, as necessary, the transit portion of the TIP and LRTP. Staff will ensure that the TIP is fiscally constrained and meets the need of the local municipalities. Staff will collaborate in the development of a funding scenario split for current and future year transit funds and completion of annual NTD information. Staff will assist the SVSS/MCCT staff, as needed, when preparing the draft 2015-2018 TIP.

The MPO will continue to be actively involved in the Coordinated Human Services/Transportation Plan update.

The MPO will continue to allow SVSS and MCCT to hire planning consultants as needed for any planning efforts undertaken outside of the two staffs' capabilities.

Responsible Agencies:

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

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$22,280 | \$22,280 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$0 | \$0 |
| Local | \$5,570 | \$5,570 |
| Total | \$27,850 | \$27,850 |

II. PLANNING TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

TASK II A. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

Task Description:

This task involves the monitoring of and updating the data collected during the 2009 CMP development process and the 2013 reassessment. Travel time measurement and several other more qualitative analyses are used to measure the congestion on Mercer County's road system. Both recurring and non-recurring (e.g. weather related, special events, traffic incidents) congestion is considered. The MPO works to link identified congestion issues with available funding by programming projects onto the LRTP and TIP.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

The CMP was utilized as a planning tool for various projects. Additionally, data from the CMP was used when new projects were proposed. The CMP was used to help decide what improvements to the transportation system may be necessary and where improvements should occur.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks:

The MPO staff will continue monitoring and updating the data collected during the CMP development process. The SVATS MPO will continue to monitor the status of identified congested corridors and intersections, for use in the development of future projects. Identified corridors will be compared with the LRTP and TIP to ensure that congestion related issues, when possible, will be addressed in the long and short-term programs. It is anticipated that the MPO staff work on updating the CMP in year two with additional travel time runs and other post processing. A consultant will be hired to assist MPO staff with the updating of this data (see TASK VI A - 2017-2018).

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$2,400 | \$2,400 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$360 | \$360 |
| Local | \$240 | \$240 |
| Total | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |

TASK III. DATA COLLECTION and ANALYSIS

**TASK III A&B. HWY. 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. The SVATS MPO will also be verifying and updating HPMS data on 120 sample sections throughout the County.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

The SVATS MPO successfully completed and entered all traffic counts required by PENNDOT and also set counts that were requested by municipal governments. Traffic counting equipment was purchased as needed. In addition, all HPMS sample sections were verified in late 2015. Staff is in regular contact with PENNDOT officials for technical assistance on traffic counting and HPMS data collection.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks:

The MPO staff will collect (by November of each year) and submit approximately 75 traffic counts (of which, about one third will be classification counts) in support of HPMS and the Commonwealth's Traffic Monitoring System (TMS), including supplemental and any additional counts by December of each year. Staff will also verify and update roadway inventory and performance measures on 125 Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) sample sections in accord with HPMS manual specifications by December of each year.

Charges on all invoices submitted for HPMS sample reviews and traffic counts will be separated 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. MPO staff will attend and/or host traffic meetings and workshops as requested by PennDOT. Finally, staff will purchase traffic counting supplies as needed. The MPO anticipates the purchase of traffic counting supplies, including but not limited to traffic counters, road tube, tape, nails, safety equipment etc.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$13,518 | \$13,518 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$2,040 | \$2,040 |
| Local | \$1,360 | \$1,360 |
| Total | \$17,000 | \$17,000 |

TASK III. DATA COLLECTION and ANALYSIS

TASK III C. GIS INITIATIVES/LOCAL ASSET DATA COLLECTION

Task Description:

The MPO will continue the collection, development and maintenance of GIS data to assist with transportation-related projects and long range planning efforts. In addition, using the GPS units supplied by PENNDOT, staff collects local asset data as needed.

2015-2016 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. Data such as road centerlines, parcel data and planimetrics are being used to evaluate current conditions, locate current and future projects, and plan for future changes to the transportation system. 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 also renewed their annual software licensing.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks:

The MPO will update (as needed) the County’s GIS system to assist with transportation planning. The MPO will also purchase their annual software licensing in order to continue to use GIS. In addition, the MPO will continue to work (in-house or with a contractor) on collecting local asset inventories if/when deemed necessary.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$16,000 | \$16,000 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$2,400 | \$2,400 |
| Local | \$1,600 | \$1,600 |
| Total | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |

IV. LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES/MODERNIZATION

TASK IV A. SMART TRANSPORTATION/MODERNIZATION/ECONOMIC DEV.

Task Description:

The MPO staff works with board members and local jurisdictions to incorporate land use planning into the transportation planning process and to identify projects that will have significant impacts (positive or negative) on land use. Staff ensures the MPO planning process is coordinated with comprehensive plans, L RTPs, and other plans. The MPO also assists PENNDOT, on an as-needed basis, with any training activities aimed at local governments dealing with land use issues such as comprehensive planning, sustainability, access management, transit oriented design, interchange development, etc.

Work is also centered on tying livability and sustainability strategies as well as the location of transportation facilities to broader opportunities, including access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, safe streets, economic development, social equity and environmental conservation. Staff also works to participate, as needed, on traffic impact studies, in the review of highway occupancy permits, and assessment of access management solutions, all to ensure a more proactive approach to managing the relationship between transportation and land use.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

The MCRPC and MPO reviewed the transportation system—and specific projects—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, as well as transportation planning studies that have been undertaken in the past.

MCRPC staff worked with the economic development agency for the County (Penn Northwest), the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce, and various local government officials and staff regarding the location of land use developments and the potential impacts on the transportation system.

Staff recently has been involved in working to develop an access management study for a growing township in Mercer County.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks:

The staff will work to identify projects that will have significant effects on land use and transportation and advocate transportation projects that are concomitant with sound land use planning. Likewise, projects that are detrimental to land use will be discouraged. All land use planning will be coordinated with the County Comprehensive Plan, local multi-municipal plans and past PENNDOT-funded special studies. When deemed appropriate, the staff will assist PENNDOT with training activities, implementation of access management control measures, Scenic Byways Planning, interchange/corridor development, etc. The MPO will continue its involvement in pushing for projects yielded from various transportation/land use studies to ensure community character is maintained/enhanced and that the studies' recommended projects properly addresses sound land use planning in the event that growth and economic changes occur. Finally, staff will work with PENNDOT as needed to assist in reviewing highway occupancy permits.

Staff will continue to work with municipal officials, various state and local agencies, to promote economic development while being mindful of smart land use planning and the link needs to have with transportation investment.

Periodically, as necessary, staff will work with PennDOT to help educate governments, PennDOT staff, community stakeholders, local Chambers of Commerce, and conservation districts on various topics including Smart Growth, Complete Streets, implementation tools, MPMS/GIS IQ, etc.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

| <i>Funding Source</i> | <i>2016-2017</i> | <i>2017-2018</i> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$17,600 | \$17,600 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$2,640 | \$2,640 |
| Local | \$1,760 | \$1,760 |
| Total | \$22,000 | \$22,000 |

V. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

TASK V A&B. ADMINISTRATION & COORDINATION

Task Description:

The MPO will develop and submit for PENNDOT approval the UPWP, as directed by PennDOT. The SVATS MPO will also schedule and coordinate all MPO Coordinating and Technical Committee meetings, arrange for advertising of those meetings, and prepare 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. Staff will assist PENNDOT in LTAP activities as needed.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

MCRPC staff successfully prepared for each of the MPO meetings held during the past year, led various other transportation-related meetings, and attended various PENNDOT taskforce and Planning Partners meetings. The MPO continues to work closely with the PENNDOT District 1-0 office on several local projects to ensure good coordination and transparency between agencies.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks:

The MPO adopted the Annual UPWP on February 16, 2016. Staff will take care of the coordination of MPO meetings, prepare MPO meeting minutes following the conclusion of the meeting, and submission of quarterly (or possibly monthly if deemed necessary) invoices and progress reports within 15 days following the end of each reporting period. Two staff members will attend the annual Planning Partners meeting and any other statewide meetings throughout the year. Various project meetings called by the District 1-0 Office will be attended as needed. Staff will continue their coordination efforts between the Shenango Valley Shuttle Service and the Ohio transit agencies. Staff will purchase telephones that allow for greater teleconferencing abilities, thus allowing for better coordination with PennDOT, FHWA and other stakeholders that cannot always attend meetings in person.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$18,400 | \$18,400 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$18,400 | \$18,400 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$2,760 | \$2,760 |
| Local | \$6,440 | \$6,440 |
| Total | \$46,000 | \$46,000 |

V. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

TASK V C. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Task Description:

The SVATS MPO will continue to collaborate with the State Transportation Commission in their public outreach campaign. The Public Participation Plan is being updated and will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness. The MPO looks 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.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

MPO staff assisted the county transit agencies with robust EJ analysis. Other EJ analysis, including Benefits and Burdens analysis, continues to be performed. Staff attended EJ-related training and was involved in several discussions/meetings with PennDOT’s Title VI staff. The MPO continues to use GIS mapping to identify minority and low income populations for use in the development of the TIP. The MPO continues to implement and update its Public Participation Plan to meets all federal requirements for EJ and outlines methods to involve additional groups and citizens in the transportation planning process.

2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Tasks:

The MPO will update the Public Participation plan. Staff will continue outreach efforts 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, impoverished, senior and limited-English proficiency populations and how these populations may be affected by current and future transportation projects. The MCRPC’s website will be redesigned right around (or shortly before) this UPWP goes into effect; it will be updated/expanded as needed to share planning and programming information with appropriate stakeholders.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$1,920 | \$1,920 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$1,920 | \$1,920 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$288 | \$288 |
| Local | \$672 | \$672 |
| Total | \$4,800 | \$4,800 |

TASK VI. SPECIAL PROJECTS

**TASK VI A. LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
(2016-2017)**

Task Description:

The SVATS MPO, working with a consultant, will complete an updated Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for Mercer County (note: the 2015-2016 UPWP was amended to partially fund the LRTP update. Goals include:

1. Draft a LRTP that is consistent with current federal and Commonwealth requirements.
2. Work with MCRPC staff to seek out and prioritize realistic transportation projects.
3. Make the LRTP as relevant as possible not only to the MPO, but also to various levels of PennDOT staff and other stakeholders involved in the transportation planning process. The LRTP, when finalized will be a useable, readable action plan that is easily understood.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

The MPO regularly utilizes its existing LRTP (last updated in 2011) and has been gearing up for the federally-required update.

2016-2017 Tasks:

The MPO, working with staff at PennDOT District 1-0 and Harrisburg’s Program Center, will hire a consultant to complete the study, adhering to the above-mentioned task description. NOTE: This project began with the amended the 2015-2016 UPWP agreement.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission, PennDOT Program Center & District 1-0

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$36,000 | \$0 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$5,400 | \$0 |
| Local | \$3,600 | \$0 |
| Total | \$45,000 | \$0 |

TASK VI. SPECIAL PROJECTS

TASK VI A. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESSES UPDATE

Task Description:

The CMP developed in 2009 requires periodic reassessment and new data collection. This was last completed in 2013 and should be reviewed again around 2017. Staff will hire a consultant to assist with this effort. Staff time will be billed from the local share of this task as well as from within Task II. A. (if needed)

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

N/A—other than periodic use of existing CMP.

2014-2015 Tasks:

The MPO will hire a consultant to complete the work outlined above.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$0 | \$4,280 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$0 | \$642 |
| Local | \$0 | \$428 |
| Total | \$0 | \$5,350 |

TASK VI. SPECIAL PROJECTS

**TASK VI B. OTHER SPECIAL STUDIES – TO BE DETERMINED
(2017-2018)**

Task Description:

It is anticipated that several refined and prioritized project ideas will be generated from the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to be finalized in November, 2016. As such, the MPO is setting aside funding to embark on one to three small to moderate sized planning studies to explore the feasibility of these potential projects. This money is also earmarked, if needed, for any other planning-related studies that might originate during this time.

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

N/A—new task

2014-2015 Tasks:

The MPO will conduct work and/or hire a consultant to complete these studies, adhering to the above-mentioned task description.

Responsible Agencies:

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission, PennDOT, Municipal Stakeholders

Estimated Cost:

| Funding Source | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Federal Highway Administration | \$0 | \$64,000 |
| Federal Transit Administration | \$0 | \$0 |
| PA Department of Transportation | \$0 | \$9,600 |
| Local | \$0 | \$6,400 |
| Total | \$0 | \$80,000 |