

**CECIL COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 8, 2008**

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<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>
Brian Bolender	Absent
Ed Cairns	X
John Denver	X
Vernon Duckett	Absent
Gary Stewart	Absent
Will Whiteman	X
Diana Broomell	X
Patricia Folk	Absent
Robert Gell (Chair)	X
Mike Pugh	X
Linda Snyder	Absent
Carl Walbeck (Vice-Chair)	X
Dan Whitehurst	X
<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Tony DiGiacomo	OPZ Principal Planner
Randy Hutton	New Member – CPOC

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**Call to Order:** 9:00AM Tuesday, April 8, 2008  
Board of Trustees Room, Cecil College

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Dr. Gell opened the meeting and stated that today we would review and discuss the Transportation Plan contained in the current Comprehensive Plan. He had earlier asked members to review it for this meeting.

Ed Cairns noted that the current plan is deficient in recognition of the need for Commuter Rail Service for the County. A general discussion of MARC and SEPTA operations ensued. It was noted that Tony DeGiacomo had prepared a report, dated 1 May 2007, on Commuter Rail Services for the County. He commented that SEPTA can be extended to Elkton from Newark. Also, MARC Train service can be extended from Perryville to Newark without needing a third rail line, according to a report commissioned by WILMAPCO.

There was general agreement that Commuter Rail Service is of high priority for the County. Our consultant, ERM, should start working on this action NOW, and not wait for our subcommittee action report due 1 October 2008. Cairns and DiGiacomo will jointly prepare a statement reflecting the views of this subcommittee as quickly as possible, and circulate it to the members before submission to CPOC and ERM.

Tony suggested that the consideration of rail services include the movement of goods as well as people. He stated that each rail car replaces 3-1/2 trucks in cargo-carrying capacity, and more rail use will help reduce highway clogging. He added that there is a need for more industrially-zoned rail sidings along the CSX railroad in the County.

A brief discussion of at-grade rail/roadway crossings resulted in Tony saying his last count a couple years ago was seven. Further discussion concerned the immediate need for more commuter parking at the AMTRAC Station in Perryville, until additional commuter stations can be provided at Elkton and North East/Charlestown. The subcommittee would like more information on who would be responsible for providing it; AMTRAC, the Town of Perryville, the State, or the County.

Mike Pugh said the next Plan should include provision for a Water Port in the County to handle grain, aggregate and other bulk products. Barges, by virtue of their cargo capacity, have potential for vast relief of truck traffic on our highways. Diana Broomell offered to provide a speaker on this subject for our next meeting.

Dr. Gell suggested the subcommittee consider identifying roadway chokepoints in the County. He mentioned the Route 40/Route 222 intersection in Perryville. Mike Pugh added that we need to have someone from the State Highway Administration and the County Roads Division attend our next meeting to identify roads and highway problems in the county for our use.

Carl Walbeck mentioned that the paragraphs on Airports and Bus Transportation need to be updated to reflect current conditions and future changes.

**Recommendations/Action Items for Staff and Consultants:**

1. In coordination with Dr. Gell, invite representatives of SHA and County Roads Div to brief the subcommittee on roadway problems at next committee meeting.
2. OPZ make available copies of DiGiacomo's 1 May 07 paper on Commuter Rail Service for Cecil County.
3. ERM give priority attention to the subcommittee's statement on immediate need for action on Commuter Rail, when received.

**Recommendations/Action Items for Oversight Committee**

1. Support subcommittee on need for immediate action on Commuter Rail.

**Adjournment: 10:30AM**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 9:00AM, Cecil College Board Room

Homework Assignment: Review County 2004 Economic Development Strategic Plan

**Minutes Prepared By:** Carl D. Walbeck, P.E.     **Date:** April 10, 2008