



CORRIDORone Update **Public Feedback on Regional Rail Project**

December 2003

Focus Groups

Small group research discussions with economic development, tourism, and arts and culture leaders from Cumberland, Dauphin and Lancaster counties were held in September to identify perceptions on both positive and negative impacts of a regional rail system. The following are key findings from the focus groups:

- A regional rail system would benefit the area.
- Cumberland, Dauphin and Lancaster counties must cooperate and work together for regional rail to be successful.
- The regional sales tax proposal and its former connection to the regional rail project continues to spur negative public reaction.
- Participants believe a regional rail system will result in long-term benefits to area cultural sites, business growth and attraction, and tourism.
- A comprehensive marketing effort must start now in order to educate the public and address perceptions.

Station Meetings

Eight station meetings were conducted in September at the proposed rail station stops along CORRIDORone to educate the public about plans for the regional rail system and address residents' concerns about the project. The station meetings were held in East Mechanicsburg, Camp Hill, Lemoyne, Harrisburg, Middletown, Elizabethtown, Mount Joy and Lancaster. The following are key findings from the station meetings:

- Nearly all residents expressed enthusiasm and support for a regional rail system, with many saying it was long overdue.
- Residents believe that it is crucial to expand current bus routes and get a feeder bus system in place before the rail system begins operation.
- Residents were concerned about how the project would be funded. Many did not want to see taxpayers footing the bill.
- Residents feel adequate and affordable parking at stations is key.

Business Leader Survey

A survey was conducted in September to gauge the perceptions among business leaders in Cumberland, Dauphin and Lancaster counties about the development and impact of a regional rail system. A total of 344 surveys were completed and returned. The following are key findings from the survey:

- More than 78 percent of business leaders are supportive of regional rail and the CORRIDORone project.
- Nearly two in three business leaders (63%) believe that a regional rail system is necessary to ensure the area's quality of life and economic vitality.
- Business leaders believe that reduced traffic congestion will be the greatest benefit.
- Nearly three in five (57%) business leaders are concerned about the system's funding.
- A total of 76 employers (22% of respondents) would consider participating in a feeder bus program that would transport their employees directly from a rail stop to their businesses.

Percent of Business Leaders Who Support the Concept of Regional Rail and the CORRIDORone Project

