



January/February 2005

## **CORRIDORone Project Update**

### **Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Services**

#### **Funding**

- The project budget for 2005 is \$80 million. The breakdown for the needed funds includes:
  - \$45.2 million from the federal New Starts Program
  - \$10 million from the Keystone Corridor budget
  - \$5 million from CAT and Red Rose Transit
  - An additional \$19 million from the federal government will be requested over the next few years

*These amounts do not include costs for the Susquehanna River Bridge project. Funds for bridge repairs will come from a matching state grant.*

#### **Current Activities**

- The Preliminary Engineering Report is making good progress. Completion will occur when track and signal issues are finalized with Norfolk Southern.
- The Preliminary Engineering agreement was executed by all parties.
- A working copy of the Environmental Assessment has been sent to Capital Area Transit (CAT) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). After comments are received, the Environmental Assessment will be sent to the Cumberland County and Lancaster County Planning Commissions.
- Gannett Fleming has responded to comments contained in the Value Engineering Report. The report has been sent to CAT and the FTA for comment.
- Now that the Right-of-Entry agreement has been executed with Amtrak, the last boring at Harrisburg Hospital will be scheduled. Once this is complete, the Geotech report will be finalized.
- The project team is investigating the option of using electric engines instead of diesel.

#### **Transit-Oriented Development**

- Middletown Borough is very interested in keeping their station and sees it as a great opportunity for redevelopment. The project team has prepared concept drawings for the new station.
- A priority for MTP in 2005, in conjunction with municipalities, is to collect examples of successful transit-oriented development (TOD) and downtown revitalization studies that calculate tax-generated revenue. Once collected and reviewed, it is recommended that the east Mechanicsburg station be used as a model for appraisers and realtors to estimate the value and tax revenue created through TOD.

#### **Meetings**

- John Ward recently met with business leaders at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center to generate interest, raise funds and outline the first steps of **CORRIDORtwo**. The use of federal funds, feasibility, location, costs and intermediate steps from now until operation were discussed. The initial study, which includes three alternatives, will cost \$400,000. MTP is developing commitments for funding from business leaders and local representatives are working to raise \$200,000 from the state.

#### **Business & Partner Relations**

##### **Amtrak Discussions**

- Amtrak has committed to increase service on the Keystone Corridor, which includes track and signalization upgrades. Amtrak and Gannett Fleming are working to bridge the gaps between their two project schedules so service can begin in 2007.