

REGIONALRAIL NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania House Supports CORRIDORone for Economic Development

House passes resolution emphasizing how regional rail promotes economic development, reduces traffic congestion and protects the environment

HARRISBURG, Pa. (February 9, 2006) – The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution yesterday in support of the CORRIDORone regional rail project that will connect Lancaster, Harrisburg and Carlisle. Noting that the region’s population is expected to grow by 27 percent by the year 2020 and employment is projected to grow by 44 percent in the same timeframe, House Resolution 565 explains that CORRIDORone offers a cost-effective transportation alternative – 41 miles of rail service equals the cost for three miles of roadway construction. The resolution gives the Modern Transit Partnership (MTP) momentum as it works to secure CORRIDORone operating funds in the state budget.

“We thank the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for their strong endorsement of regional rail for Southcentral Pennsylvania,” said MTP Chairman Gerald K. Morrison. “To accommodate our region’s future growth and traffic congestion, the House has rightly recognized how CORRIDORone will help to reduce traffic congestion, promote economic development and protect the environment.”

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ADD 1 – Pennsylvania House Votes for CORRIDORone Regional Rail Project

“Lancaster, Harrisburg and Carlisle need CORRIDORone to promote economic development,” said J. Glenn Ebersole, principal of the Lancaster-based JG Ebersole Associates and MTP board member.

“Communities receive \$3 to \$6 in return for every \$1 invested in public transportation, according to the American Public Transportation Association. Studies also show improved property values near rail stations, benefiting property owner equity and increased tax values for local governments.”

“Cumberland, Dauphin and Lancaster counties have all received failing marks from the American Lung Association for air pollution,” said Attorney Karen P. Gunnison, an MTP board member from Mechanicsburg. “Our region is ranked as one of the worst nationally for soot pollution – the kind that’s particularly harmful to children, the elderly or those with asthma. CORRIDORone offers a sensible way to alleviate the stop-and-go traffic congestion that significantly contributes to our poor air quality.”

“We are grateful for the many regional representatives who joined as sponsors of the resolution,” said John S. Ward, president of MTP. “We appreciate their leadership in recognizing that our region’s roads cannot support the growth in population and traffic expected for the year 2020.” House Resolution 565 was sponsored by Richard Geist, chairman of the House Transportation Committee, and Representatives Roy Baldwin, Scott Boyd, Ronald Buxton, Mauree Gingrich, David Hickernell, Mark Keller, Ronald Marsico, Jerry Nailor, John Payne and Bruce Smith.

“We cannot build enough highways to keep up with regional growth,” Morrison added. “It’s time for regional rail.”

CORRIDORone represents the initial leg of a regional rail system in Southcentral Pennsylvania. Trains will run between Cumberland County — through Harrisburg — and Lancaster County, with 11 rail station stops. The CORRIDORone regional rail system will use existing freight and passenger tracks in the area, and passenger trains similar to those used by Amtrak. Service between Harrisburg and Lancaster is slated to begin in 2008, with Hampden/Sporting Hill to Harrisburg service to follow in 2009.

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ADD 2 – Pennsylvania House Votes for CORRIDORone Regional Rail Project

The MTP is a non-profit organization that serves as the leading advocate, facilitator, promoter and visionary for regional, integrated, multi-modal transit featuring regional rail. Launched in 1997 by the Capital Area Transit board of directors, this partnership is made up of business, community and government leaders who are striving to develop a regional congestion management plan that will meet tomorrow's transportation and infrastructure needs in Southcentral Pennsylvania. CAT is the Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg Transit Authority, providing public transportation with 28 bus routes and 17 park-and-ride locations throughout the region. CAT also provides paratransit service to citizens of Dauphin County.

For more information about CORRIDORone, visit www.corridorone.info.

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