

REGIONAL RAIL NEWS

901 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: 717-233-5657

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark McGaffin
Sacunas & Saline
(717) 652-0100, ext. 19

Jim Hoffer
Capital Area Transit
(717) 233-5657, ext. 127

Area Business Leaders Supportive of Regional Rail

More than 300 executives respond to CORRIDORone survey

HARRISBURG, Pa. (December 9, 2003) — Results from a recent survey of business leaders in Cumberland, Dauphin and Lancaster counties uncovered strong support for launching a regional rail system in the area.

The survey focused on gaining business executive feedback on Capital Area Transit (CAT) and the Modern Transit Partnership's (MTP) CORRIDORone project — the first corridor to be developed as part of southcentral Pennsylvania's regional rail system. Specifically, the business leader survey was designed to identify current levels of awareness and support, assess related benefits of regional rail to the business community, and discover areas of concern. A total of 344 surveys were completed by business leaders along CORRIDORone in Cumberland, Dauphin and Lancaster counties.

Sixty-three percent (63%) of total respondents regarded the regional rail system as necessary to ensure the area's economic vitality, and 78 percent were supportive of efforts to bring regional rail to southcentral Pennsylvania. In addition, the majority of business leaders responded that a regional rail system would benefit the area by reducing congestion and contributing to business growth and retention.



-more-



ADD 1 — Business Leaders Support Regional Rail Project

Business leaders also listed areas of concern about a regional rail system. A notable concern of nearly three in five business leaders was how the rail system would be funded, and more than half rated location and convenience of the rail stations as a top concern.

“Feedback from the business community is a critical component to ensuring the success of regional rail,” MTP President John Ward said. “We value their insights, and will certainly be considering their response to help guide the project’s next steps.”

Ward noted that the results from the business leader survey — along with suggestions offered at a series of recent public station meetings and focus group sessions — will be incorporated into the preliminary engineering and environmental analysis phase of CORRIDORone. The preliminary engineering and environmental analysis began in May 2003 and represents the final step prior to design and construction of CORRIDORone. Regional rail service between Harrisburg and Lancaster is slated to begin in late 2005, with east Mechanicsburg to Harrisburg service to follow in 2007.

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.

The MTP is a non-profit organization that supports and promotes public transportation with the ultimate goal of bringing regional rail to southcentral Pennsylvania. 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.

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

#

EDITOR’S NOTE: Please refer to the attached pdf for more specific survey results.