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Regional Transit Coordination Study for Nine Counties Complete

YORK, Pa. (November 30, 2011) – Commuter Services of Pennsylvania recently completed the Regional Transit Coordination Study in collaboration with nine counties in the south central Pennsylvania region. The study began in June of 2010 with the goals of identifying and increasing mobility options through coordinated services provided by the different transit agencies in the region covered by Commuter Services: BARTA, CAT, Lebanon Transit, rabbittransit, and Red Rose Transit.

The results of the study chart a course for coordinated regional transit services in the near future and also address how transit providers can work together to provide greater opportunities for inter-county mobility. The complete Final Report and an Executive Summary, along with many supporting documents including corridor maps, can be found on the website: <http://www.pacommuterservices.com/RTCS.html>.

“The study focused on closing the transit gaps between where people live and where they work to encourage more use of public transportation,” said Brandy Heilman, Executive Director of Commuter Services of Pennsylvania. “Through this coordinated effort, we are looking to increase and improve commuters’ choices of transportation options and the ease of integrating those options into their daily routines. Ultimately, having fewer people drive to work alone in their cars translates into better quality of life for everyone who lives and works in south central Pennsylvania.”

Some of the top findings from the study include:

- Projected population growth between 2000 and 2030 is significant in the south central Pennsylvania region
- The need for more express services, multimodal linkages and Park & Rides was identified
- A common way to pay for fares on different transit systems is essential
- Transit is viewed as a choice for the younger generation
- Separate funding for inter-county transit service coordination is needed in legislation with local political support
- Partnerships with local government and employers are very important for regional transit coordination

The benefits of implementing regional transit service coordination include congestion reduction, air quality improvement, greater transit access for area residents, increased ridership, and ultimately an increase in transportation options.

The study is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and through the following participating partners: Commuter Services of Pennsylvania; five transit agencies including the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA), which served as the grantee for the study, Adams County Transit Authority (ACTA), Capital Area Transit (CAT, serving Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg), County of Lebanon Transit Authority (Lebanon Transit), Red Rose Transit Authority (Lancaster), York County Transportation Authority (rabbittransit); and the Adams County Office of Planning and Development, Berks County Planning Commission, Franklin County Planning, Lebanon County Planning Department, Lancaster County Planning Commission, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (Cumberland/Dauphin/Perry), and the York County Planning Commission.

About Commuter Services
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Funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration through PennDOT and the region's metropolitan and rural planning organizations.

Commuter Services board includes transit agencies, planning organizations and chambers:

- Harrisburg Regional Chamber; the Gettysburg Adams, Lebanon Valley, Greater Chambersburg, and York County Chambers of Commerce; Lancaster and Greater Reading Chambers of Commerce & Industry;
- Adams County Transit Authority (ACTA); Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA), County of Lebanon Transit Authority (LT); Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA, Lancaster); York County Transportation Authority (rabbittransit); Capital Area Transit (CAT, Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg);
- Lancaster, Lebanon, Reading Area and York Area Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs); Harrisburg MPO (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties) and Adams and Franklin counties Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs).

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