

TO: Area News Media
FROM: Steve Kusheloff
DATE: October 28, 2010
SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

Members of the public can voice their opinion about the region's public transportation needs at four focus group sessions, beginning November 9, 2010. **The focus groups are part of a comprehensive study being carried out by the North Central Pennsylvania Public Transportation Taskforce, which is considering transportation needs in Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties.** Anyone residing or working within those six counties with an interest in providing input is encouraged to attend one of the focus groups.

The focus groups will be held at the following times and locations:

Tuesday, November 9 – Lycoming County

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. River Valley Room
2nd Floor
Joseph M. McDade Trade Transit Centre
100 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Tuesday, November 9 – Montour County

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Montour County Human Services Transit Building
Conference Room
112 Woodbine Lane
Danville, PA 17821

Friday, November 12 – Northumberland County

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Shamokin Career Link Building (former Shamokin High School)
Auditorium
2 East Arch Street
Shamokin, PA 17872

Friday, November 12 – Union County

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Public Library for Union County
Large Multi Purpose Room
255 Reitz Blvd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

In addition to the general public, several large employers have been invited to the focus groups, including hospitals, universities, and private companies. Public service providers, prison facilities, and utility companies have also been asked to take part. Mark Murawski, Transportation Planner, Lycoming County and Chairman of the Taskforce, said, "We want to hear a range of perspectives about public transit issues in the region. We want to prepare a study and plan that is responsive to public needs."

In addition to Lycoming County, there are over 50 members of the Transportation Taskforce, including representatives from the counties, several municipalities, transportation service providers, hospitals, chambers of commerce, and public and human service organizations. Funding for the effort has been provided by PennDOT, several of the counties of interest, and Cherokee Pharmaceuticals LLC, in Riverside. The Taskforce has contracted with Gannett Fleming Inc., a private consultant, to assist with development of the public transit study.

For more information about the North Central PA Public Transportation Taskforce, contact Keri Albright of Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way, (570) 988-0993.

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