



Adams County Association of Township Officials

Stephanie A. Egger, President (Hamilton Twp)
Keith Whittaker, Treasurer (Conewago Twp.)

Coleen N. Reamer, Vice Pres. (Hamiltonban Twp.)
Marcia Weaver, Secretary (Reading Twp.)

March 4, 2015

Hello and “That’s enough SNOW”!

We are ALL weary from these back to back weather events and looking forward to nicer weather! The cost for all of us has been enormous! So think Spring and take a look at what is coming from ACATO.

PSATS News/ Conference – April 19, 20,21,22

As a reminder, we are supplying an Adams County door prize basket again this year so we need some items from your local businesses. Let’s promote this great and beautiful county of ours with a wide variety of items. Our basket can never be too big so please get those donations to one of the ACATO officers or even send it with your representative to the COG on **Thursday March 26, 2015.**

Trainings

By filling out the November Conference Evaluation forms *you* have requested several different types of training. The Committee NEEDS your feedback to determine which topics you are most interested in pursuing:

1. **Roadmasters** – *The ins and outs of applying for Low Volume Road Funding including Dirt & Gravel Road funding?*
2. **Office Staff** – *What’s new with GIS?*
3. **Office Staff** – *A review of the Plan Submission Process at the County Level once it leaves the Township office ?*
4. *Any other suggested training topics?*

Please contact Stephanie (saehamilton@twphamilton.com) with your feedback within the next three weeks!!! Please include a count of how many of your municipal people you feel would benefit from such a training.

Mid –Year ACATO Conference - Wednesday, May 27, 2015

The importance of well developed Personnel Manuals is becoming more and more of a legal issue that Townships must address. This year’s Mid -Year speaker will address some of the most pressing legal issues that we may face. We will again be providing a light meal. A sign –up sheet for the purpose of meal ordering will be circulated in late April. Please watch for it!

PA-FirstNet State-Wide Broadband Initiative for First Responders

If you missed the previous newsletter: *“FirstNet will be a single nationwide interoperable network dedicated to public safety, and PA-FirstNet is the Pennsylvania portion of that network. It will revolutionize the Public Safety communications, and dramatically improve our First Responder's ability to serve our citizens. FirstNet and PA-FirstNet are in their infancy, and construction and implementation of the network likely will not take place for some time. Currently States are preparing for FirstNet by outreaching to local stakeholders about the program, as well as collecting data and requirements. “*

There will be more information coming in the future about this nationwide effort that is headed by the State Police.

Secretarial Roundtable/Forum and Luncheon - Wednesday, July 29, 2015

The Secretarial roundtables have proven to be very productive and informative. ACATO is proud to say that this will be our **Fourth Annual** roundtable/forum and luncheon. It is our hope that at least one staffer from each Township will attend this year. We always accept questions in advance of the forum so that our guest moderators can research your answers. So, please do not hesitate to send those topics and questions to President Stephanie. We are looking forward to another great session!

ACTPO – Adams County Transportation Planning Organization

The ACATO Delegates serving on this organization are Marcy Krum (Conewago Township, Coleen Reamer (Hamiltonban Township), Robert Gordon (Hamiltonban Township) and our alternate is David Arndt (Conewago Township). There is a synopsis of what ACTPO is and does at the end of this newsletter. We will update you after each quarterly meeting in the future.

Items for the Future! AWARDS....get in on the Action!

It is sometimes good to repeat dates and especially these dates from PSATS. PSATS has some great awards programs that each of us can take advantage of and can serve to especially promote our Township Government with our citizens! Check them out at psats.org and get things rolling in your township.....take a look!

- Don't forget that PSATS has a Youth Award Program for youth groups: To recognize youth groups that make valuable and lasting contributions to improve life in Pennsylvania's townships of the second class. The awards program encourages greater youth involvement in township government. **Deadline August 1, 2015.**
- Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Award: To recognize townships that have undertaken road or bridge improvement projects to increase public safety. **Deadline March 6, 2015.**
- Citizen Communication Contest - PSATS member townships that publish print or electronically prepare newsletters, annual reports, and other publications; have a website or use social media; or develop content for cable TV. Publications must have been produced between September 1, 2014, and August 30, 2015. The deadline for entries will be **August 31, 2015.** Check it out the application in June 2015.

ACATO NOVEMBER CONVENTION – DATE CHANGE

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 = Because the original date of the convention fell on Veterans' Day with some of our Township Offices having a holiday as well as some vendors, we felt that the attendance of the event would be best served to change the date to the following Wednesday. So please mark your calendars with the change.

**We are still working on filling all of our Committee positions. Please volunteer!
Thank you very much for your participation and support,**

Stephanie and the Executive Committee

The next Executive Board meeting is at the READING Township Office building at 1:30 PM on April 29, 2015! You are always welcome to attend!

Adams County Transportation Planning Organization (ACTPO)

As a county wide organization, ACATO has delegates serving on several key County Organizations/Boards. The Adams County Transportation Planning Organization (ACTPO) has three Township voting delegates and Alternate Voting Delegate currently serving our ACATO members. Those members serving are Robert Gordon (Hamiltonban Twp) as Vice Chairman, Coleen Reamer (Hamiltonban Township), Marcy Krum (Conewago Township) and David Arndt (Conewago Township) as Delegate Alternate.

Meetings are held quarterly at the Adams Emergency Center on Greenameyer Lane and are led by the Adams County Office of Planning and Development (ACOPD)'s Andrew Merkel. Penn Dot District 8 representatives attend as well as delegates from transit businesses, the Boroughs' Association, community associations and Adams County representatives. There are 13 voting members. You can retrieve more information on the county website under the Planning Department/ Boards and Committees/ ACTPO or follow the link: <http://www.adamscounty.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/ACTPO.aspx>

Purpose as stated in the By Laws:

“ Section 1: The Adams County Transportation Planning Organization (ACTPO) was established on October 26, 1998 between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the County of Adams per Agreement No. 520609. ACTPO shall serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) covering the entire political subdivision boundary of Adams County in accordance with Title 23 U.S.C. Section 34 and Title 49 U.S.C. Section 1607.

Section 2: The purpose of ACTPO shall be to complete studies, prepare plans and to establish and control policies relative to meeting the primary responsibilities of an MPO, as specified in federal law and regulations, including but not limited to:

1. Allocation of federal and state funds for surface transportation projects.
2. Establishment of transportation priorities for Adams County based on applicable data, studies, and long-term planning policies and goals.
3. Provide for effective public involvement throughout the planning process.
4. Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.

Section 3: ACTPO shall consist of a single committee which shall serve as the decision-making body responsible for meeting the federal regulations, requirements and technical recommendations relative to MPOs. **“ (End of By Laws quote)**

Municipal Input on the Federal Functional Classification Map

The County Classification of our roadways had not been re-evaluated for over (20) twenty years. Adams County and Penn Dot have recently completed a reclassification of roadways that better reflects the “traveling public”. The new category of Freeway has been added to the previous list of classifications and some classifications have been upgraded.

As a Municipality, ACOPD will be reaching out to you to ask for your review and comments on the classification changes in your area, if any. Please review and return this communication.

It will be important for you to check your ordinances for any needed changes to reflect the new classifications once they are accepted and approved by the County. If you have an interest in Transportation Planning and Funding in the County, you are encouraged to attend any meeting. Each is held at the County Emergency Services Building from 1:00 PM until 3:00PM. *Our next two scheduled meetings are April 22, 2015 & July 22, 2015. You will not be alone! Many various community organizations regularly attend.*

Respectfully submitted, Coleen Reamer, ACATO Delegate