



## Cumberland County Planning Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSIDERS SHARED RIDE TRANSPORTATION MERGER WITH YORK COUNTY

The Cumberland County Commissioners reviewed a proposal today to merge the county's shared ride transportation department with the shared ride division of rabbittransit, a regional transportation provider coordinating service for York, Adams and Northumberland Counties. Richard Farr, Executive Director of rabbittransit, presented the plan that will evaluate the administrative and operational practices of both organizations and recommend how the organizations could be combined to provide cost efficient, high-quality transportation services to clients in Cumberland County. The plan will be developed over a 3-month period and will include interim reviews by the County Commissioners. A final decision on the merger is expected later this year and requires the approval of the County Commissioners and rabbittransit Board of Directors.

The Cumberland County Commissioners anticipate the plan will show that a rabbittransit partnership will enrich customer service while ultimately costing less. Rose Cook, Director of the Cumberland County Transportation Department, notes that, "Shared ride transportation is a dynamic business that challenges operators to provide vital transportation services on a tight budget, all while complying with rigorous state and federal standards. A merger with rabbittransit offers the potential to leverage economies of scale that could enhance service, minimize cost, and streamline regulatory compliance."

Shared ride bus service provides consolidated or "shared" trips for customers traveling to similar destinations that are not well served by fixed route bus service. Customers rely on shared ride bus service to travel to work, shopping, medical facilities, school and other life-sustaining activities. Discounted trips are provided for persons with disabilities, mental health/intellectual development disabilities, qualified medical trips, and senior citizens. All trips must be prescheduled. Rabbittransit currently provides shared ride bus service in York, Adams and Northumberland Counties. Cumberland County provides approximately 550 shared ride trips per day while rabbittransit provides 1,400 trips per day.

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