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July 20, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Officials Plan to Participate in South Central PA Transit Regionalization Summit

Cumberland County, PA- Commissioners and other stakeholders from Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Perry, Lebanon and York Counties will meet on Wednesday, July 22nd at 1:30 p.m. at the Centennial Barn at Fort Hunter, located at 5300 North Front Street in Harrisburg. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the potential for consolidation of transit services in the South Central Pennsylvania region. Keynote speakers Kevin Barnhardt and David Kilmer will present on their experience with the successful merger of the Red Rose and BARTA transit authorities in Berks and Lancaster Counties. Toby Fauver, Deputy Secretary for Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), will follow with a status update on the Phase II Regionalization Study and next steps for interested counties. The Phase II Study addressed consolidation opportunities in the 7 counties that are sending representatives to the meeting.

The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners recently signed a letter of support to PennDOT expressing their support of the Phase II Study recommendations, as well as their interest in exploring the single transit authority model the Study proposes. The findings of the study revealed a potential cumulative \$12 million in savings by eliminating the local share contribution for a 5-year period. “Together, as a region, we’ve got a golden opportunity here if we’re willing to seize it,” said Cumberland County Commissioner Jim Hertzler, the Board’s liaison on transportation matters. “If only we’re willing to break down the silos, and embrace change from the mediocrity of the status quo, this truly promises an honest to goodness win, win, win for our constituents: in saving public transit costs for our taxpayers, in improving public transit services for all of our citizens and in stabilizing fares for transit riders well into the future.”

Michael Clapsadl, Deputy Controller for Cumberland County, also serves as one of Cumberland’s representatives to the Capital Area Transit (CAT) Board. Clapsadl said “It is a rare opportunity counties have to achieve this level of savings for the region’s residents, taxpayer and riders alike – all while improving transit services.” With a shared goal of improved transit services and cost savings that will reduce the impact on taxpayers, Cumberland County officials are eager to work with PennDOT and other elected officials within the region on this project. This proposed model would provide Cumberland County with a substantial share of the savings. Cumberland County would benefit with approximately \$1.5 million in savings in the first five years of operation and a total of \$2 million by the tenth year.

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