



COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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*Regionalization Moves Forward as Bus Service
Continues for Cumberland County Commuters*

Cumberland County, PA – Transit service for Cumberland County residents will not be interrupted for now, and progress towards regionalization is moving forward. The Capital Area Transit (CAT) Board of Directors took no action during their May 30th meeting to terminate County services, as previously threatened. The CAT Board also unanimously passed a resolution to discuss regionalization options, starting next week.

The Cumberland County Commissioners are pleased CAT did not follow through on its threat to the riders it should be serving – an action the County continues to consider illegitimate and illegal. The County is also pleased representatives of Dauphin County, the City of Harrisburg and the County’s representatives on the CAT board unanimously approved the regionalization resolution.

“Both of these actions are steps in the right direction,” said Vince DiFilippo, commissioner. “We have said from day one we would not allow our residents to be stranded by CAT and also pledged to be good stewards of their tax dollars. Lower cost regionalization affording more service is the answer and we are pleased these actions are moving in that direction.”

The regionalization resolution, proposed by City of Harrisburg representatives to the CAT board, states the board will discuss “how transit regionalization might best serve the public” and that members of the board will “commit to engage in an open and earnest dialogue on the benefits and risks of options to serve the ongoing and future transportation needs of those communities we now serve.”

During the meeting, Eric Bugaile, CAT board chairman, refuted that CAT had overbilled its funding partners in the past, in spite of the fact that the existence of those surplus funds and guidelines for their use were formally acknowledged and approved by the CAT Board in 2016. The most egregious overbillings to Dauphin and Cumberland counties and the City of Harrisburg

occurred during Bugaile's first three years as Chairman of CAT and only stopped when discovered and opposed by all of CAT's funding partners in 2015.

Cumberland County is also concerned with Bugaile's statement that there were no overbillings, which might be a tacit admission that the money is now gone, despite recent audit determinations that the surplus funds remained in their appropriate accounts.

The Cumberland County Commissioners also take issue with statements made by Bugaile to the effect that Cumberland's withholding of new monies, prior to its agreement to pay second quarter local match, threatened funding from the State and Federal Government. A letter provided to CAT from the Cumberland County Solicitor states that "CAT has produced no evidence that PennDOT is threatening to hold back state funding for fiscal 2018," and that the County and CAT "have a signed funding agreement that delineates the terms and conditions for provision of our local match that runs through 2019."

Cumberland is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and the County's leadership recognizes the importance of sustainable transit services, which is also fiscally responsible. Residents with transit related questions can contact the hotline at 717-240-7350 or email questions and concerns about public transportation services to BusQuestions@ccpa.net.

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