FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bellefonte Central Rail Trail Feasibility Study
PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

WHEN? -- Wednesday, November 29, 2006, 7:00pm

WHERE? -- Benner Township Elementary School, 490 Buffalo Run Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823

WHO? -- Residents of Centre County, hosted by the Centre County Office of Planning and Community Development

WHY? -- At this meeting we will explain the feasibility study process; update everyone on the status of the project; and listen to issues and concerns individuals may have regarding the proposed trail. Please come and share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns with us.

WHY IS THIS MEETING IMPORTANT TO ME? –

- Do you like to hike through the woods, fish in local trout streams, or hunt on nearby State Game Lands?
- Are you interested in the economic welfare of the communities along the corridor?
- Do you want to conserve the rural character of the Buffalo Run corridor?
- Do you wish you could bike to work and/or the park and leave the car at home?
- As a private property owner along the corridor are you concerned about trespassing and vandalism?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, YOU can help!!!! Please attend this important meeting, refreshments will be provided!

The economic benefits of trails have been well established. They attract new residents and encourage new companies to locate in a region. They spin off new business opportunities such as bike rentals, trailside restaurants, and lodgings. Trails increase the value of property adjacent to them. They provide health and fitness opportunities and provide economic development opportunities by bringing visitors and their wallets to our communities.

As a private land owner along the corridor you may have concerns about the trail and its potential impact to your property. At this meeting we will discuss those concerns, identify what the realities are, and talk about solutions to address those concerns which are real.

The meeting will be conducted by Pashek Associates. They are a Landscape Architecture and Community Planning firm from Pittsburgh. Centre County has hired Pashek Associates to complete this Study on behalf of Patton, Ferguson, Benner, and Spring Townships, and Bellefonte and State College Boroughs. The project is being funded with a Community Conservation Partnership Program grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Centre County Board of Commissioners.