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Executive Director

**LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Minutes from the Thursday, May 31, 2018 Meeting**

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission’s conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Mr. Repasch chaired the meeting.

Ms. Leonard took Roll Call – Quorum Obtained.

**Members in Attendance:**

**Lehigh County**

Percy Dougherty, Bob Elbich, Steve Glickman, Kent Herman, Dennis Hower, Rick Molchany, Brad Osborne, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Douglas Stewart, Christine Weaver and Donna Wright.

**Northampton County**

Debra Bodine, Gordon Campbell, Eugene Clater, Malissa Davis, Liesel Dreisbach, Charles Elliott, Jamie Horvath, Kevin Lott, William McGee, Tina Roseberry, Gerald Yob and Greg Zebrowski.

**Members Absent:**

**Lehigh County**

Phillips Armstrong, Mike Gibson, Miriam Huertas, Christina Morgan, Ray O’Connell, Owen O’Neil and Kevin Schmidt.

**Northampton County**

Janelle Connolly, John Diacogiannis, Robert Donchez, Darlene Heller, Robert Lammi, Shawn Martell, Lamont McClure, Salvatore Panto, Pam Pearson and Tina Smith.

**Staff Present:** Becky Bradley, Whitney Burdge, Mike Donchez, Denise Leonard, Sue Rockwell, Jill Seitz, Tracy Oscavich, Geoff Reese, Chandra Parasa, John von Kerczek and Matt Assad.

**Public Present:** None

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:** No Comments

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **New Commissioner Recognition**

Mr. Repasch recognized Janelle Connolly – Northampton County and Greg Zebrowski - Northampton County.

## **MARCH MINUTES**

Mr. Repasch stated that the minutes of the April 26, 2018 LVPC meeting are attached. Mr. Dougherty made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Clater abstaining.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Comprehensive Planning Committee**

#### *1. Ordinance/Plan Reviews Summary Sheet*

Ms. Wright referred the commission to the summary sheet for an overview of the staff comments on other proposed actions requiring LVPC review. Ms. Wright made a motion to accept the staff comments as presented. Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Rader (Item 3 & 4) and Mr. Clater (Item 1 & 2) abstaining.

### **Environment Committee:**

#### *1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Status Report*

Mr. Reese provided an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He noted that there are 132 days until October 10, 2018 when the plan must be completed, reviewed by the public, approved by the state and federal governments and have at least one (1) municipality adopt the plan. Staff will present the draft plan in June.

#### *2. Approval of Monocacy Creek Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan Update*

Mr. Reese announced that the Monocacy Creek Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan has moved through all the processes including approval by the Department of Environmental Protection. The process now begins for all twelve (12) municipalities in the watershed to adopt ordinance provisions consistent with the criteria within this plan. They have until November 21, 2018 to adopt updated stormwater management provisions consistent with the document.

#### *3. Reviews Summary Sheet*

Ms. Weaver referred the commission to the summary sheet for an overview of the staff comments on proposed actions requiring LVPC review. Ms. Weaver made a motion to accept the staff comments as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Transportation Committee**

### *1. Transportation Improvement Program*

Mr. Donchez gave an overview on The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is a federally mandated four year program containing high priority highway, bridge, transit, multi-modal and rail infrastructure projects within the two county region. It is a four (4) year document that is updated every two (2) years. This particular program will cover the period of 2019 – 2022. The total value of the programs is \$534 million in total broken down \$144 million bridge, \$244 million highway and \$146 million transit. The transit side covers both capital projects and operating assistance. We held two public meetings: May 2 at LVPC (approximately 40 attendees) and on May 8 at Bethlehem Public Library (approximately 17 attendees). A presentation was also given at the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce to address concerns they had with regards to a specific project which was not listed specially on the TIP but carried under one of the general line items. The TIP includes a modeling process; where LVPC analyzes the proposed improvements. The TIP will go to LVTS for adoption on June sixth. Once adopted the TIP then goes to PennDOT Central Office and then ultimately to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). Once USDOT approval is issued (expected late September) then funding will be available October first for four years.

### *2. LANta Coordinated Human Services Transit Plan*

Mr. Donchez presented the LANta Coordinated Human Services Transit Plan referred to as Coordinated Transit Plan. The Plan identifies gaps/needs in transportation services as it pertains to people with disabilities, elderly and low income. The initial plan was developed back in 2007 to look at filling in gaps in service. Services in operation include: LANta Bus, LANta Van, ARC, Good Shepherd, VIA, Center for Vision Loss, Senior Life, Step-by-Step, ShareCare and the Independent Transportation Network of the Lehigh Valley. The funding source that we are primarily concerned about is the Federal Section 5310 program. This is a funding program through the federal transit administration and administered by PennDOT. There is roughly \$600,000 that is spent annually within the Lehigh Valley in 5310 funds. Studies revealed that 9% of the households within the Lehigh Valley do not own a vehicle. Ms. Burdge presented several illustrations of the type of improvements that could make mobility easier and support the vehicle services aspect of the plan. The Coordinated Transit Plan will be going before LVTS for final adoption on Wednesday, June 6, 2018.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *1. Walk/BikeLV: Active Transportation Plan Report*

Ms. Bradley provided an update on the Walk/BikeLV: Active Transportation Plan. The plan will be funded by federal, PennDOT and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources monies. Consultant Selections are currently in process. The document will look at where we can build a bike system and how that will connect with our trail & transit system and support walkability. A number of our municipal governments came back to us with requests to explore regional bike share. LANta would like us to explore how the LANta pass system could be used to purchase and ride

the bikes. We would also like the plan to support the community and multimodal goals including the Vision Zero (no deaths for cycling/pedestrians) policy. The opportunity is there to position our local governments to be more competitive when state and federal funding sources become available. There is a Multimodal Working Group which is a public committee for the Plan development. The plan should be completed by June 30, 2019.

## 2. *5<sup>th</sup> Annual LVPC Gala & Awards – October 10, DeSales University*

Ms. Oscavich reported on the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual LVPC Gala and Award to be held on October 10th at DeSales University. The event is to honor planning projects throughout the valley. The Call for Nominations was released on May 29. Please encourage people in your community to nominate projects.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. *FutureLV: Regional Plan Community Survey Results*

Ms. Bradley recapped the results of the FutureLV: Regional Plan Community Survey which was conducted from March 8 – April 16 and received 1,064 responses which makes the survey statistically valid. The survey was also available for the first time in both English and Spanish.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### *Turning Point of Lehigh Valley – Donation Thank you*

Mr. Repasch pointed out the correspondence on page 15 from the Turning Point of Lehigh Valley thanking LVPC for their donation.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### 1. *Partnerships*

Ms. Bradley provided an update on the following partnerships with LVPC:

- United Way – Age Friendly Communities Policy Comparison/Development – They are applying of age friendly region status. Announcement will take place in June.
- Workforce Board/Lehigh Economic Development Corporation – Creating a one stop shop on information in the Lehigh Valley.
- Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor – BUILD Grant and Study – Engineering and design layout for this piece of the trail and figure out where those loop trails can go between Catasauqua and the western side of the river along with opportunities to cross the Lehigh River and connect its other trails.

Ms. Oscavich provided an update on the following partnership with LVPC.

- Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor BUILD 2018 Grant – Previously referred to as TIGER. They have authorized \$1.5 billion which is broken down to up to \$150 million per state with a maximum of \$25

million/project. Eligible projects include highway, bridge, other road projects, public transportation and intermodal projects. We plan to apply for the Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor which is the critical link in the 165 mile Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor network between Race Street and Whitehall. Completion of the link should generate 3,000 permanent jobs which will impact the entire Lehigh Valley and provide residents with transportation options. There are currently 20 major Lehigh Valley partners involved and the number is growing. A 100% private funding match has been secured. The application is due in July.

## *2. Northampton County Blight Reversal and Remediation Plan*

Ms. Bradley provided an update on the Northampton County Blight Reversal and Remediation Plan. Northampton County has asked us handle the development of a blight reversal and remediation plan for the County. A Request for Proposals went out and is due in a few weeks.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION:**

Ms. Oscavich recapped the upcoming Public Engagement and Participation Events:

1. *Local Technical Assistant Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office*
  - Salt and Snow Management – August 7 (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
  - Road Safety Audit – September 11 (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
2. *Public Participation*
  - Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Summit – June 21 & 22 @ Lehigh University, All Day (Seats Available)
3. *Planning and Pizza @ LVPC Office, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.*
  - Community Survey Results – June 27
  - Hazard Mitigation Plan – July 10
4. *FUTURELV: Working Group – June 18 @ LVPC, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.*
5. *Hazard Mitigation Plan*
  - July 10 @ Iron Works Municipal Building, Catasauqua, 7:00 p.m.
6. *5<sup>th</sup> Annual LVPC Gala and Lehigh Valley Awards – October 10 @ DeSales University, Center Valley, 4:00 p.m.*

## **Adjournment**

With no further business Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Zebrowski seconded the motion.

Submitted by:  
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and  
Denise Leonard, Executive Administrative Assistant