



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

C/O LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
961 MARCON BOULEVARD, SUITE 310
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18109
(610) 264-4544

LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Minutes from the April 4, 2018 Joint Technical & Coordinating Committee Meeting Penn State – Lehigh Valley Campus

AGENDA

Attendees:

Nelson Varuhlese, Ken Navitsky, Andrew Kleiner, Richard Young, Gerald Fry, Bryan Cope, Heather Heeter, Scott Slingerland, Ray Green, Matt Malozi, Max Inkrote, Steve Turoscy, George Kinney, Dave Hopkins, Carol Halper, Ralph Eberhardt, Lee Rackus, Brian Miller, Wendy Solomen, Tom Shortell and Matt Szuchyt.

Minutes

Mr. Rebert stated that the minutes of the December 18, 2017 Joint LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committee are attached. Mr. Cotter made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Heller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Status of TIP Bridge and Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Projects

Mr. Kufro stated that all the projects listed on the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Status report are scheduled for later this year and everything listed is currently in the Design Phase with the exception of the Allentown Bike Ed II, City of Allentown which began last April and the City has begun invoicing.

He also talked about the status of the bridge projects. SR 29 over Reading Railroad Bridge has a let date of April 25, 2019 and the plan is now in final design. SR 145 Wire Mill Bridge over Little Lehigh Creek has a let date of September 26, 2019 and is currently in the PE-phase finalizing H&H. The next three projects: SR 248 over Hokendauqua Creek, SR 248 over Tributary to Hokendauqua Creek and SR 248 over East Branch of Monocacy Creek on schedule for a let of November 1, 2018. SR 329 over Lehigh River-Cementon Bridge has a let date of June 18, 2020; public meeting scheduled for May and are currently wrapping up the preliminary engineering and moving to final design. SR 378 Hill to Hill Bridge over Lehigh River is very early in preliminary engineering; still working through a lot of the environmental and analysis. SR 1032 over Jacoby Creek and Mill Race still in preliminary engineering; working through the H&H. SR 3004 over Saucon Creek Water Street; final design is underway with a let date of February 28, 2019. SR 7301 Gordon Street Bridge with a let date of April 25, 2019; pre-app meeting. SR 7408 South Walnut Street Bridge over Trout Creek a let date of July 23, 2020; needed to work through the Pennsylvania Historic & Museums Commission and progressing to an alternative analysis.

TIP Amendments

Ms. Ruth presented three TIP amendments which are needing a vote:

1. The 13th Street Interchange Improvements project which will include work on State Route 8010 Ramp A, State Route 8010 Ramp B, State Route 8010 Ramp C, State Route Ramp D and a portion of State Route 2017 and 2019 with a let date of June 21, 2018; estimated project construction cost of \$3.8 million.
2. The I-78 Passing Lane project which is to address poor IRI, structural distresses and deteriorating condition of Interstate 78 from the Berks/Lehigh Line to the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission jurisdiction near the NJ state line with a let date of June 21, 2018; estimate project construction cost of \$4.3 million.
3. The PA 33 Preservation SR 22-Belfast project which we will perform pavement preservation activities and potential slope correction on State Route 33 from the Tatamy Exit Interchange to the Belfast Exit Interchange in Northampton County for poor IRI and structural distresses. This project we are looking to let on July 12, 2018; estimated project construction cost of \$4.5 million.

Ms. Bradley made a motion to approve all three TIP amendments as proposed. Mr. Cotter made a motion to second for the Technical Committee. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Bradley made a motion to approve all three TIP amendments as proposed. Mr. Molchany made a motion to second for the Coordinating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

National Association of Regional Councils on Federal Infrastructure Funding

Presentation was made by Eric Zimmerman (National Association of Regional Councils) on the subject of Federal Infrastructure Funding. In February 2018 Congress agreed to a budget deal for both fiscal year 2018 & fiscal year 2019 which included substantial increases of \$130 billion for non-defense domestic spending priorities; \$63 billion additional for 2018 and \$68 billion additional for 2019. Congress rejected the President's budget due to significant differences. Eric outlined the OMIBUS spending package that was passed focusing on the following transportation which provides full funding levels under the fast act for highway, transit and rail programs and includes an additional \$1.98 billion dollars. The TIGAR program saw a significant increase to \$1.5 billion. The rail program also saw a large increase which will include money for the PTC installation and state of repair projects. Finally, funds have been allocated for Automated Vehicle Research which will support the 10 test sites that have been established by DOT. Water spending also saw a significant increase of 44% however when you evaluate the expense of materials the number would in fact seem more like a 9% decrease in overall funding levels. Currently \$142 billion has been transferred into the Highway Trust Fund from General Funds to shore up our current levels of spending and increase spending under the Fast Act. We will need another \$138 billion over the next 10 years to get to current spending levels.

2019 Draft Transportation Improvement Program Update

Mr. Donchez gave a PowerPoint presentation on "How Projects Get on the TIP." The presentation provided an outline of the organizations that makeup the two voting committees: Technical and Coordinating. The Technical Committee is the advisory

committee to the Coordinating Committee. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federally mandated four-year program containing high-priority highway, bridge, transit, multi-modal and rail infrastructure projects within the two county region. This is really a ground transportation plan which covers all surface modes of transportation (does not cover air travel). Approximately 80% of the funds that go into the TIP are federal and the remaining 20% can be state, local, private or a combination of funds. The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the traditional vehicle for entry of projects into the TIP. Every four years we will send out a request to the municipalities to let us know what their infrastructure needs are. We are combining the Comprehensive Plan with the LRTP. The selection criteria was reviewed and explained as part of the presentation. The draft TIP list of projects was released to the Committees during the meeting. Currently we are in the air quality conformity analysis phase of the project where the projects are being coded, modeled and analyzed for their emissions outputs. The TIP will be available for a formal 30 day public review and comment period from April 23 through May 22. We will hold two public meetings: May 2 at LVPC (12:00 p.m.) and on May 8 at Bethlehem Public Library (6:30 p.m.). The TIP will go to LVTS for adoption June 6. When adopted it will go to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). Once USDOT approval is issued (expected late September) then funding will be available October 1 for four years. Mr. Cotter from LANta reviewed the Transit information indicating a capital budget of \$57.1 million. This budget is operating and capital jointly as per PennDOT regulations. Major projects include the replacement of 28 diesel buses with compressed natural gas, replacing 75 paratransit vehicles, \$24.5 on capital asset maintenance and \$5.0 million implementing Phase I Lehigh Valley Rapid Transit Program next year. Mr. Cotter made a motion to authorize release of the TIP for 30 day public comment period proposed. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to second for the Technical Committee. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Molchany made a motion to approve all three TIP amendments as proposed. Mr. Cotter made a motion to second for the Coordinating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Bradley reported on the Unified Planning Work Program which outlines what LVPC along with PennDOT are doing on a two year period beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020. This makes up almost half of the LVPC budget. The UPWP has already been adopted by the LVPC Executive Committee. Ms. Bradley recapped the priorities for 2018-2020 as outlined in the attachment along with comments provided from PennDOT and Federal Highway Administration during their review. LVPC just updated their agreement with the Penn State Data Center to be the official representative repository for Census Bureau Information. The Constrained Value is \$2,010,000. Mr. Cotter made a motion to officially forward the UPWP to PennDOT and Federal Highway Administration to initiate the work order and contract process. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to second for the Technical Committee. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Molchany made a motion to officially forward the UPWP to PennDOT and Federal Highway Administration to initiate the work order and contract process. Mr. Cotter made a motion to second for the Coordinating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Highway Safety Set-Aside Program Submission

Mr. Donchez reported on four (4) local projects that were submitted for a portion of the \$35 million set aside to improve safety and reduce crashes on highways. The four (4)

projects were: Rt. 145 Safety Improvements, I-78 Diamond Grinding, Rt. 29 Safety Improvements and 25th Street Hill Improvements. The total estimated at \$1.7 million. PennDOT Central office made a comment to fund the Rt. 145 Safety Improvement project. The other 3 projects will remain candidates for future rounds.

Two Rivers Trail Gap 9A Project

Mr. Cope reported on the progress of the Two Rivers Trails connection originally planned in 2007 to connect the D&L trail down in the Easton Area up to the Appalachian Trail just north of Wind Gap and Pen Argyl. In 2010 there was another study which outlined a few gaps within that corridor. In 2013 LVPC identified Trail 9 in their plan which will connect the urban area to the middle of the County. However due to a variety of problem areas it was broken in to two plans Gap 9A and Gap 9B. Mr. Cope proposed a project change which will break Gap 9A into two as well from Filetown Road up to Henry Road area is about 60-80 feet from the cart path itself with about a 20-30 foot decline from the Rt. 33 right-of-way down to where the trail will be with about 30 feet of woodlands in between. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to move forward with the project change as proposed. Mr. Cotter made a motion to second for the Technical Committee. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to move forward with the project change as proposed. Mr. Molchany made a motion to second for the Coordinating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

PENNDOT Community Safety Program

Ms. Bradley reported on the PennDOT Community Traffic Safety Project which is an educational outreach program the schools and communities targeting local safety issues that have to be identified through data analysis. This Grant provides support towards National & State wide enforcement and other local programs. The program was changed to go up to the County level; our municipal governments or a non-profits can no longer apply. She requested that LVPC and LVTS agree to continue to work and formalize the partnership with Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Mr. Donchez made a motion to move forward with the partnership as proposed. Mr. Greene made a motion to second for the Technical Committee. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Molchany made a motion to move forward with the project change as proposed. Mr. Greene made a motion to second for the Coordinating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Regional Comprehensive Plan/Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Ms. Oscavich reported on the creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee to move this through the merger and the planning process. LVPC is looking for volunteers to serve on this Committee. Meetings will take place about once a month for 1-2 hours over the course of the next 12-18 months.

Airport Area Freight Study

Mr. Donchez reported on a study of municipalities surrounding the LVIA, primarily the municipalities north. LVPC embarked on the study earlier this year focusing on freight related traffic issues in the Allen Township/East Allen Township Area who has received several proposals for large warehouse developments. The study will focus on the ten (10) municipalities that border within a study area of the Lehigh River on the West, Rt. 22 on the South and Rt. 512 on the East extending up northward to Rt. 248 corridor. The purpose of the study is to look forward to what is going to happen with regards to land use, development and infrastructure needs with focus on designated truck routes, reuse/repurposing existing industrial parks. LVPC is in the process of developing a

steering committee meeting three times a year to help guide these efforts. The study should wrap up by the end of the year.

Walk/Bike LV: Regional Active Transportation Plan

Ms. Bradley reported on the RFP which is currently up on PennBid. The RFP is approximately \$185,000 contract which should be awarded by the end of May, 2018. This is a ground breaking bike/pedestrian master plan for the Lehigh Valley which includes air quality, connectivity of the trail and road network and the potential for regional bike share.

Freight Advisory Committee – April 4 @ 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Hite reported that the next Freight Advisory Committee meeting will take place immediately following the conclusion of this meeting.

PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach – February 27

Mr. Hite provided a status of the February 27 meeting which was attended by 40 municipal representatives.

2nd Annual Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit – April 9-10 in Pittsburgh

Mr. Donchez provided a list of topics to be included in the Summit breakout sessions including: how are automated vehicles made safe, what groups can best be served by automated vehicle technology, how will we pay for the infrastructure and the roles local planners will have in the process.

Lehigh Valley Chamber's 2018 Transportation Summit – May 17 @ 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Oscavich provided a reminder for the Summit which will take place at Mack Trucks and will include a presentation on automated vehicles.

Eastern PA Freight Summit – June 21-22 (All Day)

Ms. Oscavich provided a reminder for the Summit which will be hosted by LVPC at Lehigh University Iacocca Hall and will include a speakers on the first day followed by a series of tours on the second day. Registration will be opening soon.

Women in Transportation and Government Event

Ms. Oscavich reported that the event will provide younger women the opportunity to learn about the field of transportation and engineering.

Old Business

Local Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Hite provided a brief recap of the upcoming LTAP presentations listed below:

- Managing Utility Cuts – April 5, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. @ LVPC
- Equipment and Worker Safety – April 12, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. @ LVPC
- Americans with Disabilities Act – May 22, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. @ LVPC

Correspondence

Community Bike Works – TASA Thank you letter

Mr. Donchez recapped correspondence received from the Executive Director of Community Bike Works for funding awarded to Community Bike Works to provide bicycle education training for students.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Slingerland reported on the following items from the March 14, 2018 CAT meeting attended by local bicycle shops:

- Thanked Becky Bradley for participating and sharing what the LVPC is up to.
- Announced Open House on April 14 @ CAT, West Broad Street, Bethlehem

Adjourn

Mr. Rebert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Meyer made the motion for Technical Committee with Ms. Bradley seconding. Mr. Molchany made the motion for Coordinating Committee with Mr. Rebert seconding. The meeting is adjourned.

Submitted by,
Denise Leonard, Executive Administrative Assistant



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

C/O LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
961 MARCON BOULEVARD, SUITE 310
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18109
(610) 264-4544

LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Minutes from the June 6, 2018 Joint Technical & Coordinating Committee Meeting LVPC Conference Room

AGENDA

Attendees:

Matt Assad, Becky Bradley, Whitney Burdge, Sarah Cassi, Gene Clater, Brendan Cotter, Mick Dee, Michael Donchez, Ralph Eberhardt, Michael Emili, Gerald Fry, Ray Green, Carol Halper, Heather Heeter, Darlene Heller, Dave Hopkins, Max Inkrote, George Kinney, Craig Messinger, Rick Molchany, Owen O'Neil, Tracy Oscavich, Chandra Parasa, Julia Patterson, Michael Reibert, Jen Ruth, Larry Shifflet, Tom Shortell, Scott Slingerland, Scott Vottero, and Dan Walston.

Minutes

Mr. Rebert stated that the minutes of the April 4, 2018 Joint LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committee and the May 2, 2018 Technical Committee are attached. Mr. Donchez made a motion to approve the April 4, 2018 Technical Committee minutes. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion for the Technical Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cotter made a motion to approve the May 2, 2018 Technical Committee minutes. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Molchany made a motion to approve the April 4, 2018 Coordinating Committee minutes. Mr. Shifflet seconded the motion for the Coordinating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Meadows Road Bridge (Lower Saucon Township) TIP Amendment

Mr. Vottero stated that the Meadows Road Bridge is currently closed due to poor condition. Would like to get the project under agreement on the 2017 TIP to get PE started. There would be a 20% match from the locals if we get a reimbursement agreement in place. We could probably get this started on the 2017 TIP, if not this project would have to be delayed until the 2019 TIP is adopted and then do an amendment. The estimated cost is about \$3 million. Bridge was closed in 2018 immediately after a scheduled inspection revealed that the bridge had deteriorated significantly since its last inspection. Recommendation would be to amend the TIP to include the replacement of county bridge #15 and replace it with a pre-cast multi-span

structure. Mr. Rebert stated that preliminary engineering would be added to the 2017 TIP as an administrative action.

Adoption of Draft 2019 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Donchez presented the Draft 2019 Transportation Improvement Program valued at \$534 million which represents a 17% increase in funding levels. The funding level is broken down between \$244 million for highways, \$144 million for bridge and \$146 million in capital and operating transit. The increased funding made way for 42 additional projects to be added to the TIP. LVTS ran Air Quality on the TIP and came within our budgets that were allocated to us by the EPA. However, a change in scope for the Jordan Creek Bridge project necessitates a revision to the Draft 2019 TIP Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The Jordan Creek Bridge was previously scoped for a four lane replacement bridge and the scoping now would be six lanes. That is essentially a capacity adding project which triggers an air quality conformity analysis. In consultation with FHWA, there are two options being explored with option 2 being the chosen option:

- Option 1 – Amend 2017 TIP to include the additional lanes on the bridge and re-running air quality conformity, going out to a 30 day public review and comment period, holding a public meeting and shipping it off to the federal review partners for their review (could be at the expense of their review of the 2019 TIP air quality conformity analysis).
- Option 2 – Amend the 2019 conformity report to include the new scope of work on the Jordan Creek Bridge, take the 2019 TIP out for another 30 day public review and comment period and hold a public meeting.

Two public meetings were held: May 2 at LVPC, noon (37 people in attendance) and May 8 at Bethlehem Area Public Library, 6:30 p.m. (15 people in attendance). Mr. Donchez provided a recap of the public comments.

There are several other elements within the TIP:

- Memorandum of Understanding on the amendment and administrative action procedure through the TIP which explains that an amendment is a new project that is added/deleted or had a major change which requires a vote and an administrative modification is something that does not require a vote.
- A Resolution on Air Quality Conformity for the Lehigh Valley which explains the designation of the MPO under the 2008 Ozone Standard that we were designated by EPA as non-attainment and that we are conforming and meeting all the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments.
- A Resolution certifying that LVTS is in compliance with the various metropolitan process requirements.

Ms. Bradley made a motion to adopt the Draft 2019 Transportation Improvement Program along with the Memorandum of Understanding, Resolution on Air Quality Self Certification Resolution and revised Air Quality Conformity Analysis contingent on successfully completing the 30-day public review and comments period and addressing comments. Mr. Cotter made a motion to second for the Technical Committee. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Bradley made a motion to adopt the Draft 2019 Transportation Improvement Program along with the Memorandum of Understanding, Resolution on Air Quality and the Self Certification Resolution as proposed and revised Air Quality Conformity Analysis contingent on successfully completing the 30-day public review and comments period and addressing comments. Mr. Molchany made a motion to second for the Coordinating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Donchez gave a presentation on the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Transit Plan) which was initially done in 2007. The Coordinated Transit Plan is a plan that identifies gaps within the transportation system as it relates to services for the elderly and the disabled population. The plan is due for update every 10 years. LVTS held two public meetings in the summer of 2017; one at the Lehigh County Government Center and one at Easton City Hall. Mr. Donchez provided list of organizations in the area currently providing services. There is currently \$600,000 available in 5310 funds which are administered by PennDOT. These organizations apply for the money to primarily replace vehicles within their fleet and associated equipment. In order to be eligible for the 5310 funds these agencies need to provide an application that shows that they are addressing the gaps identified in the plan. The plan requires an Assessment of Available Services, Assessment of Needs, Implementation Strategies and Priorities for Implementation. Mr. Cotter made a motion to adopt the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan. Ms. Bradley made a motion to second for the Technical Committee. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Molchany made a motion to adopt the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan. Mr. O'Neil made a motion to second for the Coordinating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

LANTA Enhanced Bus

Mr. O'Neil provided an update on the LANTA Enhanced Bus. LANTA held a series of open house sessions (four in total; attended by 30 people total) to get initial recommendations on the implementation of Phase I of the Enhanced Bus Program in June 2019. Phase I would be putting in the route that would become the BRT type service. Other routing services will be redesigned once the route is in.

Old Business

Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Bradley provided an update on the Unified Planning Work Program which is basically the work program for the LVPC and LANTA for the next two years submitted to PennDOT and federal government and accepted. Received the work order to start work July 1.

Walk/Bike LV: Regional Active Transportation Plan

Ms. Bradley presented Walk/Bike LV: Regional Active Transportation Plan which is an active transportation plan. The plan would coordinate and connect our sidewalks where bike paths exists. LVPC wants to explore regional bike share for the following reasons:

- Current program in Bethlehem
- Bikes end up all over the place and don't just stay in Bethlehem

The business model must ensure that the plan sustainable, that we are being responsible and will be equitable. Most bike share systems require you to be credit worthy (requires a credit or debit card) but we are exploring the possibility of using a LANTA bus pass. The plan should demonstrate the connection between our urban, suburban and rural communities and the need to understand where our investment opportunities can be and prioritize them. Consultant selection is underway and will be completed this month and hope to kick this off in July 2018.

FutureLV: Active Transportation Plan

Ms. Bradley deferred her presentation to the next meeting.

BUILD Grant

Ms. Oscavich reported on the BUILD Grant is the United States Department Transportation Grant Program formerly known as TIGAR. LVPC is submitting a project to the BUILD program which is the Riverside Drive Multimodal Corridor between Whitehall and Allentown to fill the major gap in the Delaware and Lehigh Heritage Corridor Trail.

Eastern PA Freight Summit – June 21-22 (All Day)

Ms. Bradley provided a reminder for the Summit which will be hosted by LVPC at Lehigh University Iacocca Hall and will include speakers on the first day followed by a series of tours on the second day. Spots are still available for the first day; however the second day tour buses are full.

Status of Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program Projects

Mr. Kufro provided a status of the following bridge projects:

- Jordan Creek Greenway Sec 49 & 50, South Whitehall Township is on track to hit the let date of September 27, 2018
- Broadway and Delaware Ave., Fountain Hill Borough is on track to hit the let date of September 13, 2018
- Front St. Safety and Connectivity, Catasauqua Borough has fallen a little behind, waiting for CE clearance and reimbursement agreement in place with the sponsor.
- Two Rivers Trail Gap 9A, Northampton County needs right-of-way clearance and reimbursement agreement in place. The let date of October 18, 2018 will be tight.
- Palmer Twp. Bike Path Crossings, Palmer Township is on track.
- Allentown Bike Ed II, City of Allentown is already let.
- Allentown Safety Lehigh and MLK, City of Allentown is on track.
- Station Ave, Streetscape, Coopersburg Borough is on track with a let date of September 27, 2018.
- Macungie Pedestrian Streetscape II, Macungie Borough is moving on track.
- The remaining projects on the list are just being kicked off.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

None

Local Technical Assistance Program

Ms. Oscavich provided a brief recap of the upcoming LTAP presentations listed below:

- Salt and Snow Management – August 7, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. @ LVPC
- Road Safety Audit – September 11, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. @ LVPC

Correspondence

None

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Walston recapped a change in language received yesterday to be amended as part of the resolution approved as part of the 2019 TIP Air Quality Conformity Report Revision. It was agreed that LVTS would submit all documentation with a note that we learned after the vote that additional language and will take that through the process.

Mr. Slingerland voiced support for the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan.

Adjourn

Mr. Rebert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Molchany made the motion for Technical Committee with Mr. Donchez seconding. The meeting is adjourned.

Submitted by,
Denise Leonard, Executive Administrative Assistant