



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 May 2, 2018
Technical Committee Meeting
LVPC Conference Room**

AGENDA

Mr. Green called the meeting to order and introductions of attendees were made.

Attendees:

Ken Navitsky, Andrew Kleiner, Richard Young, Scott Slingerland, Ray Green, Matt Malozi, Steve Turoscy, George Kinney, Matt Szuchyt, Sharon Trexler, Sarah Cassi, Gene Clater, Carol Halper, Chandra Parasa, Scott Vottero, Tracy Oscavich, Brendan Cotter, Chris Briggs, Brian Hite, Darlene Heller, Matthew Dorner, Jen Ruth, Christopher Kufro, Denise Leonard, Brian Miller and Michael Donchez.

Minutes

Mr. Green deferred the approval of the April 4, 2018 Joint LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committee until the June 6, 2018 meeting.

Status of TIP Bridge Projects

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

- SR 29 over Norfolk Southern Railroad Bridge is progressing through final design with a let date of April 2019.
- SR 145 Wire Mill Bridge over Little Lehigh Creek also working through all the final design items with a let date of September 26, 2019
- 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; public meeting was held on May 1 and the let date for the first two will be summer 2019 and the third summer 2020 and will be done under a detour.
- SR 329 over Lehigh River-Cementon Bridge with a let date of June 18, 2020; public meeting held several weeks ago and still working through preliminary engineering, finishing up environmental clearances and historical data.
- SR 378 Hill to Hill Bridge over Lehigh River is very early in preliminary engineering; working on historic structure eligibility, comparing all the environmental engineering documents at this time, collecting data on the bridge.
- SR 1032 over Jacoby Creek with a let date of November 7, 2019, final design work was approved last month, moving onto more of the engineering side.

- SR 3004 Water Street over Saucon Creek; final design with a let date of February 28, 2019, right of way plans are completed and recorded, permit has been submitted and is under review. Part of the bridge is going to be done under a detour.
- SR 7301 Gordon Street Bridge is wrapping up with DEP on the H&H submission, waiting for environmental clearance to move into final design with a let date of April 25, 2019
- SR 7408 South Walnut Street Bridge over Trout Creek a let date of July 23, 2020; working through bridge rehab feasibility report, plan coordination with the Borough of Slatington set for next week.

TIP Amendments

None to report

New Business

House Bill 1699 – Removal of Truck Restrictions

Mr. Donchez provided an update on House Bill 1699/Senate Bill 880 which deals with the removal of restrictions on tractor trailers and where they can travel; specifically with regards to 102 trucks that have a wheel base of 102” in width and 28’ in length. The bills had passed unanimously in the Senate and in the House with a vote of 189 – 1. It is expected to be signed into legislation. Currently those trucks are restricted to 4 digit state routes and this legislation will allow them to travel on 4 digit state routes. However it does not preclude any restriction that might be placed on bridges on those 4 digit state routes.

Coordinated Public Transit Plan Update

Mr. Donchez provided an update on the Coordinated Public Transit Plan for LANta; the previous plan was done in 2007 and is due to be updated every 10 years. The plan specifically addresses gaps in the public transportation system particularly as it relates to para-transit type services (services for elderly or disabilities). The plan is basically a gap identification which identifies what the gaps are in the existing para transit services and address those gaps through service provision and operational type improvements. The importance of this plan is it allows access to 5310 section funds. Previous meetings were held last summer with LANta’s Van Accessibility committee and two public meetings in July (one at the Lehigh County Government Center and the other at Easton City Hall) seeking input into what are some of the gaps that need to be addressed within the plan. LVPC is currently working on refining the plan; we have an inhouse draft together and are making final edits to that. Will be forwarded to LANta for review once final edits are complete. LVTS will be bringing the plan before the committee at the June meeting.

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

Mr. Donchez provided an update of the Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit which was attended by several LVPC staff members. The event was attended by approximately 400 people with a wide range of topics dealing with legal aspects, liability, technology issues, standardized guides for competing technologies to communicate with each other and why is the United States the leading country in autonomous vehicle development.

2019 Draft Transportation Improvement Program Update

Mr. Donchez gave a presentation on the draft 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program which is a high-priority four-year program of projects which is updated every two years. This TIP covers 2019-2022 and is a multimodal program of projects addressing highway, bridge, transit, multi-modal and rail infrastructure projects within the two county region. 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. It is important to note that in order for a project to receive federal funds it must be on the TIP. Approximately \$388 million for highways, \$146 million on transit (includes capital and operating projects) with a total value of \$534 million in comparison to current TIP valued at \$458 million. This represents a 17% increase. This allowed us to include 42 new projects. Mr. Donchez recapped several projects that are new to the program. The 30 day public review and comment period began on April 23 and will close on 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 documents are available for review at LVPC, LVPC website, LANta, PennDOT and at the three city libraries. We are accepting comments via phone, at public meeting or email. The TIP will go to LVTS for adoption June 6. Once 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.

LTAP Recognition Event – May 18, 2018 @ Canal Park – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Hite reported on the 2nd LTAP Recognition Event which is to recognize the students that have attended the LTAP classes as well as municipalities that have sent them. Sam Gregory, current LTAP instructor, will speak on the benefits municipalities receive from sending their employees.

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

Ms. Oscavich provided a reminder that there are still seats available 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 speakers on the first day followed by a series of tours on the second day. Pre-registration opened this week.

Old Business

Local Technical Assistance Program

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

- Americans with Disabilities Act – May 22, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. @ LVPC

Correspondence

None

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Clater opened a discussion on House Bill 1699 and its effect on the Transportation Access Network that is in place right now that dictates where trucks are supposed to go

and not go. Mr. Green indicated that we don't know the impact it could have at this time on projects that could be on the TIP.

Mr. Singerland provided a status report on Bike to Work Week activities which will run from May 12 – 20. Events during the week are sponsored by the City of Bethlehem, City of Easton and LVPC.

Adjourn

Mr. Green asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting is adjourned.

Submitted by,
Denise Leonard, Executive Administrative Assistant



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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