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## LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Monday, August 28 at 9:00am

LVPC Conference Room

### LVTS Technical Committee Minutes

The LVTS Technical Committee met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 28, 2017 at 9:00 am in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's conference room located at 961 Marcon Blvd., Suite 310, Allentown, PA 18109.

Mr. Green chaired the meeting.

**Members in attendance:** Michael Donchez, Becky Bradley, Owen O'Neil, Darlene Heller, Chris Kufro, Ray Green, Ryan Meyer

**Members absent:** David Kimmerly, Dave Hopkins, George Kinney

**Public present:** Matt Szuchyt, Brian Harman, Max Inkrote, Brian Miller, Michael Dee, Richard Young, Steve Strella, Carol Halper, Ken Navitsky, Nancy Wilt, John Perez, Jay McGee, Heather Heeter, Ralph Eberhardt, Lee Rackus, Chris Briggs, Matt Malozi, Jennifer Ruth, Matt Assad, Erin Willis

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR:** none

#### MINUTES

Mr. Kufro stated that the minutes of the July 31, 2017 Technical Committee are attached. Mr. Donchez made a motion to approve the Technical Committee. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### STATUS OF BRIDGE PROJECTS

Mr. Kufro talked about the status of the Bridge projects. SR 29 over Reading Railroad Bridge has a let of December 13, 2018. The plans are currently being worked on with the right-of-way approved and the acquisitions are underway. SR 29/100 over Indian Creek is on schedule for a let this October. SR 145 Wire Mill Bridge over Little Lehigh Creek has a let of September 2019 and is in preliminary engineering. The next three – SR 248 over Hokendauqua Creek, Tributary to Hokendauqua Creek and East Branch of Monocacy Creek – will be let together on September 13, 2018. Still working on final design for all three. SR 329 over Lehigh River-Cementon Bridge has a scheduled let of December 20, 2018. There is an approved revised alternative analysis report recommending downstream alternative. Working through final design and looking for exploratory trenching to be completed adjacent to Seigfried Cemetery to determine if burials extend beyond cemetery boundary. SR 378 Hill to Hill Bridge over Lehigh River which is just getting started with preliminary engineering. There is a PennDOT Connects meeting with the City of Bethlehem and LVTS on August 30<sup>th</sup>. SR 1002 Tilghman Street over Lehigh River and Corman Railroad is on schedule

for a let this October. This is wrapping up now with PS&E submitted last week. SR 1019 Cedar Crest Boulevard over Little Cedar Creek is on schedule for a let of November of this year. SR 1032 over Jacoby Creek and Mill Race has a let of November 7, 2019. This is a bridge replacement project and working towards preliminary engineering phase. SR 3004 over Saucon Creek Water Street has a let of February 28, 2019 and is getting final design underway. SR 7301 Gordon Street Bridge has a let of next December and anticipate the Environmental Clearance this week. SR 7408 South Walnut Street Bridge over Trout Creek has a let of July 2020. This one has been working with our Bridge Rehabilitation Feasibility Analysis. Looking to get that revised and resubmitted by the end of this month and also need to get the Purpose and Need approved by Central Office and FHWA.

## **TIP AMENDMENTS**

There are no TIP amendments to report this month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *HSIP Set-Aside*

Mr. Donchez stated that the Highway Safety Improvement Program looks at the implementation of primarily low cost, quick turnaround type improvement projects that identify specific safety needs. There is a state-wide reserve of \$35 million that is set aside for projects that can be applied for. Some examples are rumble strips, signage, guiderail updates, etc. There is an application cycle that is open through the end of this month for MPOs to apply with PennDOT. LVTS will coordinate with PennDOT to come up with some projects which have to be consistent with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan that identifies various implementation practices to address safety issues. More information will come in the upcoming months.

### *2019 Transportation Improvement Program Funding Levels + Schedule*

Mr. Donchez talked about the high level summary of the current funding for the upcoming 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program. Central office released financial guidance back on August 1<sup>st</sup> for each of the MPOs and RPOs throughout the state of Pennsylvania. The chart shows the breakdown of funding by funding categories for each of the regions and totals. For the 4-year period, spanning 2019-2022, the Lehigh Valley is getting about \$138 million in National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds which funds improvements to the higher order roads, the National Highway System and the higher level classification system of networks. Service Transportation Program (STP) is a flexible pot of money, with the Lehigh Valley getting about \$25 million. The State Highway Capital is about \$52 million along with another \$52 million for State Bridges. Off System Bridges is seeing about \$11 million over the period. Off System Bridges is a funding pot to fund bridges that are not on the state road network and is more for local bridges on the federal aid system. There is no funding in the Highway Freight Program or Rail. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) is a pot of money that funds projects that would have a measurable impact at improving the region's air quality. Not all regions of Pennsylvania are designated as being non-attainment but the Lehigh Valley is. The CMAQ money in the areas that are in attainment are going to be pulled and that money will be redistributed to the other areas of the state that are in non-attainment status. In year 2021, the non-attainment MPOs will be getting the redistribution of CMAQ funds. Transportation Alternative Set-Aside for the Lehigh Valley is getting \$2.6 million. STP-Urban funds is \$50 million. The grand total for the Lehigh Valley is about \$368 million over the next 4 years which is just the base funding. Separate from this is Spike funding, interstate dollars and Transportation Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIFF) funds. Any project that is new

to the TIP, all parties involved need to meet to go over the scope of the project and what the expectations are. The goal is to have the TIP adopted by late June 2018.

#### *Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Update*

Mr. Donchez stated that the allocation process for TASA is currently open through September 22<sup>nd</sup>. This needs to be submitted through PennDOT's online site. There were two days of presentations made on 21 projects. The MPOs need to have their decisions by January 5, 2018. There is \$1.3 million available locally to go out over the next two years. PennDOT also has a state-wide pot where projects that are not funded locally can get picked up in the state-wide pot.

#### *Airport Master Plan*

Mr. Meyer spoke about the Lehigh Valley International Airport's Master Plan. The timeframe for the project is 18 months. There are 19 elements that the master plan looks at. A forecast was developed looking at the analogies which shows traffic growing at 2.2% for enplanements – passenger count – and only 1.6% in operations which shows to be consistent nation-wide. There has been growth in cargo tonnage along with changes in the types of aircrafts being used. Base aircraft growth is low while the operations are higher. FAA approval was received in June on the forecast presented. Mr. Meyer talked about the peak periods for the different categories along with the preliminary facility requirements. Some concerns in the new master plan will include aircraft improvements, a pavement management plan including a five-year maintenance plan, obstruction identification removal and runway extensions. The terminal area includes eight gates with no additions at this time. The passenger security area is narrow and undersized for the capacity of traffic. A lot of the equipment was installed in the 1970's so it needs to be maintained or upgraded along with some additional concession spaces. There is congestion along Airport road along with curbside congestion within the airport so reallocating some of the parking lots is being looked at. Improvements will be made to the entrance of the airport. General aviation facilities were looked at with a need for more hanger space. Over the next 20 years, there will be a need for a sorting cargo facility. Now that there are the facility requirements, needed is cost estimates and a phasing process. That will be followed up with another project advisory meeting along with a public information workshop.

#### *LVIA Intermodal Facility Ribbon Cutting*

Mr. Donchez talked about the LVIA Intermodal Facility ribbon cutting about two weeks ago. This is a new intermodal facility served by LANTA and TransBridge. There were approx. 100 attendees including a lot of the legislative delegation. The intermodal facility received a \$1.5 million grant through the PennDOT Multi-Modal Program for improvements to the facility. TransBridge is serving that facility and is hoping to move their current pickup area over to the Intermodal Facility at the airport. The facility provides shorter walks for the passengers using the airport along with sheltered areas. Mr. O'Neil stated that LANTA plans to start using the Intermodal Facility next week. Mr. Meyer also mentioned that the rental car operation will start tomorrow evening.

#### *PennDOT Connects Project Meeting – SR 2017 Brookside Road*

Mr. Donchez mentioned attending a PennDOT Connects project meeting regarding the resurfacing of Brookside Road from Buckeye Road to Hamilton Blvd. This project has not yet started design so a PennDOT Connects meeting was held to go over any design issues. Some of the issues noted is at the southern part, there is a Norfolk Southern rail overpass which is posted at 12ft 10in with questions asking if the figures are correct and if it needs to be reposted and also a visual clearance issue regarding the underbrush growing in front of the

sign. There was a need addressed for center line rumbling strips along with guiderail updates. On the far northern portion, there will be a sidewalk and bus stop installed adjacent to the Wawa along Hamilton Blvd., which is outside the scope of this project. There is a need to coordinate this project with fairs/events that happen in this area. This project is on schedule for a lot of August/September of 2018 with the bulk of the work occurring in spring of 2019.

#### *Bicycle Safety Quiz*

Mr. Donchez stated that an email was received by Roy Gothie (PennDOT Central Office Bike/Ped Coordinator) asking to push out their Bicycle Safety Quiz online as part of PennDOT's Facebook site. Ms. Bradley noted that the state granted funds for the Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan for the region where LVPC is finalizing the draft RFP to be released the first week of September. The RFP will be released via PennBid and it is a full master plan. There are more and more bike commuters so there needs to be alternative ways to get around the region.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### *Local Technical Assistance Program*

Mr. Kufro noted that Traffic Sign Basics will be held on September 28 at 8:00am at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

##### *Save The Date*

There is an upcoming BuildLV event on September 27 and again on October 5. The upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lehigh Valley Awards will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> at DeSales University. Also, there will be a Future Forces Event coming up on December 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be a substitute for the final Freight Advisory Committee meeting. It will look at the future of technology, its advances and the impact it will have on transportation and land use.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR** – None

#### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Kufro adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,  
Erin Willis, Executive Secretary