



## **Lehigh Valley Transportation Study**

C/O LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION  
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### **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