

FUTURELV

FUTURE LEHIGH VALLEY

THE REGIONAL PLAN

Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects

December 5, 2018



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U.S. Department of Transportation
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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Background

This FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects is the opportunity to propose a plan or project to be included in the Lehigh Valley's Regional Plan. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) and the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) are currently preparing FutureLV, which will be the Lehigh County and Northampton County comprehensive plan and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the region. As part of this effort, we are seeking input on transportation plans and projects to be considered for inclusion into FutureLV.

LVTS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Lehigh and Northampton Counties. The FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects is a required function of LVTS as the MPO, under the administrative function of LVPC. LVPC and LVTS will use the information gathered as part of the input to developing both policy and project funding strategies.

Inclusion of a plan or project in FutureLV is a necessary step toward potentially being included for funding. Plan/project proposers should be aware that the inclusion of a plan/project in the long range plan is illustrative and does not guarantee that a plan/project will be necessarily be funded for advancement in the Transportation Improvement Program or any other funding mechanism.

This open call for plans/projects begins on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 and closes at 4:00 pm EST on Friday, January 25, 2019.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects is to identify plans and projects that address transportation needs in the region. Plans/projects identified during the Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects will be evaluated for the potential inclusion in FutureLV: The Regional Plan. Proposed plans/projects will be evaluated using a set of evaluation criteria. Because available financial resources are limited for transportation plans/projects, the screening process utilizes a set of evaluation criteria to ensure that available revenues are used effectively and efficiently.

In 2015, the federal government passed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, a federal law providing long-term funding for transportation investments. The FAST Act continues the Metropolitan Planning program from the previous transportation program, known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Enacted in 2012, MAP21 established a cooperative, continuous and comprehensive framework for making transportation investment decisions in metropolitan areas. This federal program is the responsibility of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The federal laws require that transportation investments are more streamlined, performance-based and multimodal. The laws also address challenges facing the U.S. transportation system, including improving safety, maintaining infrastructure condition, reducing traffic congestion, improving efficiency of the system and freight movement, protecting the environment and reducing project delays.

By law, federally designated MPOs such as the LVPC/LVTS are required to prepare an LRTP in order to receive federal funding for transportation plans/projects. The federal government requires that the LRTP list of transportation plans/projects must be fiscally constrained. Therefore, the estimated budget for the plans/projects must match the amount of funding that

FUTURELV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects

the MPO can reasonably expect to receive over the next 20 years. In keeping with federal regulations, plans/projects are evaluated based on both federal and local criteria. The LRTP is typically updated every 4-5 years, based on new data and changes to regional priorities since the last update.

The LRTP list of transportation plans/projects is updated and refined as part of planning process for the four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). To be placed on the TIP, the plan/project must align with the region's vision, established in the of the Region's LRTP. Therefore, all plans/projects to be placed on future LVTS TIPs, shall meet the goals of FutureLV: The Regional Plan.

FutureLV: The Regional Plan will be the combined comprehensive plan and LRTP for the Lehigh Valley. It will be the official, legal plan setting the regional vision, goals, policies and implementation strategies for the next 20 years. The plan considers land use, housing, transportation, community facilities, utilities, natural and historic resources, farmland preservation, supply of water and the economy, resulting in a balanced short, medium and long-term approach to the Lehigh Valley. FutureLV will list transportation investments needed to support the Lehigh Valley region's long-term goals. As part of the LRTP update, process goals are currently being formulated for FutureLV. The FutureLV working goals are:

- A vibrant regional economy
- Efficient, predictable development
- Connected multimodal region
- Safe and resilient built environments
- Healthy, inclusive and livable communities

3. Eligible Applicants

Anyone can propose a transportation plan or project during the FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects. Typical proposers are governments and authorities. Proposers may also be a non-profit, for-profit or other entity.

4. Eligible Plans/Projects

To be eligible for consideration in this Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects to potentially be included in FutureLV, the region's LRTP, the plan/project must be:

- Located in Lehigh County or Northampton County
- A transportation improvement to a:
 - Roadway
 - Intersection
 - Bridge
 - Trail, bicycle or pedestrian facility
 - Transit facility or asset
 - Rail
 - Study or plan related to transportation

5. Plan/Project Type Examples

Examples of the types of plans/projects typically submitted during the Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects include, but are not limited to:

Bridges

- Bridge Rehabilitation
- Bridge Replacement

Traffic management technologies

- Traffic signal retiming projects
- Traffic signal control system upgrades
- Traffic-calming measures/road diets
- Detectors for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Traffic communications, cameras, message signs and other information improvements
- Incident-management coordination

Roadway reconstruction, modernization and/or automation

- Intersection improvements or alternative intersections
- Turn lanes
- Lane conversions
- Roundabouts
- Roadway improvements that add multimodal elements

Multiuse trails and bicycle facilities

- Multiuse trails
- Trail bridges/underpasses
- On-street bike lanes
- Closing trail gaps

Pedestrian facilities

- Sidewalks and crosswalks
- Safe Routes to Schools projects
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements
- Making similar improvements in a concentrated geographic area, such as sidewalk gap closure throughout a defined neighborhood or downtown area

Transit expansion and modernization

- Transit vehicles
- Customer facilities
- Park-and-ride facilities
- Maintenance and support facilities
- Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) measures
- Fare collection systems

Rail

- Grade crossings
- Bridges

Study/Plan

- A transportation study of potential improvements to a roadway, intersection, bridge, trail, bicycle or pedestrian facility, transit facility, or other transportation network need.

6. Plan/Project Submission Procedures

The **following three items MUST** be completed by applicants to be considered in FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects:

1. Complete Plan/Project Submission Form

If you wish to propose a plan/project for consideration, please **complete and submit the FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects Submission Form by 4:00 pm EST on Friday, January 25, 2019**. See the instructions within each section on the form for detailed directions. Every effort should be made to completely fill out the form, as it is essential for plan/project evaluation.

Forms must be completed and submitted online. No paper responses will be accepted. Submissions may include a single attachment with a maximum of 10 pages.

The Future LV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Project submission form is available here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRTPOpenCall

2. Attend Mandatory Instructional Meeting

Plan/project sponsors **must register for and attend one** of the two mandatory instructional meetings on how to complete the FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects Submittal Form which will be held on:

Wednesday, December 12, 2018, from 1:00 – 2:00 pm at the LVPC offices, 961 Marcon Blvd., Suite 310, Allentown, PA 18109.

Wednesday, December 12, 2018, from 5:30 – 6:30 pm at the LVPC offices, 961 Marcon Blvd., Suite 310, Allentown, PA 18109

Registration for session at www.lvpc.org/transportation

3. Brief Five-Minute Plan/Project Presentation to LVTS

Plan/project sponsors must make a five-minute presentation on their proposed plan/project to LVTS, and be prepared to answer questions. The presentation meeting to LVTS is tentatively scheduled for March 2019. Information on the date, time and location will be determined after the completion of FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects submissions, and will be communicated to plan/project sponsors.

7. Evaluation of Plan/Project Submissions

Plans/projects submitted to an MPO must pass through a screening process to determine how the plan/project addresses transportation problems. The screening process is used to determine if a proposed plan/project meets both federal and regional goals, policies and priorities. The weighting and scoring system to rank plans/projects for inclusion in FutureLV will be established during the LRTP development process. The screening process will use a set of evaluation criteria. Plan/project submissions will be evaluated based on an analysis of the plan's/project's ability to improve the transportation system. Criteria, including those listed below, will be used in the transportation plan and project selection process:

Transportation asset condition: How well does the plan/project maintain existing infrastructure? Does it move the asset into a state of good repair? For bridge plans/projects, is the sufficiency rating below 80 in order to be eligible for rehabilitation and below 50 in order to be eligible for replacement? Is the bridge eligible for preventative maintenance improvements only? Does it upgrade an existing roadway, non-motorized facility or transit facility that is deficient?

Safety: How well does the plan/project move the region toward the goal of zero transportation-related deaths? Does it improve safety in an identified high-crash location? Does the plan/project include safety measures approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Is the plan/project located on the National Highway System, the system of roads deemed important to national defense, the economy and mobility? Is the plan/project in a regionally identified high priority safety corridor or is there a credible, documented safety issue? Does the plan/project reduce or mitigate identified natural and/or human-made hazards?

Congestion: Does the plan/project address congestion? Does the plan/project include congestion mitigation strategies? Is the plan/project part of the LVTS Congestion Management Process (CMP)?

Regional centers and economic vitality: Is the plan/project located in an area supported for growth and development in LVPC or LVTS plans? Does the plan/project address needed improvements to the national freight network? Does the plan/project support existing employment or population centers critical to the regional economy?

System reliability: Does the plan/project improve network efficiency conditions for a large number of transportation facility users?

Multimodal connections: Does the plan/project improve bicycle, pedestrian, trail and/or transit connections? Does the plan/project improve conditions for a large number of bicycle and/or pedestrian users? Does the plan/project connect with or enhance a transit route(s)? Does the plan/project fill a gap in the multimodal network? Does the plan/project support Safe Routes to School? Does the plan/project support the reduction of non-transit vehicle trips?

Equity and environmental justice: How well does the plan/project improve transportation conditions for environmental justice communities? How well does the plan/project improve social, cultural and economic equity in the region?

Environmental sustainability: Does the plan/project enhance the performance of the transportation system, while protecting and enhancing the natural environment? Does the plan/project provide improvements to air quality? Does the plan/project avoid negative impact to areas designated as natural features or for agricultural preservation by the LVPC? Does the plan/project support climate and/or energy policies of the LVPC? Is the plan/project designated or conceived to be resilient to natural and/or human-made conditions and how?

Prepared future: Does the plan/project account for a growing population? Does the plan/project account for automobile and connected vehicle technologies, e-biking, ride sharing, diversified vehicle fueling or other commonly acknowledged transportation futures? Is the plan/project anticipated to have a short (1-4 year), medium (5-12 year) or long-term (13-20 year) viability?

Plan/project efficiency: Does the plan/project include approaches to reduce plan/project delivery time, thereby reducing plan/project costs? Does it expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating plan/project completion and eliminating delays? Are there other financial commitments for the funding of the plan/project? Is the proposed plan/project proposed to be bundled with any other plan/project(s) to improve efficiency? Is the proposed plan/project part of a public, private and/or non-profit funding arrangement?

8. Key Dates

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects begins.

MANDATORY INSTRUCTIONAL MEETINGS. ATTENDANCE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO HAVE YOUR PLAN OR PROJECT CONSIDERED:

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm at the LVPC offices, 961 Marcon Blvd., Suite 310, Allentown, PA 18109.

Register here: www.eventbrite.com/e/futurelv-call-for-transportation-projects-information-session-one-tickets-51333122752

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm at the LVPC offices, 961 Marcon Blvd., Suite 310, Allentown, PA 18109

Register here: www.eventbrite.com/e/futurelv-call-for-transportation-projects-information-two-tickets-42682156479

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019, 4:00 pm:

Submit any questions in writing about the Open Call to planning@lvpc.org

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2019, 6:00 pm:

Answers to questions will be posted on the LVPC website, www.lvpc.org

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019 BY 4:00 pm EST:

FutureLV Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects Submission Forms Due. Applications must be submitted online thru: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRTPOpenCall>

MARCH 2019:

Plan/project Presentation to LVTS; Appointment to Present will be Communicated to Plan/Project Sponsors

2019 YEAR END:

FutureLV: The Regional Plan adoption

9. Resources

The following are resources that should be consulted in the development of the Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects Submission Form. The following websites should be used to access information needed for checking the boxes in Section F of the Submission Form.

Lehigh Valley Comprehensive Plan:

www.lvpc.org/pdf/lv2030/compPlan01.pdf

MoveLV: Long Range Transportation Plan:

www.lvpc.org/pdf/MOVELV%20Long%20Range%20Plan.pdf

Open, closed, posted bridges and bridge conditions on both the state and local road network:

www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Bridges/Pages/default.aspx

Federal aid system of roads:

www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Maps/Pages/Federal-Functional-Class.aspx

Corridors identified as currently congested or projected to be congested in the future:

www.lvpc.org/movelv-cmp.html

High crash corridors or intersections:

www.lvpc.org/traffic-safety-plan.html

National Highway System:

www.dot7.state.pa.us/BPR_PDF_FILES/MAPS/Statewide/NHS_Statewide_2013.pdf

LANTa public transportation information:

www.lantabus.com/

LANTa Enhanced Bus/Bus Rapid Transit future route

www.lantabus.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/LANTA-Enhanced-Bus-BRT-Study-Exec-Summary.pdf

LANTa Moving LANTa Forward:

www.lantabus.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Moving-LANTA-Forward-Final-Report.pdf

MoveLV: Lehigh Valley Regional Freight Plan:

www.lvpc.org/pdf/MOVELV/freight/LV_RegionalFreightPlan.pdf

Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan:

www.lvpc.org/pdf/greenwayPlan/lvgp02.pdf

Lehigh Valley Trail Inventory:

www.lvpc.org/pdf/lvTrailsReport.pdf

Lehigh and Northampton Counties' Livable Landscapes Plans

www.lvpc.org/pdf/2015/livable_landscapes.pdf

www.lvpc.org/pdf/Lehigh%20County%20Livable%20Landscapes%20reduced.pdf

10. Contact Information and Questions

All questions must be submitted in writing to: planning@lvpc.org by January 2, 2019 at 4:00 pm EST.

A written response to all questions will be posted on the LVPC website www.lvpc.org on January 4th by 6:00 PM EST. Questions will not be answered over the phone.

Alternative accommodations requests may be made to Bethany Vasquez, Program Associate, at (610) 264-4544, or in writing to Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Blvd., Suite 310, Allentown, PA 18109.

11. Appendix A: Sample Application Form



THE REGIONAL PLAN

December 5, 2018



ALL PROJECTS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE

www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRTPOpenCall

Sample of the Project Submission Form

Deadline for Submittal: Friday, January 25, 2019, 4:00 pm, EST

Please use the space provided to complete the Plan/Project Submission Form. Plan/project sponsors may include a maximum of 10 additional pages (as a single document with a maximum size of 16 MBs) if necessary to describe the plan/project, depict plans or drawings, provide photographs or present other supporting materials.

SECTION A PROJECT SPONSOR	
INSTRUCTIONS	Provide the name of the plan/project sponsor.
Government Authority, Organization or Name:	
Type of Organization or Entity:	<input type="checkbox"/> Governmental entity <input type="checkbox"/> For-profit entity <input type="checkbox"/> Authority under state or federal law <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit entity
If you are a non-profit, for-profit or a recognized authority, is the local municipal or county government involved in this request?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**SECTION B
POINT OF CONTACT**

INSTRUCTIONS	Provide the name, organization, physical address, phone, and email address for both the plan/project's sponsor point of contact and plan/project engineer, if applicable. {Sponsors may have engineers complete the form, if appropriate}.	
	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT ENGINEER OR PLANNER (if applicable)
Name:		
Title:		
Organization:		
Address:		
Email:		
Phone:		

**SECTION C
PROJECT NAME & TYPE**

INSTRUCTIONS	Provide a project name. Check the appropriate box for type of plan/project (highway, bridge, intersection, non-motorized or study).
Project Name:	
Project Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Roadway <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> Intersection <input type="checkbox"/> Non-motorized (trail, bicycle, pedestrian) <input type="checkbox"/> Transit <input type="checkbox"/> Rail <input type="checkbox"/> Study or Plan

**SECTION D
PROJECT LOCATION & LIMITS**

INSTRUCTIONS	Provide a description of the plan/project location, with beginning and ending points, as appropriate.
Plan/Project Location:	
Plan/Project Limits or Boundaries:	

**SECTION E
PROJECT/PLAN DESCRIPTION**

<p>INSTRUCTIONS</p>	<p>Provide a description of the proposed plan/project. Be as thorough as possible in developing the plan/project description. Use information from the checklist in Section F to complete details about the plan/project description, where applicable. Please refer to Section 7 of the submission instructions for the submission evaluation criteria and include in the plan/project a description of how the plan/project addresses the applicable criteria. For Plan/Project Description, indicate: What will be accomplished? What issue(s) will be solved? What data was used to determine the need? For the Plan/Project Need, indicate: How does the plan/project meet evaluation goals outlined in Section 7 of the submission instructions?</p>
<p>Project/Plan Description:</p>	
<p>Project/Plan Need:</p>	

SECTION F PROJECT JUSTIFICATION INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS	<p>Check the applicable box(es) for the justification, based on the type of plan/project proposed. For example, for a bridge plan/project, is it currently open, posted with a weight restriction, or closed to traffic? Is the bridge condition rating good, fair or poor? Is it on the federal aid system (network of roads eligible for federal financial aid)? If the plan/project is a non-motorized (bicycle or pedestrian) plan/project, describe the need for the plan/project, such as safety, gaps in the network, safe routes to school or other identified needs in the community. If the proposed plan/project is a study, have any concept plans been started/completed? If a study is available, please explain how the proposed plan/project relates to the study.</p> <p>Refer to Section 9, Resources of the Open Call for Transportation Plans and Projects Instructions to complete this section.</p>
For All Plans/Projects:	<p><input type="checkbox"/> In a Municipal Comprehensive, Transportation, or Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Name of Plan: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On a Municipal Official Map</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Name of Municipality: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In a Regional or County Plan</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Name of Plan: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In MoveLV: Long Range Transportation Plan</p>
For Roadway or Intersection Plans/Projects:	<p><input type="checkbox"/> On Federal Aid Route System</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Part of Congestion Management Process</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On High Crash Corridor/Intersection</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On National Highway System</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On the LANta Enhanced Bus/Bus Rapid Transit future route</p>
For Bridge Plans/Projects:	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Open</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Posted</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On Federal Aid Route System</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Date Bridge was last inspected</p> <p>Bridge Condition Rating at last inspection if applicable:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor</p>

For Transit Plans/Projects:	<input type="checkbox"/> In Moving LANta Forward <input type="checkbox"/> On LANta Enhanced Bus/Bus Rapid Transit future route
For Rail Plans/Projects:	<input type="checkbox"/> In MoveLV: Lehigh Valley Regional Freight Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other need, please describe: _____
For Non-Motorized Plans/Projects:	<input type="checkbox"/> In Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan <input type="checkbox"/> In Lehigh Valley Trail Inventory <input type="checkbox"/> In Lehigh or Northampton Counties' Livable Landscapes Plans <input type="checkbox"/> On or connecting to the LANta Enhanced Bus/Bus Rapid Transit future route
For Study Plans/Projects:	<input type="checkbox"/> Indicate if concept plans or a previous study or plan is available and describe: _____

**SECTION G
ESTIMATED PLAN/PROJECT COST**

INSTRUCTIONS	Provide an estimate of the total plan/project cost, including any proposed local financial match. Total plan/project costs should include estimates for preliminary engineering, final design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and construction, if applicable.
Plan/Project Cost:	



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