



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

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Walk/RollLV Almost to the Finish Line

Fresh off its approval by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission last week, the region's first ever bicycles, pedestrian and multimodal transportation master plan is racing toward the finish line.

After an 18-month open table process that included 250 contributors from across the Lehigh Valley, the *Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan* will go for final approval before the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study Coordinating Committee at 9 am June 3.

In order to give organizers time to prepare their presentation to the LVTS, the May 27 Multimodal Working Group meeting is canceled.

A partnership effort between the LVTS, LVPC, consultant Toole Design and dozens of community partners, the Walk/RollLV plan looks to change habits with suggestions that include dedicated bike lanes, pedestrian safety improvements, traffic calming and ways to better connect the region's trail and sidewalk network, linking not only the communities within the region, but connecting the Lehigh Valley to networks in neighboring regions.

In short, it's designed to transition from a philosophy of moving cars and trucks to one of moving people, and its timing couldn't be better.

"There has not been a more important time than now to support the health, mobility, access, recreation, economic, connectivity, and environmental benefits of walking, rolling, biking and connections to transit than during the pandemic," said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley and Walk/RollLV Project Manager Geoff Reese, the LVPC's Director of Environmental Planning, said in a joint statement. "So many people have learned of and reconnected with our trails, sidewalk networks and bike facilities since the Governor's stay-at-home order. It's time to ensure that this momentum is carried to our transportation board again."

The Walk/RollLV Plan is unusual for how it has been put together. It included major contributions from a specially-convened Multimodal Working Group, who met monthly and welcomed anyone with interest to join the conversation. Over the year, more than 250 people participated, including many from some of the region's most active bicycle, pedestrian and transit agencies.

Many of the policies of Walk/RollLV have been worked into the proposed four-year, \$451 million Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), scheduled to be adopted later this summer.

Multimodal Working Group meetings will resume later this summer, when members begin implementing Walk/RollLV's policies, after social distancing restrictions have been lifted, Bradley said.

But first things first, and that means getting LVTS approval, which will unlock TIP funding.

“We are almost to the finish line!,” Bradley and Reese said. “It’s time to celebrate your hard work and dedication to rolling, walking, biking and these connections to transit on June 3rd.”

Find more information and a copy of the full plan at <https://lvpc.org/walkrolllv.html>