



# Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

**MICHAEL REBERT**  
Chair, Coordinating Committee

**CHRISTOPHER J. KUFRO, P.E.**  
Chair, Technical Committee

**BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP**  
Secretary,  
Coordinating Committee +  
Technical Committee

**Lehigh Valley Transportation Study**  
**Minutes from the Wednesday, May 6, 2020**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA  
WEB AND/OR CALL**

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Ms. Vazquez stated that the agenda and materials for this meeting were posted on the LVPC website. She provided directions on how to participate in the virtual meeting and the protocol to allow the meeting to flow smoothly. Ms. Vazquez also mentioned that this meeting was advertised in the Morning Call on April 12, 2020, as well as the LVPC website and social media outlets. She explained the procedure for public participants to ask questions or make comments. Ms. Bradley reviewed the meeting agenda.

Mr. Kufro call the meeting to order. He asked for a roll call. Ms. Bradley read the roll call. A Quorum was attained.

**Attendees:**

City of Allentown	Leonard Lightner (Alt.)
LANta	Brendan Cotter
LNA A	Ryan Meyer
LVPC	Becky Bradley
PennDOT Central Office	James Mosca
PennDOT District 5	Chris Kufro

**Absentees:**

City of Bethlehem  
City of Easton

**LVPC Attendees:**

Matt Assad  
Charles Doyle  
Carol Halper  
Brian Hite  
Simon Okumu  
Tracy Oscavich  
Geoff Reese  
Dave Towsey  
Bethany Vazquez

Mr. Kufro welcomed the members of the public and asked them to state their names so they can be recognized.

**Public Participants:**

Jennifer Crobak (FHWA), Marta Gabriel, Brian Miller, Sherri Penchishen, Andy Plank, Lee Rackus, Jen Ruth (PennDOT District 5) and Tom Shortell,

**Courtesy of the Floor**

Mr. Kufro asked if there were any members of the public who wished to speak on an item not on the agenda. There were none.

**Minutes**

*Technical Committee approval of LVTS Technical Committee Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2020*

Mr. Kufro stated that the minutes from the April 1, 2020 Technical Committee Meeting were included in the packet. The minutes also included the roll call vote actions by item. Ms. Bradley read them prior to the vote to approve the April minutes. After reviewing the roll call votes, an abbreviated roll call vote was conducted. Mr. Lightner made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Cotter seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Old Business**

*PennDOT District Transportation Bridge Status Report*

Mr. Kufro reviewed the handout in the packet and the slides of the Bridge Status Report. He asked for any questions or comments. There was a question from Mr. Plank regarding the status of the Meadow Road Bridge in Lower Saucon Township. Mr. Kufro responded to the inquiry later in the meeting, but it is inserted here for clarification. He reported that, at this time, the Meadows Road Bridge is in preliminary engineering and he will include that bridge in the next report. A study is being conducted to determine if the bridge can be rehabilitated or replaced. It is a few years away from any construction action as a result.

*Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Reporting - PennDOT District 5*

Ms. Ruth referred to the handout in the packet and the slide pertaining to the TIP Administrative Actions. She reported that there were no Amendments items this month. Mr. Kufro asked for questions from the members and the public; there were none.

### *Adoption of Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan*

Ms. Bradley stated that for the last year and a half, the LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committees and the Multimodal Working Group (now called WorkshopLV: Multimodal) have been working to develop the region's first pedestrian, bicycle, last-feet-to-transit and accessibility strategy. This plan is consistent with the policies and actions adopted by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. The final draft of the Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan is posted on the LVPC website. Mr. Reese reviewed the public review of the plan, which was a 45-day comment period starting on December 5, 2019. The comments were reviewed with the consultants and a final draft was prepared. The LVPC adopted the plan on April 30, 2020 and requested LVTS do the same. Mr. Kufro asked for a motion by the Technical Committee to approve the Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan. Mr. Cotter made the motion, with a second from Mr. Lightner. Ms. Bradley asked for those in favor to say yes. There weren't any no votes or abstentions. The motion carried.

### *TIP Update and Public Engagement During COVID-19*

Mr. Doyle reported that the public comment period for the draft 2021 – 2024 TIP begins on May 18, 2020 and extends through June 16, 2020. The draft will be posted on the LVPC website and distributed to LVTS members and public via the LVPC mailing list. There will be three virtual public engagement events to solicit comments from the public. These will be held May 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM and June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9 AM. The draft will also be available on the LVPC website at [lvpc.org](http://lvpc.org).

### **New Business**

#### *FHWA-PA Division Staffing Update and Welcome to Jennifer Crobak*

Mr. Kufro introduced Jennifer Crobak, the Federal Highway Administration- PA Planning Program Manager. Ms. Crobak thanked Mr. Kufro for the introduction. She stated she was looking forward to working with the LVTS. Ms. Crobak also reported that Jamie Lemon and Gene Porochniak were appointed community planners with the FHWA-PA Program Development Team. Ms. Crobak reported that the FHWA is working on the finalization of the recertification review.

#### *Traffic Counts and COVID-19 Impact*

Mr. Hite reported that the LVPC consistently monitors traffic counts. He referred to the map in the handout and on the slides. There are four permanent, continuous traffic counter locations in the Lehigh Valley. They are located at Route 33 in Nazareth, south of Lower Nazareth and Northampton Crossings and two along I-78, one in Williams Township and the second one is east of the Route

309 Interchange in Upper Saucon Township. The fourth one is located within the borders of Upper Saucon, outside of Coopersburg. Mr. Hite referred to graphs that indicate the steep drop in traffic counts which appears to correlate directly to the stay-at-home mandate.

Ms. Bradley shared some thoughts regarding what this means for traffic as we return to the “new normal”. Using Regional Economic Modeling (REMI), she shared the analysis that the traffic decrease resulting from working at home is 4% in vehicle miles traveled, which does not take into account the decrease in shopping. The LVPC will continue to monitor the changes and bring them to the LVTS and LVPC. Ms. Bradley reviewed the amount of square feet of approved industrial, and square feet of warehouse approved by local municipalities since 2014; making this region one of the fastest growing freight areas in the world. Ms. Bradley mentioned there will be more discussion about post-pandemic predictions as part of the LVPC's Planning on the Menu Virtual Data + Donuts on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. Owen O’Neil, Executive Director of LANta will be participating to discuss the future of work, transit, traffic and the economy.

*Federal Highway Administration Webinar on Freight Beyond the City:  
Approaches to Improving Freight Mobility in the Suburban Context*

Ms. Bradley reported that she participated on a panel at a Transportation Research Board conference on January 12<sup>th</sup> and again for the FHWA on April 15<sup>th</sup> on freight ([https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/talking\\_freight/index.htm](https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/talking_freight/index.htm)). Referring to the handout and slides, Ms. Bradley stated that in her presentation she shared how our region has a long-term, green, fearless and reasonable strategy through FutureLV and all the planning we do. The presentation focuses on a holistic strategy that positions us to address many of the expected outcomes of COVID-19, and the possibility of additional freight development post pandemic.

*MAP Forum and Data Coordination*

Mr. Doyle stated that the LVPC, in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum, have been collaborating to assemble an online mapping and data portal. The MAP Forum is a consortium of 10 Metropolitan Planning Organizations from New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and the Lehigh Valley. This data portal will provide a “one-stop-shop” for accessing information. This will aid in better decision making, with strong consideration for how freight movements are coordinated and managed. The data portal is currently in the testing version.

Ms. Bradley added that the MAP Forum is also working on a survey of truckers and their parking and delivery challenges, during COVID-19 and beyond. The

data portal and results of the survey will be shared with the LVTS when they are available.

#### *PennDOT Construction Projects Press Release*

Mr. Kufro reported that on April 30<sup>th</sup>, PennDOT sent out a press release announcing Governor Wolf's plan for a phased-in reopening of public and private PennDOT construction projects on bridges and highways. He added that construction resumed on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Most of the projects in the Lehigh Valley received a green light, except a few in highly populated areas, such as the Tilghman Street Bridge. Mr. Mosca added that the safety of the workers and citizens are the highest priority.

### **Communication + Correspondence**

#### *Census 2020*

Mr. Assad reported that social distancing eliminated any opportunity for an in-person effort to promote the census. The LVPC is focused on a digital strategy and social media. Our partners in the Lehigh Valley are also focused on digital and social media options. We are all committed to making sure the Lehigh Valley is fully counted.

### **Public Engagement and Participation**

Ms. Oscavich stated that due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, the LVPC will continually monitor orders from the Governor. She reviewed the list of meetings that are cancelled or have been moved to an online platform. The list is contained in the handout and the slide and the LVPC website.

### **Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Mr. Kufro asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mosca made the motion and Ms. Bradley seconded it. Mr. Kufro adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,  
Becky Bradley, AICP, LVTS Secretary and  
Carol Halper, Senior Advisor