



# 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, June 16, 2021**  
**Joint Technical and Coordinating 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. Winton 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. Winton also mentioned that this meeting was advertised in the Morning Call on December 30, 2020, as well as the LVPC website and social media outlets. She explained the procedure for public participants to ask questions or make comments and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Mr. Kufro welcomed the members and the public participants and called the meeting to order

**Attendees:**

LVTS Technical Committee

City of Allentown	Leonard Lightner (Alt)
City of Bethlehem	Darlene Heller (Alt)
LANta	Brendan Cotter
PennDOT Central Office	James Mosca
LVPC	Becky Bradley
LNAA	Ryan Meyer

LVTS Coordinating Committee

City of Allentown	Craig Messinger (Alt)
City of Bethlehem	Michael Alkhal (Alt)
LANta	Owen O'Neill
Lehigh County	Executive Armstrong
Lehigh County	Rick Molchany (Alt)
LNAA	Tom Stoudt
LVPC	Becky Bradley
Northampton County	Michael Emili (Alt)
PennDOT Central Office	Brian Hare
PennDOT District 5	Chris Kufro

LVPC Staff Participants

Matt Assad  
 Brian Hite  
 Michael Hanes  
 Jennifer Winton

Mr. Kufro asked members of the public to state their names.

## **Public Participants**

Bob Dolan, Jerry Fry, James Brady, Michael Grantner, Kevin Kalman, Max Inkrote, Heather Heeter, AJ Jordan, Sheila Alvarado, Ralph Eberhardt, Scott Slingerland, David Alas, Jennifer Crobak, Matt Szuchyt, Sarah Cassi, Brian Harman, Amanda Leindecker, Brian Miller, Mick Dee, Kim Schaffer, Scott Vottero Andy Plank, Jennifer Swann, Brian Miller, Lee Rackus and Jim Maloney.

## **Courtesy of the Floor**

Mr. Kufro opened the floor to the public participants who wished to comment or ask questions about an issue not on the agenda. Hearing none, he moved on to the minutes.

## **Minutes**

Mr. Cotter stated that the minutes from the April 21, 2021, LVTS Technical Committee Meeting were in the packet. Mr. Cotter asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Mosca made a motion and Mr. Lightner seconded the motion. Mr. Cotter asked if there were any questions or comments; hearing none, he asked Ms. Bradley for a call of votes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Kufro stated that the minutes from April 21, 2021, LVTS Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting were in the packet. Mr. Kufro asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Molchany made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second from Mr. Messinger. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Bradley for a call of votes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **Old Business**

### ***INFORMATION ITEM: PennDOT District 5-0 Transportation Alternatives Set Aside and Multimodal Project Status Report***

Mr. Vottero detailed the PennDOT District 5-0 TASA and Multimodal Projects status briefly highlighting items listed on the PowerPoint slides and meeting packets. South Bethlehem Corridor Connections is under construction. Geiger's Covered Bridge received approval and right of way, so the project is on schedule for the September 2021 let date. Allentown Jordan Creek and D & L Trail have received final approval and moving along nicely. Hamilton Boulevard and Traffic Signal and Improvement projects are early in PE. The 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Walnut Street projects are coordinating and have a let date of May of 2023 and are progressing nicely. Easton Wood Avenue and Lower Saucon are scheduled to be let in late 2021. Iron Works and Wilson Boro Street Project just started. Air Products just started along with Allentown 15<sup>th</sup> Street and SR 222. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any questions from the committee? Any questions from the public? Hearing none he proceeded to the next agenda item.

### ***INFORMATION ITEM: PennDOT District 5-0 Highway Projects Report***

Mr. Vottero highlighted the items; SR 33 is in final design with TS & L approved. SR 329 over the Lehigh River Bridge with an April 2022 let date, right of way is on going and final design approved. The SR 378 Hill to Hill is in alternative analysis. SR 611 and 873 projects are in preliminary engineer. Race Street SR 1004 with a July 2024 is in PE but about to wrap up and should be in final design soon. Lower South Main Street SR 1015 is in final design the let date was adjusted to do coordination with US Fish and Wildlife. Fifth Street project is working on line

and grade. Mill Road SR 2024 with a March of 2022 let date is in final design with right of way started and working on utility approval. Hecktown, Farmersville Road, and Country Club Road all just started and let dates are good for now. Indian Trail Road with March of 2022 let date, is in final design. The Howertown Road Bridge is in final design. Meadows Road Bridge let date of October of 2021 based on inspection the bridge needs to be removed so moving along. South Walnut Street Bridge with a December 2023 let date and working on environmental clearances and safety review submissions are next. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any questions. Mr. Slingerland commented on the 378 Hill to Hill Bridge and asked about next steps on public comments regarding walkways and connectivity? Mr. Vottero indicated that all comments will be reviewed with PennDOT and FHWA then environmental clearances to see what will work and not and the next public engagement would be the public involvement stage. Mr. Slingerland stated that the design is very encouraging. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any more questions hearing none moved on to the next agenda item.

***INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEM: PennDOT District 5-0 TIP Transportation Improvement Program Modifications***

Ms. Ruth was unavailable, so Ms. Leindecker reviewed the 10 Administrative Actions and Amendments.

- **Amendment Action #1**

Ms. Leindecker indicated the Route 33 resurface project from Chrin Interchange to US 22 is a low bid cost increase is \$2,048,269.00 The low bid was a result of milling and asphalt, accelerated concrete paving, type 7 paving shoulders and miscellaneous contractual items. Mr. Cotter asked the actual amendment amount number if it is not \$11 million. Ms. Leindecker stated is it \$2,048,269.00. The \$11 million was the need not the request for amendment. The amendment cost request was \$2,048,269.00. Ms. Bradley asked about the listing on the Amendment Action sheet. Ms. Leindecker indicated Ms. Bradley was looking at the correct line items. Mr. Kufro asked for additional questions, hearing none. Mr. Cotter called for a motion to approve from the Technical Committee Mr. Ryan made a motion and Ms. Bradley seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for votes and the motion carried. Mr. Kufro asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee Mr. Molchany made a motion to approve and Mr. Emili seconded the motion. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any questions, hearing none asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the amendment was unanimously approved.

- **Amendment Action #2**

The last bridge inspection revealed that the Meadows Road Bridge would need to be removed. The Amendment is because they will be adding Federal Funds to the project. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any questions from the committee hearing none Mr. Cotter asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the TIP Amendment, Ms. Bradley made a motion to approve. Ms. Heller seconded the motion. Mr. Cotter asked if there were any questions; hearing none Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the Amendment Action #2 was approved. Mr. Kufro asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Molchany made a motion to approve, Mr. Emili seconded the motion. Mr. Kufro asked if there are any questions, hearing none asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote. Ms. Bradley asked the Coordinating Committee to vote on the Amendment Action #2 to create a new project specifically for the Meadows Road Bridge Removal adding \$350,000 to be added to the TIP from de-obligations and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **INFORMATION ITEM: Monthly Traffic Report**

Mr. Hite provided details of the monthly Pandemic Traffic Report.

### **New Business**

#### ***ACTION ITEM: Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Special Committee Recommendation Approval for Inclusion on 2021-2024***

Mr. Hanes detailed The Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) fund as a federal cost reimbursement program, distributed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. TASA funds to TA Set-Aside investments are a dedicated funding source for projects that: support pedestrian and bicycle facilities; multimodal education for youth; improve access to public transportation; create safe routes to school; preserve historic transportation structures; provide environmental mitigation; or create trails projects for a transportation purpose. Each project or initiative must promote safety and mobility. Currently, each year under the FAST Act funding apportionments the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study is provided \$660,978. TASA funds are allocated on a two-year cycle with total funds available this round of \$1,437,410.36. This includes the LVTS' annual allotment of \$661,000 and an existing balance of approximately \$776,000. There were 13 projects to review totaling \$2,665,878 in requests. For a project to be considered eligible for funding, it must comply with the federal FAST Act, TASA requirements, and be consistent with and included in the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan, *FutureLV*. PENNDOT opened the statewide TASA round on June 9<sup>th</sup> and pre-applications are due August 16<sup>th</sup>. Final applications are due October 15<sup>th</sup> with selection anticipated in February 2021. More information can be found at PENNDOT.gov. In addition, several projects may be eligible for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Multimodal Transportation Fund. Multimodal funding applications are being accepted through July 31<sup>st</sup> and more information is available at dced.pa.gov. All projects and initiatives that do not receive regional funds should consider application to these statewide sources.

Mr. Cotter indicated that after the Special Committee deliberation, the following projects are being recommended to be awarded regional Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program funding and to be added to the TIP: Community Bike Works, Youth Bicycle Education - \$244,036.47, Coalition for Appropriate Transportation, Youth Bicycle Education - \$154,036.48. Safe Routes to School/Pedestrian/Transit Access project in the City of Allentown called Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Pedestrian Improvements - \$181,471.47 and Borough of Fountain Hill, Broadway and Delaware Pedestrian Improvements - \$203,829.47. Multi-Use Trail and Bicycle Facilities Project in Northampton County to assist in the Closure of the Two Rivers Trail Gap - \$654,036.47. As mentioned prior, these projects represent the available total TASA funds of \$1,437,410.36. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any questions, hearing none there was a call to vote. Mr. Cotter asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve. Ms. Bradley made a motion to approve, and Mr. Lightener seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for votes and the motion was approved. Mr. Kufro asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve. Mr. O'Neil made a motion to approve, and Mr. Stoudt seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### ***ACTION ITEM: RAISE Grant Application for Riverside Drive***

Ms. Bradley indicated that the LVPC will be applying for a United States Department of Transportation, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The grant will request over \$20 million, and match will be provided by The Waterfront Development Company. She detailed the project, Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization corridor, involves a transformative three and a half mile stretch of abandoned rail line from the

American on Wheels Museum in the City of Allentown to the Race Street Bridge in Whitehall Township. This project is one of the highest priorities in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. The project reclaims a vacated rail corridor while becoming a centerpiece of a more than \$400 million brownfields redevelopment project known as the Waterfront, in the City of Allentown. This project will connect residents, commuters, recreational trail users and tourists from established commercial and mixed-use developments to the new cultural, recreational, and smart growth redevelopment projects occurring along Allentown's waterfront, while providing a safe and ADA accessible route. We have applied in prior years for this funding and received extremely positive feedback from USDOT on our applications. We will be coming back to you with directions on how to support this application after the application deadline of July 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kufro and Mr. Cotter agreed for a joint vote of the committees. Mr. Molchany made a motion to support the application, and Mr. Lightener seconded the motion. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any questions from the Committee or public, hearing none asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote. Ms. Bradley called for a Joint Technical and Coordinating Committees to vote and the motion was unanimously supported.

***INFORMATION ITEM: Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Tech Assist Outreach***

Mr. Hite reviewed the 2021 LTAP Tech Assists Outreach initiative. Tech Assists are one on one training or technical support activities for municipalities and organizations that have a safety or maintenance issue. Tech Assists involve the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and LVPC staff to go onsite to look at specific issues and provide recommendations and technical assistance. To date ten Tech Assists have occurred in 2021 and the program is completely free.

**Public Engagement and Participation**

Mr. Assad reviewed the upcoming public participation opportunities with the Committee. Transformative Talk – Housing, June 25<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30, Local Technical Assistance Program Classes Joint WorkshopLV: Multimodal and WorkshopLV: Freight Meeting on July 21 at 4:00 pm. The July 21<sup>st</sup> Workshops may be moved to the fall based on coordination needs with adjacent regions and partners on freight and safety. Notification of any change will be sent.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Kufro asked if there was anything for the good of order. Hearing none, indicated the next Technical Committee meeting would be July 21, 2021 at 9:00 am. Mr. Kufro asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mosca seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,  
Becky Bradley, AICP, LVTS Secretary