

## Lehigh Valley Wins \$3.7 million for Bike/Ped Projects

Allentown, Coopersburg, Hellertown and Lehigh County have been awarded a combined \$3.7 million in state grants for projects that range from extending the D&L Trail to rebuilding sidewalks to improving a covered bridge.

They were among 82 municipalities in Pennsylvania that were awarded \$66.8 million in grants under the statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program. The competitive grant program is designed to fund projects that promote bicycle and pedestrian projects and improve accessibility.

“Building for the future includes improving access to a variety of transportation options and these investments will promote safety and mobility for communities across Pennsylvania,” said Governor Tom Wolf.

Wolf announced the grant awards Tuesday with Transportation Secretary Leslie S. Richards.

“Our citizens are taking advantage of an array of trails and improvements that enhance the state’s quality of life, and these new investments will build on our successes in making Pennsylvania an attractive place to live and work,” Richards added.

The grants awarded include:

- \$1 million to Allentown to construct a shared use path from the Jordan Basin Park, through the 51-acre Jordan Creek Park, through Whitehall, and on to the western end of the 476-acre Jordan Creek Parkway
- \$1 million to Coopersburg for pedestrian and bicycling improvements to North Main Street and West State Street, including pedestrian crosswalks, curbing, sidewalks, accessibility improvements and pedestrian lighting.
- \$838,188 to Lehigh County to help fund the closing of a 1.45-mile trail gap along the D&L Trail from the Lehigh and Northampton County line to Hanover Township’s Canal Park on the canal tow path.
- \$792,427 to Hellertown to improve safety at six intersections on Main Street by installing pedestrian activated crossing lights, ADA curb ramps and stamped

crosswalks. This funding supplements a \$200,000 TASA award grant earlier this year from the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS).

The grants come at the time when the Lehigh valley Planning Commission, which manages LVTS, is embarking on a yearlong project to devise a bicycle and pedestrian masterplan. It will be designed to set out a long-term roadmap for how to build and enhance the Lehigh Valley's already-extensive trail network, and in general, make the region more appealing to people who want to leave the car in the driveway once in a while – or choose not to have a car at all.

“Think of these projects as the connective tissue that helps hold together our transportation network that is the envy of neighboring regions,” said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. “These projects address quality of life issues and are just as important as the multimillion-dollar road projects that make the headlines. We’d like to thank Governor Wolf and Secretary Richards for this investment in our community.”