



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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Introducing WorkshopLV

The Lehigh Valley has a new regional plan that sets direction for everything from housing to land use to water management to transportation.

Now, comes the task of putting all that new policy to work—and you can help.

WorkshopLV will be a series of new working groups, populated by interested citizens, to help tackle some of the region's most important and challenging issues.

“This is all about building collaborations to get things done,” said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. “We’ve chosen two of the tougher issues to start with - Housing and Water.”

The kick-off meeting for the new WorkshopLV | Housing is scheduled for **3 pm, December 18, at the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley**'s 555 Union Boulevard, Allentown office. The effort will be a collaborative, open table whose job will be to identify and address a wide range of housing issues, including supply, variety and cost.

Anyone can sign up to join the housing workshop by contacting Bethany Vazquez at planning@lvpc.org.

The Housing group follows on the heels of the Workshop | Water working group that kicked off October 31, and others will follow next year, as the LVPC and LVTS work to roll out the policies of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, which has been adopted by Lehigh and Northampton counties.

The 200-page plan is designed to manage a region that's growing by 4,000 to 6,000 people a year, while protecting the farmland, natural resources and recreation areas that help define its character and help it maintain a high quality of life. It includes \$2.5 million in spending for more than 200 roads, bridge, trail and public transit projects, and a “Centers and Corridors Concept” crafted to build up economic centers, create more walkable neighborhoods and make the region more welcoming to pedestrians, bicyclists and people with disabilities.

The Workshop model has worked before. The Multimodal Working Group has spent the past year helping to refine Walk/RollLV, which will serve as a bicycle and pedestrian masterplan.

“It's been a useful tool in bringing in new ideas and problem-solving, in addition to building consensus,” Bradley said. “When you're trying to bring about culture change, it's important that a lot of people have a chance to contribute.”

The Housing and Water WorkshopLV groups will meet periodically in 2020, and other WorkshopLV groups will be started to advance the policies spelled out in *FutureLV*. The full plan can be found at lvpc.org.

