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FutureLV is Now Online and Interactive

The Lehigh Valley has a new regional plan to guide Lehigh and Northampton counties to 2045 and beyond. But a plan three years in the making can't have true impact unless everyone has access to it.

The next step in that effort came February 27, when the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study launched a new interactive website, specifically designed to make it easier to navigate *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* -- the 200-page blueprint for the future.

Want to see the vision for how the region will be better designed for pedestrians and bicyclists? The webpage makes it accessible 24 hours a day.

Want to see what future road projects are near your neighborhood? The new interactive Geographic Information System maps can get you there.

Want to learn about the Future Forces that will impact all of our lives? The special sections will lead the way.

It's all crafted to bring more people into the effort of advancing the policies and actions of a plan that promotes a more connected transportation network, a protected environment, a stable economy, managed growth and safe, healthy neighborhoods.

"For us to bring about the kind of culture change we're suggesting, we need as many people on board as possible," said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. "Informing people and getting them familiar with the plan is the best way to reach our goal of a thriving, better connected, inclusive Lehigh Valley. More than 9,000 people participated in crafting the plan. The community has told us what they want and now it's time to implement it. We're one Lehigh Valley. Together is the way to reach our potential."

The plan has been distributed to public decision-makers and public buildings across the region, and a PDF has been available on the LVPC website. But the new dedicated webpage not only makes the plan easy to navigate, but opens new avenues for people who want to dig a little deeper into the data, conversations and consensus that went into building the plan.

"There's an incredible amount of data and information behind all the maps," said LVPC Senior Graphic Information Systems (GIS) Planner David Towsey. "People will be able to filter the data by municipality and zoom to features of interest. They'll have a unique perspective on how it all affects them."

For example, the GIS maps will access the specific location and size of everything from preserved farmland to road projects to the nearest trails and parks within a particular municipality, including projects that are scheduled for the future. The maps allow people to see

everything from how many acres of woodlands their community has to how many miles of trails wind through their municipality.

FutureLV includes five primary maps, each with multiple layers that can be turned on and off by the user. The Natural Resources Plan map includes 12 layers that detail not only wetlands and woodlands, but things such as floodplains, hydric soils and Natural Heritage Sites, while the Farmland Preservation Plan map includes Farmland Protection Priority Areas, Agricultural Security Areas, and Agricultural Conservation Easements. All of the online maps have information that can't be found in a hard copy of the plan, including a Transportation Plan Map that will display population and employment density layers for every municipality.

And added to the webpage is one map – the Long-Range Transportation Plan map – that's not available anywhere else. There people can see details about road, bridge, trail and transit projects already underway and projects planned as much as 25 years down the road. They can even type in any address and zoom in to see what projects are nearest to that location.

FutureLV Online can be found at lvpc.org.