



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

C/O LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
961 MARCON BOULEVARD, SUITE 310
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18109
(610) 264-4544

LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

**Minutes from the May 2, 2018
Technical Committee Meeting
LVPC Conference Room**

AGENDA

Mr. Green called the meeting to order and introductions of attendees were made.

Attendees:

Ken Navitsky, Andrew Kleiner, Richard Young, Scott Slingerland, Ray Green, Matt Malozi, Steve Turoscy, George Kinney, Matt Szuchyt, Sharon Trexler, Sarah Cassi, Gene Clater, Carol Halper, Chandra Parasa, Scott Vottero, Tracy Oscavich, Brendan Cotter, Chris Briggs, Brian Hite, Darlene Heller, Matthew Dorner, Jen Ruth, Christopher Kufro, Denise Leonard, Brian Miller and Michael Donchez.

Minutes

Mr. Green deferred the approval of the April 4, 2018 Joint LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committee until the June 6, 2018 meeting.

Status of TIP Bridge Projects

Mr. Kufro provided a status of the following bridge projects:

- SR 29 over Norfolk Southern Railroad Bridge is progressing through final design with a let date of April 2019.
- SR 145 Wire Mill Bridge over Little Lehigh Creek also working through all the final design items with a let date of September 26, 2019
- The next three projects: SR 248 over Hokendauqua Creek, SR 248 over Tributary to Hokendauqua Creek and SR 248 over East Branch of Monocacy Creek on schedule; public meeting was held on May 1 and the let date for the first two will be summer 2019 and the third summer 2020 and will be done under a detour.
- SR 329 over Lehigh River-Cementon Bridge with a let date of June 18, 2020; public meeting held several weeks ago and still working through preliminary engineering, finishing up environmental clearances and historical data.
- SR 378 Hill to Hill Bridge over Lehigh River is very early in preliminary engineering; working on historic structure eligibility, comparing all the environmental engineering documents at this time, collecting data on the bridge.
- SR 1032 over Jacoby Creek with a let date of November 7, 2019, final design work was approved last month, moving onto more of the engineering side.

- SR 3004 Water Street over Saucon Creek; final design with a let date of February 28, 2019, right of way plans are completed and recorded, permit has been submitted and is under review. Part of the bridge is going to be done under a detour.
- SR 7301 Gordon Street Bridge is wrapping up with DEP on the H&H submission, waiting for environmental clearance to move into final design with a let date of April 25, 2019
- SR 7408 South Walnut Street Bridge over Trout Creek a let date of July 23, 2020; working through bridge rehab feasibility report, plan coordination with the Borough of Slatington set for next week.

TIP Amendments

None to report

New Business

House Bill 1699 – Removal of Truck Restrictions

Mr. Donchez provided an update on House Bill 1699/Senate Bill 880 which deals with the removal of restrictions on tractor trailers and where they can travel; specifically with regards to 102 trucks that have a wheel base of 102” in width and 28’ in length. The bills had passed unanimously in the Senate and in the House with a vote of 189 – 1. It is expected to be signed into legislation. Currently those trucks are restricted to 4 digit state routes and this legislation will allow them to travel on 4 digit state routes. However it does not preclude any restriction that might be placed on bridges on those 4 digit state routes.

Coordinated Public Transit Plan Update

Mr. Donchez provided an update on the Coordinated Public Transit Plan for LANta; the previous plan was done in 2007 and is due to be updated every 10 years. The plan specifically addresses gaps in the public transportation system particularly as it relates to para-transit type services (services for elderly or disabilities). The plan is basically a gap identification which identifies what the gaps are in the existing para transit services and address those gaps through service provision and operational type improvements. The importance of this plan is it allows access to 5310 section funds. Previous meetings were held last summer with LANta’s Van Accessibility committee and two public meetings in July (one at the Lehigh County Government Center and the other at Easton City Hall) seeking input into what are some of the gaps that need to be addressed within the plan. LVPC is currently working on refining the plan; we have an inhouse draft together and are making final edits to that. Will be forwarded to LANta for review once final edits are complete. LVTS will be bringing the plan before the committee at the June meeting.

2nd Annual Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit – April 9-10 in Pittsburgh

Mr. Donchez provided an update of the Pennsylvania Automated Vehicle Summit which was attended by several LVPC staff members. The event was attended by approximately 400 people with a wide range of topics dealing with legal aspects, liability, technology issues, standardized guides for competing technologies to communicate with each other and why is the United States the leading country in autonomous vehicle development.

2019 Draft Transportation Improvement Program Update

Mr. Donchez gave a presentation on the draft 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program which is a high-priority four-year program of projects which is updated every two years. This TIP covers 2019-2022 and is a multimodal program of projects addressing highway, bridge, transit, multi-modal and rail infrastructure projects within the two county region. Approximately 80% of the funds that go into the TIP are federal and the remaining 20% can be state, local, private or a combination of funds. It is important to note that in order for a project to receive federal funds it must be on the TIP. Approximately \$388 million for highways, \$146 million on transit (includes capital and operating projects) with a total value of \$534 million in comparison to current TIP valued at \$458 million. This represents a 17% increase. This allowed us to include 42 new projects. Mr. Donchez recapped several projects that are new to the program. The 30 day public review and comment period began on April 23 and will close on May 22. We will hold two public meetings: May 2 at LVPC (12:00 p.m.) and on May 8 at Bethlehem Public Library (6:30 p.m.). The documents are available for review at LVPC, LVPC website, LANta, PennDOT and at the three city libraries. We are accepting comments via phone, at public meeting or email. The TIP will go to LVTS for adoption June 6. Once adopted it will go to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). Once USDOT approval is issued (expected late September) then funding will be available October 1 for four years.

LTAP Recognition Event – May 18, 2018 @ Canal Park – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Hite reported on the 2nd LTAP Recognition Event which is to recognize the students that have attended the LTAP classes as well as municipalities that have sent them. Sam Gregory, current LTAP instructor, will speak on the benefits municipalities receive from sending their employees.

Lehigh Valley Chamber's 2018 Transportation Summit – May 17 @ 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Oscavich provided a reminder that there are still seats available for the Summit which will take place at Mack Trucks and will include a presentation on automated vehicles.

Eastern PA Freight Summit – June 21-22 (All Day)

Ms. Oscavich provided a reminder for the Summit which will be hosted by LVPC at Lehigh University Iacocca Hall and will include speakers on the first day followed by a series of tours on the second day. Pre-registration opened this week.

Old Business

Local Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Hite provided a brief recap of the upcoming LTAP presentations listed below:

- Americans with Disabilities Act – May 22, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. @ LVPC

Correspondence

None

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Clater opened a discussion on House Bill 1699 and its effect on the Transportation Access Network that is in place right now that dictates where trucks are supposed to go

and not go. Mr. Green indicated that we don't know the impact it could have at this time on projects that could be on the TIP.

Mr. Singerland provided a status report on Bike to Work Week activities which will run from May 12 – 20. Events during the week are sponsored by the City of Bethlehem, City of Easton and LVPC.

Adjourn

Mr. Green asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting is adjourned.

Submitted by,
Denise Leonard, Executive Administrative Assistant



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LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

**Minutes from the July 11, 2018
Technical Committee Meeting
LVPC Conference Room**

AGENDA

Mr. Green called the meeting to order and introductions of attendees were made.

Members in Attendance:

Becky Bradley, Mike Donchez, Ray Green, Christopher Kufro, Ryan Meyer and Owen O'Neil.

Members Absent:

Brendan Cotter, Darlene Heller, Dave Hopkins and Douglas Stewart.

Staff Present:

Whitney Burdge, Brian Hite, Denise Leonard, Tracy Oscavich, Chandra Parasa and Geoff Reese.

Public Present:

Jim Brady, Sarah Cassi, Ralph Eberhardt, Carol Halper, Matt Malozi, Lee Rackus, Jen Ruth, Scott Slingerland, Matt Szuchyt, Steve Turoscy, Dan Walston and Richard Young.

Minutes

Mr. Green stated that the minutes of the June 6, 2018 Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee are attached. Mr. Donchez made a motion to approve the June 6, 2018 Technical Committee minutes. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

ACTION ITEM: Adoption of 2019 Transportation Improvement Program Air Quality Conformity

Mr. Donchez explained that LVTS will need to adopt the Air Quality Conformity Analysis that was run for the 2019 Draft Transportation Improvement Program. LVTS did approve an Air Quality Conformity Analysis during the June 6th Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting which was revised due to the Jordan Creek Project being scoped as a bridge replacement. The scoping should have been for three lanes north bound and three lanes south bound which makes it a capacity adding project.

LVTS revised the 2019 Air Quality Conformity Report to include the revised scoping to six lanes for the project and running it through the process. It was unclear if the six lanes are feasible after consulting with the Federal Highway Administration. It was decided to explore preliminary engineering to see if it would be feasible before going into final design, which would trigger Air Quality Conformity Analysis on it. The analysis being presented today for adoption is the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program Air Quality Conformity Analysis without the revised scope for the Jordan Creek Bridge. Mr. O'Neil made a motion to adopt the analysis without the revised scope. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: LANTA FFY 2108 Buses & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Grant – Letter of Support

Mr. O'Neil presented a letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission in support of LANTA's application to Federal Transit Administration Buses and Bus Facilities Investment Grant Program which is a competitive grant program. LANTA has submitted applications to the program over the last few years which resulted in an award in 2010 but not since then. The application being submitted this year is for the replacement of four (4) buses with a federal ask of \$1.6 million. Mr. Donchez made a motion to support LANTA's application. Mr. Kufro seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Eastern PA Freight Summit

Ms. Bradley provided a status on the first ever Eastern PA Freight Summit. The event was sold out. The first day consisted of panelists on a variety of topics from transportation land use connection and what it means to truck to the sheer economics and scale of growth in freight and why it's happening along with the real estate implications. The second day consisted of tours to Mack Trucks and Zulily along with a lunchtime discussion with Gene Clater on the challenges that Allen Township has with freight.

Walk/BikeLV; Active Transportation Plan and Multimodal Working Group

Ms. Bradley provided an update on the Walk/BikeLV: Active Transportation Plan and Multimodal Working Group. LVPC is in the processing of finalizing the contract with Toole Design Group. Pushing off the kickoff into August so that the multimodal working group can be established.

INFORMATION ITEM: Hazard Mitigation Plan and Transportation

Mr. Reese provided a presentation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan along with a live demonstration of the draft plan located on the LVPC website. The website houses the main document (a more usable document). This is a federal program with requirements that translate into 3,000 pages of material associated with the plan which can be found on the website as well. The document contains an individual annex section for all sixty-two (62) municipalities which describes all the information provided to the process which includes their comprehensive plan and the list of projects that they intend to accomplish under this program (1,102 of them in the plan). The plan is currently in the public comment period which ends on August 3rd. This is the third (3rd) Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan (first plan in 2006 & second in 2013). The overall goal of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long term risk to human life and property from hazards. The hazards include both natural and non-natural hazards including transportation crashes. The plan process in its most simple form is made up of three (3) components: risk assessment for each hazard identified, capability assessment (what do we currently have in place to mitigate the impacts of those hazards) and mitigation strategy which provides the framework to identify,

prioritize and implement actions to reduce risk to hazards. The four most important goals relative to infrastructure are to minimize the risk to human life, promote hazard avoidance, reduce the damages and loss from natural and non-natural hazards, and to develop, prioritize and implement cost-effective, longer term actions that will reduce the impact of natural and non-natural hazards. The key priority of the plan moving forward related to infrastructure is to improve the integration of hazard mitigation planning into the existing plans, policies and programs, especially related to infrastructure and capital improvements programming. Plan Update Timeline: amendments to the plan will take place at the end of public comment period, review and approval by PEMA and FEMA by September 2018 and the plan must be adopted by at least one municipality by October 10, 2018.

Old Business

FutureLV: Working Group

Ms. Bradley provided an update of the next FutureLV: Working Group scheduled for Monday, July 16 @ 3:00 p.m. The working group consists of all Lehigh Valley Planning Commissioners as well as Lehigh Valley Transportation Study member (not a public meeting) to discuss some of the issues in the region and see where we want to take our planning effort.

BUILD Grant – Due July 19

Ms. Oscavich provided a status report on the BUILD Grant which is the Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor Project (formerly the TIGER grant). The application is due on July 19th. LVPC will be requesting letters of support. Ms. Bradley requested that LVTS put in a formal request letter in support of the grant application. Ms. Bradley made a motion to support the MPO's BUILD Grant. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion. The motion was carried out unanimously.

Status of TIP Projects

Mr. Kufro provided a status of the following projects:

- US 22 Widening currently in preliminary engineering with a let date of August 2022, preliminary TS&L's have been submitted and reviewed and section 4(f) and 6(f) are anticipated to begin in July.
- SR 100 Section 13M Betterment Project: Right of Way plan sent for recording, project is now full-depth long-life asphalt pavement and has a let date of March 2019.
- SR 222 and Shantz and 863 Improvements has a let date of May 2019; utility coordination process is ongoing, Right of Way acquisition is underway and is currently in final design.
- SR 0222 Section 04S Cable Median Barrier coming up soon with a let date of September 2018.
- SR 309 Sec 14M Betterment has a let date of December 2020 (early in preliminary engineering)
- SR 309 & Tilghman Interchange coming close to preliminary engineering with TS&L approved conditionally and designer working on design field view submission.
- SR 1004 Lehigh – Race Street Intersection scheduled for June 2020: level 2 CE has been approved and are currently working on structure design foundation.

- SR 2020-045S Easton Ave Corridor Improvements scheduled for a let date of December 2018; Right of Way plans need to be re-authorized due to signature authority expiring.

TIP Amendments

None to report

Local Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Hite provided a brief recap of the upcoming LTAP presentations listed below:

- Traffic Calming – August 8, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. @ LVPC
- Road Safety Audit – September 11, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. @ LVPC
- Project Overview – September 13, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. @ LVPC
- Salt and Snow Management – Will now be held on November 13 @ City of Allentown

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Ms. Bradley announced that LVPC will be presenting at the following event:

- Lehigh Valley Sustainability Network Green Drinks – July 11 @ Allentown Brew Works, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Correspondence

None

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Singerland provided a status report on the first Pedestrian Safety Program with City of Bethlehem where pedestrians will cross the street, if the driver does not yield to the pedestrian they will be pulled over by the police and giving a reminder of the pedestrian laws. There will be six (6) other pedestrian enforcement areas throughout Bethlehem.

Mr. Walston provided a brief of correspondence that was received today on the International Peer Freight Exchange on September 11 – 12 in Baltimore, Maryland. The event is limited to states and MPO's.

Mr. Walston also provided a status of a multimodal connectivity pilot program that was sent out of July 5 notifying the state MPO's on the availability of a funding opportunity to support research on measuring multimodal network connectivity.

Adjourn

Mr. Green asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting is adjourned.

Submitted by,
Denise Leonard, Executive Administrative Assistant