



# 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 June 3, 2020**

**Joint Meeting of the LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committees  
DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA WEB  
AND/OR CALL**

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Ms. Vazquez 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. Vazquez also mentioned that this meeting was advertised in the Morning Call on May 7, 2020, as well as the LVPC website and social media outlets. She explained the procedure for public participants to ask questions or make comments. Ms. Bradley reviewed the meeting agenda.

Mr. Kufro called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Bradley to read the roll call.

**Attendees:**

LVTS Technical Committee:

City of Allentown	Leonard Lightner (alt)
City of Bethlehem	Darlene Heller (Alt)
City of Easton	Dave Hopkins (Alt)
LANta	Brendan Cotter
LNAA	Ryan Meyer
LVPC	Becky Bradley
PennDOT Central Office	James Mosca
PennDOT District 5	Chris Kufro

LVTS Coordinating Committee:

City of Allentown	Craig Messinger (Alt)
City of Easton	Dave Hopkins (Alt)
LANta	Owen O'Neill
Lehigh County	Phillips Armstrong / Rick Molchany (Alt)
LNAA	Tom Stoudt
LVPC	Becky Bradley
PennDOT Central Office	Brian Hare
PennDOT District 5	Michael Rebert

**Absentee:**

LVTS Coordinating Committee:

City of Bethlehem  
Northampton County

### LVPC Staff Participants:

Matt Assad  
Charles Doyle  
Carol Halper  
Brian Hite  
Simon Okumu  
Geoff Reese  
Dave Towsey  
Bethany Vazquez

### Public Participants:

Rick Ames, Carmen Bell, Jim Birdsall, Jennifer Crobak, Jay Finnegan, Marta Gabriel, Cathy Gorman, Max Inkrote, Cheryl Johnson-Watts, Fred Koeck, Amanda Leindecker, Anthony Moussa, Sherri Penchishen, Lee Rackus, Amanda Raudenbush, Debbie Roezar, Jen Ruth, Kim Schaffer and Chris Strohler

### **Courtesy of the Floor**

Mr. Kufro asked if there was any member of the public who wished to make a comment or asked a question regarding a subject not on the agenda. There were none. He reminded participants that they could ask questions in the Q&A box on their screens

### **Minutes**

Mr. Kufro stated that the minutes from the May 6, 2020 LVTS Technical Committee Meeting were in the packet and on the slides. For the Technical Committee, Ms. Bradley pointed out that the Technical Committee actions from the May 6, 2020 meeting were being shown on the screen. Mr. Kufro asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lightner made a motion and Mr. Cotter seconded it. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any questions or comments, hearing none, he asked Ms. Bradley for an abbreviated roll call vote. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Rebert stated that the minutes from the April 1, 2020 Coordinating Committee Meeting were in the packet and on the screen. Ms. Bradley mentioned that the actions from the April 1, 2020 meeting were on the screen. Mr. Rebert asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Molchany made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second from Mr. O'Neil. Mr. Rebert asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Bradley for an abbreviated roll call vote. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

*WORK PLAN ITEM: PennDOT District 5 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside and Multi-modal Transportation Fund Projects Status Report*

Mr. Kufro reviewed the list of projects from the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside fund and multi-modal transportation funded projects within the Lehigh Valley, the projects were included in the meeting packet and on the screen. There were no questions or comments.

*ACTION ITEM: PennDOT District 5 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)  
Administrative Actions and Amendments*

Ms. Ruth reviewed the TIP Administrative Actions in the handout and on the slides. There were no questions regarding the Administrative Actions. She then stated there were three TIP Amendments that needed to be voted on.

- 1- The first amendment is to add the LVTS Bridge Preservation and Repair #6 Preliminary Engineering phase to the current TIP. This is to continue PennDOT's priority bridges to get them into construction. Construction is carried on the draft 2021 TIP. The source is the Line Item.
- 2- The second amendment is to add SR 4020 over a tributary to Bertsch Creek Bridge in Northampton County to the TIP, adding Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way and Construction. Construction is being done by the Department. Right-of-Way and Construction need to be added to the draft 2021 TIP. Preliminary Engineering would start now with funds from the Line Item.
- 3- The third amendment is to increase Right-of-Way for the Route 309 and Tilghman Street Interchange Reconstruction in the amount of \$9,524,785.00. This increase will fully cover Right-of-Way. The sources are low bids from the Jordan Street Bridge, numerous deobligations returned to the region and the Line Item.

Mr. Kufro asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Mosca added that Amendment #3 was contingent on approval by the Department's Program Management Committee. Ms. Bradley stated that it appears funds are being moved from the Freeway Service Patrol, does that mean that the project will no longer be funded? Ms. Ruth answered that the Freeway Service Patrol used to be a 80 – 20 split, but it is now 100% federally funded, so they are giving us money back from the 80-20 split because we had to separate them on two different State Project Numbers, that are assigned to unique projects.

Mr. Kufro asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to accept the three TIP Amendments, including Mr. Mosca's comment. Mr. Hopkins made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cotter. Hearing no questions or comments from either the voting members or the public, Mr. Kufro called for the vote. Ms. Bradley read an abbreviated roll call and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rebert asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to accept the three TIP Amendments, including Mr. Mosca's comment. Mr. Molchany made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Messinger. Hearing no questions or comments from either the voting members or the public, Mr. Rebert called for the vote. Ms. Bradley read an abbreviated roll call and the motion passed unanimously.

*LANta Transportation Improvement Program Amendments*

Mr. Cotter reported that there were several Administration Actions in the handout, however there were two Transit TIP Modifications that had to be voted on.

1. The first modification LANta is proposing is to add \$3,774,560 in federal funds into federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020 in operating assistance.
2. The second modification is under preventive maintenance. It is a decrease of \$1,880,826 in Federal FY (FFY) 2019 and \$1,540,000 in Federal FY 2020.

Those reductions in preventive maintenance were shifted into LANta operating assistance in FFY 2020. The source for operation assistance came from preventive maintenance in FFY 2019 and 2020.

Mr. Kufro asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve LANta's proposed TIP amendments #1 and #2. Ms. Bradley made the motion and Ms. Heller made the second. Mr. Kufro asked for comments and questions from the members and the public. Hearing none he asked Ms. Bradley to read the abbreviated roll call. The motion carried.

Mr. Rebert asked for the same motion from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Molchany made the motion and Mr. Stoudt seconded it. Mr. Rebert asked if there were any comments and questions from the members and the public. Hearing none he asked Ms. Bradley to read the abbreviated roll call. The motion carried.

*LVTS Coordinating Committee Adoption of Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan*

Mr. Rebert stated that the Coordinating Committee will need to vote on the adoption of the Walk/Roll; Active Transportation Plan. He asked Ms. Bradley to make some comments. She stated that the LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committees and the Multimodal Working Group, now known as WorkshopLV: Multimodal, have been working for about a year and a half to develop the region's first pedestrian, bicycle, last feet to transit and accessibility strategy. They have also been coordinating with the LVPC's Environment and Transportation Committees. The final draft was received by the consultants and posted to the LVPC website.

Ms. Bradley invited Mr. Reese to walk through the plan review and anticipated adoption process. Mr. Reese reviewed the timeline of the plan which included the path to adoption. Mr. Reese introduced several members of the WorkshopLV: Multimodal to discuss key elements of the plan. They are Kim Schaffer, Community Bike Works, Jim Birdsall, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Cheryl Johnson-Watts, Allentown School Board and Sherri Penchishen, City of Bethlehem. Ms. Johnson-Watts talked about the purpose of WalkRollLV and the vision and goals. Ms. Penchishen stated the importance of creating a pedestrian-friendly environment throughout the Lehigh Valley. Mr. Birdsall shared the three basic types of recommendations regarding bicycling and Ms. Schaffer stated that the plan concludes with policy and program recommendations. Mr. Reese concluded that the WalkRollLV: Active Transportation Plan was adopted by the LVPC on April 30, 2020, and approved by the LVTS Technical Committee on May 6, 2020 and referred to the Coordinating Committee for adoption at this meeting.

Mr. Rebert asked for a motion to approve WalkRollLV: Active Transportation Plan. Mr. Hopkins made the motion; Mr. Molchany seconded it. Mr. Rebert asked if there were any questions or comments from the members. Mr. Molchany asked since the LVPC did the sidewalk audit, would there be an attempt to work with municipalities to close the sidewalk gap? Mr. Reese answered that the sidewalk inventory was completed in 2017. WalkRoll looked even deeper regarding the important gaps. This goal is contained in WalkRoll and FutureLV and we are looking forward to working with the municipalities. Mr. Hare asked if there will be reports to the committee regarding outcomes, successes and implementation of the plan. Ms. Bradley responded, "Definitely." WorkshopLV:

Multimodal will continue to be an active committee. They are already developing concepts for events in different parts of the Lehigh Valley, including some with several non-profits. Hearing no further questions from the committee, Mr. Rebert asked if there were questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Bradley for an abbreviated roll call vote. The motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Rackus wrote in the Q&A:

*I think the question should be work with the municipalities AND THE STATE to complete. There are many gaps in Whitehall that are on State Routes, and across the jughandles. I mean gaps in sidewalks, sorry needed to clarify. Also the issue of who is the permittee for the walks on state routes needs to be resolved. There is no reason for the local municipality to be a permittee for walks along private property on a state route.*

- *Ms. Bradley responded that the plan passed and we'll get your comments in the minutes but, are you OK with me doing the following: 1) adding this to the public comment record for the TIP because they go to a broader audience and bring more awareness to the issue? 2) Taking this to the County Commissioners Association of PA/County Planning Directors Association as a request to add to their advocacy agenda? Ms. Rackus wrote that she appreciated the consideration.*

*WORK PLAN ITEM: Draft 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Public Meeting*

Please see the attached minutes from the TIP Pubic Meeting

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Communication + Correspondence**

Mr. Rebert called upon Mr. Assad to comment on the attached articles.

*RELEVANT NEWS: LV Business Cycle Column*

Mr. Assad pointed out Ms. Bradley's column in the Morning Call from Sunday May 31, 2020.

*RELEVANT NEWS: The Atlantic: "America's Next Crisis Is Already Here"*

Mr. Assad stated that this article details the financial toll the pandemic is taking on cities and towns.

*RELEVANT NEWS: Huff Post "Biking Boom" Article*

This article suggested by LVPC Chair, Greg Zebrowski, is about how an existing bicycle boom is being accelerated by the pandemic.

### **Public Engagement and Participation**

Ms. Vazquez reviewed the list of Public Engagement and Participation in the handout and on the slide.

### **Courtesy of the Floor**

Mr. Rebert offered an opportunity for members of the committees and the public to make additional comments. There were none.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Rebert asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Molchany made the motion and everyone voted yes. Mr. Rebert adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,  
Becky Bradley, AICP, LVTS Secretary and  
Carol Halper, Senior Advisor