



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 January 8, 2020

JOINT MEETING OF THE LVTS TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEES
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Office

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rebert. Mr. Rebert invited the attendees to introduce themselves.

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	Jim 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	Richard Molchany (Alt)
LNAA	Tom Stoudt
LVPC	Becky Bradley
Northampton County	Michael Emili (Alt)
PennDOT Central	Brian Hare
PennDOT District 5	Michael Rebert

Absentees:

LVTS Coordinating Committee

City of Bethlehem

LVPC Staff Present:

Matt Assad
Michael Donchez
Charles Doyle
Carol Halper
Brian Hite
Simon Okumu
Tracy Oscavich
Geoff Reese

Samantha Smith

Public Present:

Eric Berg, Mark Boris, Sarah Cassi, Kurt Derr, Matt Dorner, Ralph Eberhardt, Brian Hare, Max Inkrote, George Kinney, Amanda Leindecker, Jay McGee, Brian Miller, Ken Navitsky, Sherri Penchishen, Gene Porochniak, Lee Rackus, Jen Ruth, Kim Schaffer, Tom Shortell, Scott Slingerland, Steve Strella, Matt Szuchyt, Steve Turoscy, Tiffany Wells, Chris Zweifel

Courtesy of the Floor

There was none.

Minutes

Mr. Rebert stated the minutes from the December 4, 2019 Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting were in the packet. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any Comments; hearing none, he asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes. Mr. Cotter made the motion, Mr. Lightner seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Rebert asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, he requested a motion from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Messinger made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Stoudt seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Old Business

LVTS Committee Vote of 2020-2021 LVTS Technical and Coordinating Officers

Ms. Bradley reported that last month, the following nominations were made:

Technical Committee:	Coordinating Committee
Mr. Kufro- Chair	Mr. Rebert- Chair
Mr. Cotter- Vice Chair	Mr. Hare- Vice Chair
Ms. Bradley- Secretary	Ms. Bradley- Secretary.

She stated that the by-laws allow for nominations from the floor. Mr. Kufro asked for nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of the Technical Committee. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers for the Technical Committee for the next two years. Mr. Hopkins made the motion. Ms. Heller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Rebert repeated the slate for the Coordinating Committee and requested any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he asked for the motion to approve the slate of officers for the Coordinating Committee for the next two years. Mr. Molchany made the motion. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Status of Transportation Improvement Program Highway Projects

Mr. Kufro reviewed the handout contained in the packet. They are all current projects and not based on the draft TIP.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendments for Action and Administrative Reporting – PennDOT District 5

Mr. Rebert stated there were no 2019-2022 TIP Program amendments to report. He referred the committee members to the document in the packet.

Draft 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program – Motion to forward to PennDOT Central Office for preliminary review

Mr. Rebert reported that since the last meeting, there was another meeting and some of the projects were moved. He reiterated to the Committees that no interstate funds were being utilized on this TIP. After some discussion, including several projects in Easton, Mr. Rebert asked for motions from both Committees to release the draft TIP to Central Office for review. Mr. Kufro asked for a motion from the Technical Committee. Mr. Hopkins made the motion, Mr. Lightner seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Rebert asked for the same motion from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Molchany made the motion and Mr. Stoudt seconded it. After several comments and questions, the motion passed with one nay vote from Mr. Emili on behalf of Northampton County.

Multimodal Working Group

Walk/Roll/LV Public Review and Comment Period

Mr. Rebert stated that this is the public comment period for the Active Transportation Plan. Mr. Reese reported that the draft plan was presented to LVTS in December, it was posted on the LVPC website the next day, and the public comment period started that day. The comment period runs December 5th – January 18th. 25 commenters have responded so far, accounting for approximately 50 remarks. When the comment period ends, LVPC will bring them to the consultants who will make adjustments to the plan, then to LVTS for review. Mr. Rebert asked for comments or questions from the floor. There was one question from the public regarding the time the public comment period ends on January 18th. Mr. Reese also mentioned that the next meeting of the Multimodal Working Group Meeting is January 22nd at the LVPC office at 3:00 pm, where all the comments will be reviewed.

New Business

PennDOT I-81/I-78 Alternative Fuel Corridor Deployment Plan Proposal

Mr. Doyle reported that on January 6th he attended the kick-off meeting at Central Office for the Alternative Fuel Corridor. The corridor that impacts our region is I-78, which runs from the Lebanon County line to the New Jersey State line. The goal is to identify locations in developing a national network for alternative fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas and electric charging stations as well as signage for these locations.

Alternative Funding Study and Implementation – Request for Proposals

Mr. Hare reported that due to current funding issues, PennDOT Central Office issued an RFP for a consultant team with national experience to study the reduction of our reliance on the gas tax. It will include market research and communications and outreach. The environmental implications will also be examined, as well as design and actual operations. Specific urban areas are identified in the announcement, which include Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and the Allentown – Bethlehem area, which will be targeted. PennDOT is currently in the advertisement phase; proposals are due by January 16th and a selection will hopefully be made by late winter / early spring. They are anticipating a two year timeframe to conduct the study.

2020 Safety Performance Target Setting – Introduction to establishing new targets by FHWA requirement

Mr. Donchez reported that in the past several years, focus has been placed on using performance metrics in developing TIPs and LRTPs. MPOs are required to look at safety performance measures and worked with PennDOT to develop targets. There are three different performance measures; today, we are only dealing with Performance Management (PM) 1, Safety Performance Measures. PM 2 deals with highway and bridge conditions and PM 3 with mobility. Ms. Bradley made a motion on behalf of the Technical Committee to accept these safety targets. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion was voted on and passed. Mr. Rebert called for the vote for the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Hopkins made the motion and Mr. O'Neill seconded it. The motion passed.

Federal Certification Review

Ms. Bradley stated that the Certification Review, which is held every four years, is an assessment of the MPO, PennDOT, Central and District offices, LVPC and LANta. It was conducted on February 16th and 17th, including a public meeting at the end of the second day. FHWA and FTA did a debriefing at the conclusion, and LVPC had no immediate corrective actions to address. They had some very positive comments. Mr. Rebert reported that it is quite an accomplishment to get through the review with no red marks. FHWA and FTA will issue the report in late winter or early spring.

Annual Listing of Obligated Projects/Transportation Improvement Program Accomplishments Status

Mr. Donchez stated that the List of Obligated Projects, projects the federal government has committed to pay for, are now available for the public on the LVPC website. It occurs when the FHWA approves the highway and bridge project list. He referred to the list contained in the packet and available as a report online.

Mr. Hite reviewed the list of TIP Accomplishments. There are \$137 million worth of completed projects and \$159 million for projects under construction. There is currently more than \$534 million of funds invested in the Lehigh Valley for highway and bridge construction.

LVTS Joint AQ Conformity Determination Approval

Ms. Bradley reported that a letter from FHWA was received stating that we met the requirements for air quality regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) project travel demand modeling. Mr. Rebert stated that the LRTP described the air quality check and how we incorporate consideration to the effects of air quality to project planning and programming.

Communication + Correspondence

Ride-Sharing of the Future

Mr. Rebert referred to the handout contained in the packet. Ms. Bradley stated that Mr. Zebrowski, the LVPC Chair asked that this article be shared with the LVTS. It brings up some important questions for discussion.

Public Engagement and Participation

Freight Parking Roundtable

Ms. Bradley reported that a workshop to focus on the issue of Freight Parking was in the planning stages. Several members of the Freight Advisory suggested the concept of a workshop. Mr. Doyle sat in on a call with FHWA to discuss the particulars. A tentative date of April 1, 2020 was presented, but has been adjusted in the interim for a later date to be determined.

Local Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Hite reported there will be an LTAP class at the LVPC Office regarding Highway Safety on January 29, from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Mr. Rebert mentioned that the next meeting is a joint meeting on February 5th. Since today's joint meeting was added, we can evaluate next month depending what is on the agenda.

Courtesy of Floor

Ms. Penchishen, the Northampton County Highway Safety Program Manager reported at their state meeting how they partner with the LVPC and how they use the traffic safety plan and WalkRoll Multimodal Plan as the plan to drive their program. PennDOT looks at them as a model to hopefully be replicated across the Commonwealth.

Mr. Molchany suggested that LANta do a presentation on the BRT Plan.

Adjourn

Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn, which passed. Mr. Rebert adjourned the meeting.

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