



# 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 March 4, 2020  
Meeting of the LVTS Technical Committee  
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Office**

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

**Attendees**

City of Allentown	Leonard Lightner (Alt.)
City of Easton	Dave Hopkins (Atl.)
LANta	Brendan Cotter
LNA A	Ryan Meyer
LVPC	Becky Bradley
PennDOT District 5	Chris Kufro

**Absentee**

PennDOT Central	Jim Mosca
City of Bethlehem	Darlene Heller (Alt.)

LVPC Staff Present:

Matt Assad  
Michael Donchez  
Charles Doyle  
Brian Hite  
Craig Kackenmeister  
Simon Okumu  
Tracy Oscavich  
David Towsey  
Bethany Vazquez

Public Present:

John Caperilla, Sarah Cassi, Mick Dee, Kurt Derr, George Kinney, Brian Miller, Sherri Penchishen, Gene Porochniak, Jen Ruth, Tom Shortell, Scott Slingerland, Matt Szuchyt, and Steve Turoscy

**Courtesy of the Floor**

Ms. Bradley announced that the BuildLV: Annual Development Report + Special Housing Trends has been distributed and gave a brief description of the document. Ms. Bradley encouraged attendees to go on lvpc.org and explore the online interactive component of BuildLV.

## **Minutes**

Mr. Kufro stated that the minutes from the February 5, 2020 Joint LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting are in the packet. Mr. Kufro asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, Mr. Hopkins made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cotter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

## **Old Business**

### *PennDOT District Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside + Multimodal Transportation Fund Report*

Mr. Kufro reviewed the handout in the packet. There were no comments or questions.

### *PennDOT District 5 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications*

Ms. Ruth referred to the handout in the packet. She reviewed one amendment to the TIP, concerning the Filetown Road Bridge that needed to be voted on by the committee. The proposed \$80,000 amendment for the project is to be used for preliminary engineering and come from the South Walnut Street Bridge Project with fiscal constraint maintained through the LVTS Highway and Bridge Line Item Reserve. The South Walnut Street Bridge project funding is being moved from a Federal Fiscal Year 2020 construction let date to Federal Fiscal Year 2021 as the result of an extended environmental review. Mr. Kufro asked for questions or comments.

Ms. Bradley stated that details of the proposed amendments are posted to the LVPC website in accordance with the Public Participation Plan here: <https://www.lvpc.org/transportation-committees.html>. Mr. Kufro stated that the preliminary engineering (PE) is time sensitive and an electronic ballot for the PE amendment will be taken for the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Kufro continued by stating that an amendment for the construction piece of the project will be brought forth at an upcoming meeting, but for time purposes the PE portion of the amendment needed to be voted on promptly. Mr. Kufro requested an email ballot for the PE phase be sent to the Coordinating Committee prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Hopkins asked for the reasoning behind the push to vote on the PE separately. Mr. Kufro stated that due to the end of the federal fiscal year, the project needed to get started before the time runs out and funds are lost.

Mr. Kufro asked for any additional questions or comments. Since there were none, Mr. Hopkins made a motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion, which passed.

### *Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan Status Report*

Mr. Doyle gave a quick update on the draft Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan. Staff has reviewed over 160 comments and are now working with the consultant on a final draft. The final draft is expected to be brought before the LVTS Committees in April for review.

## **New Business**

### *Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Capital Funding Initiative Selection*

Mr. Porochniak stated that PennDOT Central Office recently released the Transportation Systems Management and Operations Capital Funding Initiative Project Selection Process. TSMO projects are focused on intelligent transportation system (ITS) upgrades and projects that address key mobility and safety issues, with the goal of improving traffic operations. This was a statewide initiative that solicited an open call for projects from November 2019 to December

2019. Mr. Porochniak announced that two projects from the Lehigh Valley have been awarded, one for the Lehigh Valley Freeway Service Patrol, and the other for the Route 22 Lehigh Urban ITS project. The funding for the projects will begin at the beginning of the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year which begins in October 2020. Ms. Bradley asked if further action is needed by LVTS. Mr. Kufro and Ms. Ruth stated that the projects were already included and no further action was needed.

#### *FutureLV: The Regional Plan Website and Online Maps*

Ms. Bradley announced that *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* is fully accessible online. Mr. Kackenmeister and Mr. Towsey took the Committee through the *FutureLV* website, as well as demonstrated the use of the interactive maps. The *FutureLV* plan can be found at [lvpc.org](http://lvpc.org). Mr. Towsey asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Hopkins asked with all the data involved in the website, how the team keeps the information up to date. Ms. Bradley stated that as new information is received the team updates the website, this could be anywhere from daily to monthly to annually depending on the type of data set. Mr. Kufro thanked Ms. Bradley and her staff for the hard work on *FutureLV* and applauded the staff for the accomplishment of making such a complex plan accessible and understandable online for the public. Mr. Lightner echoed Mr. Kufro's comments and thanked the staff for all their work on the Plan.

#### *Eastern Regional Traffic Management Center, Regional Operations Plan Stakeholder Meeting*

Mr. Doyle reported that the regional operations planning process has been underway for five months, this was the second of three meetings scheduled to take place. Mr. Donchez stated that this Regional Operations Plan is an update to the 2007 plan. The Regional Operations Plan looks at the operation of the transportation network and addresses operational issues as they relate to traffic flow, congestion, safety, etc., by implementing operational improvements rather than capacity-type improvements. The intent of this second stakeholders meeting was to identify various areas in the region where operational improvements could be implemented. Mr. Porochniak asked if the goal of the plan was to be more project focused or objective focused. Mr. Doyle stated that there does not appear to be intent to specific solutions to be addressed in the plan but rather provide options that stakeholders can take in the future.

#### *BUILD Grant – Riverside Drive*

Ms. Oscavich announced that the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Grant has been released for 2020 and will close on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The LVPC will be re-applying for the Riverside Drive Project. For 2020, \$1 Billion is available to be granted, \$500 Million of which is designated for urban areas, and \$100 Million to be awarded per state. The grants will be awarded on September 15, 2020. Ms. Oscavich stated that though the project was not awarded the grant last year, the application was one of two hundred and seven, out of thousands, that made it to Secretary Chao's desk for review and were encouraged by USDOT to reapply.

### **Communication + Correspondence**

None.

### **Public Engagement and Participation**

Mr. Kufro briefly reviewed the upcoming public engagement and participation opportunities. Mr. Hite reviewed the upcoming Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) meetings. Mr. Kufro mentioned two flyers in the packet detailing events regarding the Bridge Preservation Partnership, October 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> and Autonomous Vehicle Summit, October 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Kufro asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Ms. Bradley. Mr. Kufro adjourned and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Submitted by,  
Becky Bradley, AICP, LVTS Secretary and  
Bethany Vazquez, Program Associate