



**CHRISTOPHER J. KUFRO, P.E.**  
Chair, Coordinating Committee

**BRENDAN COTTER**  
Chair, Technical Committee

**BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP**  
Secretary,  
Coordinating Committee +  
Technical Committee

**Lehigh Valley Transportation Study  
Minutes from the Wednesday, December 15, 2021  
Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting  
DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA  
WEB AND/OR CALL**

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Ms. Ferguson 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. The meeting was advertised in the Lehigh Valley Press on Thursday July 8, 2021

Mr. Kufro chaired the meeting.

Mr. Kufro welcomed the members and the public participants and called the meeting to order.

Ms. Ferguson took Roll Call.

**Attendees:**

LVTS Coordinating Committee

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| City of Bethlehem      | Michael Alkhal (Alt)  |
| LVPC                   | Becky Bradley         |
| Northampton County     | Michael Emili (Alt)   |
| PennDOT Central Office | Brian Hare            |
| PennDOT District 5     | Chris Kufro           |
| City of Allentown      | Craig Messinger (Alt) |
| Lehigh County          | Rick Molchany (Alt)   |
| LANTA                  | Owen O'Neil           |
| LNAA                   | Thomas Stoudt         |

LVTS Technical Committee:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| LVPC                   | Becky Bradley          |
| LANTA                  | Brendan Cotter         |
| City of Bethlehem      | Darlene Heller (Alt)   |
| City of Allentown      | Leonard Lightner (Alt) |
| PennDOT Central Office | James Mosca            |
| LNAA                   | Ryan Meyer             |

**Members Absent:**

Salvatore Panto/David Hopkins.

**Staff Present:** Matt Assad, Becky Bradley, Paul Carafides, Heather Ferguson and Brian Hite.

**Public Present:** David Alas, Sheila Alvarado, Sara Ayman, Sarah Cassi, Jerry Fry, Amanda Leindecker, Don Lerch, Jim Maloney, Brian Miller, Jay Phogat, Alfred Picca, Lee Rackus, Jeff Rai, Michael Rebert, Dave Rostron, Jennifer Ruth, Claire Sadler, Scott Slingerland, Matthew Szuchyt and Scott Vottero.

### **Courtesy of the Floor**

Mr. Kufro opened the floor to the public who wish to speak on items not on the agenda. Hearing none, he moved on to the minutes.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Kufro asked for approval of the minutes with Chair of the Technical Committee, Mr. Cotter. Mr. Cotter stated that we held our last technical committee meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Ms. Ferguson noted the actions voted on.

- Minutes from the October 20, 2021 Joint Meeting
- Adjournment

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Technical Committee Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Ms. Heller made the motion for approval, seconded by Mr. Lightner. Mr. Cotter asked for any questions or comments from the members and the public. Hearing none, Mr. Cotter asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion carried.

Mr. Kufro moved on to the approval of the October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting minutes.

- Minutes from August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting
- PennDOT 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan and Freight Movement Plan Comments
- Adjournment

Mr. Kufro asked for a motion to accept the Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting minutes. Mr. Messinger made the motion, seconded by Mr. Molchany. Mr. Kufro asked for any comments or question from the members or the public. Hearing none, Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion carried.

### **Old Business**

#### ***PRESENTATION ITEM: PennDOT District 5-0 Bridge Projects Status Report***

Mr. Kufro acknowledged the PennDOT District 5-0 Bridge Status Report in the packet and asked for any questions or comments regarding the report. Mr. Slingerland commented on the SR 378 Hill to Hill Bridge Rehabilitation project and mentioned that the existing six-foot-wide sidewalks were inadequate for pedestrian travel. He suggested that the sidewalks be expanded to ten-foot-wide sidewalks to allow for pedestrians and bicyclists. Mr. Kufro thanked Mr. Slingerland for his comment.

#### ***INFORMATION ITEM: PennDOT District 5-0 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications***

Ms. Ruth reviewed the PennDOT TIP Program Administrative Actions. Ms. Ruth and Mr. Kufro asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

***INFORMATION ITEM: Monthly Traffic Report***

Mr. Hite provided the details of the November traffic count update that showed a peak in traffic before the Thanksgiving holiday and a drop in traffic during the holiday. Route 33 came in at 86,777 vehicles and then dropped to 79,979 at the end of the month. Interstate 78 East of 309 in Lehigh County came in at 78,386 vehicles and dropped to 68,752 vehicles. Interstate 78 East of 33 in Northampton County started with 78,979 vehicles and finished with 66,632 vehicles. Route 309 north of Coopersburg in Lehigh County came in at 39,771 vehicles and fell to 36,196 vehicles. Truck traffic on Interstate 78 east of Route 33 in Northampton County had 26,579 trucks on November 23 and then rebounded to 27,352 trucks to close out the month. I-78 east of Route 309 in Lehigh County started with 21,698 trucks and finished at 22,225 trucks. Mr. Kufro asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

**New Business**

***ACTION ITEM: 2022-2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program Adoption***

Ms. Bradley reviewed the 2022-2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that describes the transportation planning and programming activities for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024 in Lehigh and Northampton counties. She explained that the UPWP was presented at the November Technical Committee meeting and reviewed by PennDOT and the FHWA, which resulted in minor text edits. Mr. Kufro asked for any questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Cotter called for a motion from the Technical Committee. Mr. Mosca made a motion to approve. Ms. Heller seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion carried with the Technical Committee. Mr. Kufro then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Molchany made a motion. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion. Mr. Kufro asked if any members had any questions or comments, hearing none he asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion was approved.

***INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEM: 2023-2026 Draft Transportation Improvement Program***

Mr. Carafides presented an overview of the 2023 – 2026 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), in which he explained the highway and bridge base funding of \$340,136,000 and the several funding buckets that make the total. He noted the continuation of funding for projects on the current TIP and reviewed existing new projects that were proposed by the LVTS during draft TIP discussion meetings. Mr. Carafides also highlighted an equity analysis of the 118 projects on the Draft TIP, which was based on project location. The results showed that 62% of projects fell in the High to Very High access to opportunity locations and 20% of the projects fell in the Moderate to Very Low access to opportunity locations. He noted that additional environmental justice and air quality analysis would be done as part of the six month long Draft TIP review and approval period. Mr. Carafides then provided additional details on the TIP Update Timeline. Mr. Kufro made note of the productive working meetings on the draft TIP. Ms. Ruth went over the highlights of the Draft TIP and the new projects that were added to the 2023-2026 Draft TIP. Mr. Kufro asked for any questions or comments. Mr. Mosca emphasized that the approval from the committee at the time was for the approval to release the Draft TIP for review by the PennDOT Central Office. Mr. Cotter called for a motion from the Technical Committee. Mr. Lightner made a motion to approve. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion carried with the Technical Committee. Mr. Kufro then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Molchany made a motion. Mr.

Messinger seconded the motion. Mr. Kufro asked if any members had any questions or comments, hearing none he asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion was approved.

***INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEM: Eastern PA Freight Alliance Partner Agreement, Multi-Regional Infrastructure Plan Agency Agreement***

Ms. Bradley highlighted the Eastern PA Freight Infrastructure Plan and the partners in the Agency Agreement. The agreement outlines the partnership between the metropolitan planning organizations and how they will work together. Ms. Bradley asked for any questions or comments. Mr. Cotter called for a motion from the Technical Committee to adopt the Eastern PA Freight Infrastructure Plan Agency Agreement. Mr. Lightner made a motion to approve. Ms. Heller seconded the motion. Mr. Molchany asked about the funding match between the partners and Ms. Bradley answered that the funding was based on population. Mr. Molchany asked about further truck traffic data and Ms. Bradley explained other data options. Mr. Hare thanked Ms. Bradley for her efforts in the Alliance and Agreement. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion carried with the Technical Committee. Mr. Kufro then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Hare made a motion. Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. Mr. Kufro asked if any members had any questions or comments, hearing none he asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion was approved.

***INFORMATION ITEM: Preparation for 2022-2023 Technical and Coordinating Committee Officer Nominations***

Ms. Bradley outlined the bylaws of LVTS, related to officer nominations, for the Technical and Coordinating Committees. Mr. Kufro asked for comments related to nominations. Mr. Molchany and Mr. Lightner preferred nominations from the floor and Mr. Lightner asked what the procedure was in the past. Ms. Bradley answered that nominations have been made from the floor in the past. Mr. Lightner reinforced that if nominations are from the floor, then there should be time for the LVTS to consider them. Mr. Cotter commented that nominations could be named from the floor in the December meeting and voted on at the first 2022 meeting. Mr. Molchany reinforced that the nominees should want to hold the position. Mr. O'Neil asked about the term lengths of the current officers and Ms. Bradley responded with information read from the bylaws. Mr. Kufro asked for nominations from the floor. Mr. Molchany asked if nominations could occur at the next meeting. Mr. Lightner commented that nominations could be submitted to the secretary and then listed on the agenda at the next meeting. Mr. Molchany reinforced Mr. Lightner's suggestion. The Committee determined that nominations would be submitted through a form to the Secretary by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and the nominees would be included in next month's agenda as an item.

***INFORMATION ITEM: Performance Measures (PM) 1 "Safety Measures" Target Setting***

Mr. Hare presented the updated Highway Safety Improvement Program Safety Performance Measures for the Lehigh Valley MPO. He provided an overview of the performance measures and the statewide and Lehigh Valley targets. Mr. Kufro noted that the Committee will vote on the methodology at the next meeting or by the required due date in February 2022. Mr. Kufro asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

***INFORMATION ITEM: Annual Listing of Obligated Projects***

Mr. Carafides presented the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects which is an overview of the transportation investments in the Lehigh Valley. Mr. Kufro asked for any questions or comments. Mr. Mosca thanked Mr. Carafides for the report.

**INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEM: Proposed 2022 Meeting Dates and Format**

Ms. Bradley presented the proposed 2022 meeting dates for the Technical Committee and Joint Technical & Coordinating Committee. She explained that the Coordinating Committee was to meet in both January and February and then start alternating with the Technical Committee every other month. Ms. Bradley also asked for any opinions regarding options for hybrid, virtual or in-person meetings in 2022. Mr. Cotter mentioned that at other meetings he has attended, a majority of individuals have shown up virtually even if there is an in-person option. Ms. Bradley mentioned that there is uncertainty with the capabilities of hybrid technology at the LVPC office. Mr. Kufro asked for a vote on the 2022 Meeting Calendar with the meetings staying virtual until the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, where there will be a reassessment on the potential for hybrid meetings for the last six months of 2022. Mr. Cotter called for a motion from the Technical Committee. Mr. Lightner made a motion to approve. Ms. Heller seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion carried with the Technical Committee. Mr. Kufro then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Stoudt made a motion. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion. Mr. Kufro asked if any members had any questions or comments, hearing none he asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**Public Engagement and Participation:**

**INFORMATION ITEM: Media**

*Business Cycle Column*

Mr. Assad summarized the most recent Morning Call Business Cycle column that ran in November. The November column explained the new federal infrastructure bill and how traditional transportation funds would be allocated in the region through the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study. He noted that in the next column, Ms. Bradley would continue advocating for changes to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code that would shift some power to the municipal governments. He stated that the next column was scheduled to publish January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Plan Lehigh Valley radio show on WDIY NPR 88.1FM*

Mr. Assad summarized the most recent Plan Lehigh Valley 30-minute radio show, hosted by Ms. Bradley, where she was joined by Larry Shifflet, PennDOT's Deputy Secretary of Planning. During the show, they discussed how the Infrastructure Bill and the RAISE grant are a giant step in the right direction for the Lehigh Valley's transportation network. Mr. Assad informed that the 30-minute show is currently streaming at WDIY.org. He stated that the next show was scheduled to air at 6:30 pm, January 3 and was an interesting panel discussion that was part of the 8th Annual Gala + Awards.

*8<sup>th</sup> Annual LVPC Gala and Awards*

Mr. Assad announced that if you missed the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala + Awards, that it can be viewed at [lvpc.org/lv-awards](http://lvpc.org/lv-awards). It was a one-hour video, including an appearance by Mr. Kufro and a panel of experts who specialize in looking into the future and the 2021 *FutureLV* Heroes Award.

**INFORMATION ITEM: Public Engagement - Local Technical Assistance Program Virtual Classes**

Mr. Hite announced that the Local Technical Assistance Program has a full schedule of classes

coming up. The virtual classes include: Stormwater Facility Inspections on January 6, Traffic Signal Basics on January 18, Pavement Markings on January 25 and another Stormwater class on February 3. Anyone can sign up at [lvpc.org/ltap](http://lvpc.org/ltap) or contact Brian Hite.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Kufro asked for any questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lightner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:  
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director  
Julie Benco, Regional Planner