



# Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

LAMONT G. MCCLURE, JR.  
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, January 19, 2022  
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, Mr. Stewart stated that the agenda and materials for this meeting were posted on the LVPC website. He 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 Wednesday January 5, 2022.

Mr. Hare chaired the meeting.

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

Mr. Stewart took Roll Call.

**Attendees:**

LVTS Coordinating Committee

City of Bethlehem	William Reynolds / Michael Alkhal (Alt)
City of Easton	David Hopkins (Alt)
LVPC	Becky Bradley
Northampton County	Lamont McClure / Michael Emili (Alt)
PennDOT Central Office	Brian Hare
PennDOT District 5	Mike Rebert
City of Allentown	Mathew Tuerk / Craig Messinger (Alt)
Lehigh County	Phillips Armstrong / Rick Molchany (Alt)
LANTA	Owen O'Neil
LNAA	Thomas Stoudt

LVTS Technical Committee:

LVPC	Becky Bradley
LANTA	Brendan Cotter
City of Bethlehem	William Reynolds / Darlene Heller (Alt)
City of Allentown	Mathew Tuerk / Irene Woodward (Alt)
City of Easton	David Hopkins (Alt)
PennDOT Central Office	James Mosca
PennDOT District 5	Jen Ruth
LNAA	Ryan Meyer

**Members Absent:** Christopher Kufro.

**Staff Present:** Matt Assad, Becky Bradley, Paul Carafides, Brad Stewart and Brian Hite.

**Public Present:** Steve Glickman, Liz Rosencrans, Scott Slingerland, Bettina McClure, Ralph Eberhardt, Heather Heeter, Jerry Fry, Max Inkrote, Garry Asteak, Christine Frey, Josh Ortiz, Brian Harman, David Alas, Richard Ames, Mike Dee, Crystal Heshmat, Jim Maloney, Jeff Rai, Sarah Cassi, Matthew Szuchyt, Tony Klapatch, Scott Vottero.

### **Courtesy of the Floor**

Mr. Hare 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. Hare asked for approval of the minutes with Chair of the Technical Committee, Mr. Cotter. Mr. Cotter stated that the Committee held the last Technical meeting on December 15th, 2021. The December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Coordinating Committee Meeting was held jointly with the Technical Committee. Mr. Stewart noted the actions voted on.

- Minutes from the November 17, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting
- 2022-2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program Adoption
- 2023-2026 Draft Transportation Improvement Program
- Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance Partner Agreement
- 2022 Meeting Dates
- Adjournment.

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Technical Committee Meeting on December 15th, 2021. Mr. Meyer made the motion for approval, seconded by Ms. Heller. 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. Hare moved on to the approval of the December 15th, 2021 Coordinating Committee Meeting minutes. The December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Coordinating Committee Meeting was held jointly with the Technical Committee.

- Minutes from the October 20th, 2021 Joint Meeting
- 2022-2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program Adoption
- 2023-2026 Draft Transportation Improvement Program
- Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance Partner Agreement
- 2022 Meeting Dates
- Adjournment

Mr. Hare asked for a motion to accept the Coordinating Committee Meeting minutes. Mr. Molchany made the motion, seconded by Mr. Messinger. Mr. Hare 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**

#### ***ACTION ITEM: PM-1 Safety Performance Measures Target Setting***

Mr. Carafides provided an overview of the Highway Safety Improvement Program PM-1 Safety Performance Measures and that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), in cooperation with the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, is required by the Federal Highway Administration to establish performance targets for eligibility of certain program funds. Before

presenting the 2022 Safety Performance Measures Targets, Mr. Carafides presented the outcome of 2016-2020 Performance Measures Targets and stated that the 2021 PennDOT crash data is not available and that is the reason for the latest data used is 2020. Mr. Carafides explained that the PM-1 Measures include the following metrics:

1. Number of fatalities
2. Rate of fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT)
3. Number of serious injuries
4. Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

The 2022 Performance Measures Targets were presented to the LVTS and it was stated that the targets are based on a data-driven trend analysis of the statewide fatality and suspected serious injury numbers with a 2% annual fatality reduction and maintain the level of suspected serious injuries. Mr. Hare asked for any questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Cotter called for a motion from the Technical Committee to adopt the new performance measures and forward the recommendation to the Coordinating Committee. Ms. Heller made a motion to approve. Ms. Bradley seconded the motion. The floor was opened for comments and questions. Then Mr. Cotter, asked for the vote on the motion. Ms. Bradley called votes and the motion carried with the Technical Committee.

Mr. Hare then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Molchany made a motion to adopt the revised performance measures for safety. Mr. Alkhal seconded the motion. Mr. Hare 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: Membership Changes and Appointments***

Mr. Hare announced several new members who recently joined the LVTS. They included the newly elected Mayor of Allentown Matthew Tuerk and the newly elected Mayor of Bethlehem William Reynolds . Mayor Tuerk has sent a formal communication that Craig Messinger will continue to serve as his alternate and that Planning Director, Irene Woodward, will replace Leonard Lightner, on the Technical Committee. Mr. Hare also welcomed Jen Ruth, from PennDOT District-5 to the Technical Committee. Jen Ruth, PennDOT District-5, is replacing Jim Mosca. It is of note that Jim is currently training David Alas, for eventual transition as Liaison to the LVTS from the PENNDOT Program Center. In addition, Chris Kufro has accepted a temporary assignment as the PENNDOT District 8 Executive in Harrisburg and Mike Rebert, PENNDOT District 5-0 Executive is the formal appointment by Secretary Gramian to the LVTS Coordinating Committee going forward. Mr. Hare also introduced the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission newly elected Chair, Steven Glickman. Mr. Hare thanked former Allentown Mayor O'Connell and Leonard Lightner, former Bethlehem Mayor Donchez, Jim Mosca and Chris Kufro for their service to the LVTS and for their consistent commitment to safety and efficient mobility here. Mr. Hare asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

#### ***ACTION ITEM: 2022-2023 LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committee's Officer Elections***

Ms. Bradley began by thanking the Technical and Coordinating Committee members for the officer election discussion at the December 15<sup>th</sup> joint meeting. Ms. Bradley stated that per the

many questions on the bylaws related to officer elections, Gary Asteak, Special Council, joined the meeting and would be helping the LVTS with any questions related to the elections or bylaws. Ms. Bradley stated that a call for nominations was made following the December 15, 2021 Joint LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting. The following LVTS members were nominated and accepted their nominations:

For the Technical Committee:

- Chair – Brendan Cotter, from LANTA
- Vice Chair – Ryan Meyer, form the Airport Authority
- Secretary – Becky Bradley from LVPC

For the Coordinating Committee:

- Chair – Mike Rebert from PENNDOT and Lamont McClure from Northampton County
- Vice Chair – Brian Hare from PENNDOT and Rick Molchany from Lehigh County
- Secretary – Becky Bradley from LVPC

The election process started with the Technical Committee and would then move to the Coordinating Committee. Ms. Bradley stated that the procedures for the elections would include a call for nominations from the floor for each committee, that before each Officer Election, the nominated member will be allotted one minute to describe why they are running and what they anticipate doing if elected to the position in which they are running and that each position for each Committee will be voted on separately.

Ms. Bradley began the elections with the Technical Committee. Each nominee was allotted one minute to describe why they are running and what they anticipate to do if elected. Comments began with Chair nominee Brendan Cotter and were followed by Vice Chair nominee Ryan Meyer and Secretary nominee Becky Bradley. At the conclusion of the comments Mr. Cotter asked if there were any questions for the nominees and hearing none, he asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to call for a vote for the Chair position. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to vote. Mr. Mosca seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the vote for Mr. Cotter as Chair of the Technical Committee was unanimous. Next, Mr. Cotter asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to call for a vote for the Vice Chair position. Ms. Bradley made a motion to vote. Mr. Messinger seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the vote for Mr. Meyer as Vice Chair of the Technical Committee was unanimous. Mr. Cotter then asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to call for a vote for the Secretary position. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to vote. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the vote for Ms. Bradley as Secretary of the Technical Committee was unanimous. At the conclusion of the officer elections for the Technical Committee Mr. Cotter passed the meeting over to Coordinating Committee Vice Chairman Hare for the Coordinating Committee officer elections.

Vice Chairman Hare stated that the procedures for the elections would include a call for nominations from the floor for each committee, that before each Officer Election, the nominated member will be allotted one minute to describe why they are running and what they anticipate doing if elected to the position in which they are running and that each position for each

Committee will be voted on separately. Ms. Bradley stated that Mike Rebert and Lamont McClure have been nominated for Coordinating Committee Chair, Brian Hare and Rick Molchany have been nominated for Vice Chair and Becky Bradley has been nominated to continue as Secretary. Ms. Bradley then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no new nominations from the floor, but Mr. Rebert asked that if Mr. McClure won the election as chair would he be filling the position, or would his alternate Mr. Emili be acting as Chair? Mr. Rebert also asked if this was allowed or if Mr. McClure was not at the meeting that the Vice Chair would then run the meeting? Mr. Asteak stated that after reviewing the bylaws that the individual elected to a position must be present at the meeting and their alternate cannot stand in for them. If the Chair is not available for a meeting, then the Vice Chair would Chair the meeting. Mr. McClure then stated that, if elected, he would attend and be available for all meetings. Mr. Molchany then asked if it is in the best interest of the LVTS to have a unanimous vote for the Chair of the Committee by having one of the nominees withdraw from the election and put their support behind the other nominee. Mr. Rebert stated that he was amenable to stepping down from the nomination and having Mr. McClure as the single nominee for Chair. Mr. Molchany than asked for Mr. Rebert to accept the nomination for Vice Chair. Mr. Rebert accepted the nomination for Vice Chair and Mr. Molchany and Mr. Hare stepped down from their nomination for Vice Chair. Comments then began with Chair nominee Lamont McClure and were followed by Vice Chair nominee Mike Rebert and Secretary nominee Becky Bradley. At the conclusion of the comments Mr. Hare asked if there were any questions for the nominees and hearing none, he asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to call for a vote for the Chair position. Mr. Emili made a motion to elect Mr. McClure as Coordinating Committee Chair. Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the vote for Mr. McClure as Chair of the Coordinating Committee was unanimous. Next, Mr. Hare asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to call for a vote for Mr. Rebert as Vice Chair. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to vote. Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the vote for Mr. Rebert as Vice Chair of the Coordinating Committee was unanimous. Mr. Hare then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to call for a vote for the Secretary position. Mr. Rebert made a motion to vote. Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. Ms. Bradley called for a vote and the vote for Ms. Bradley as Secretary of the Coordinating Committee was unanimous.

The 2022-2023 Technical and Coordinating Committee concluded with the following new officers:

For the Technical Committee:

- Chair – Brendan Cotter, from LANTA
- Vice Chair – Ryan Meyer, from the Airport Authority
- Secretary – Becky Bradley from LVPC

For the Coordinating Committee:

- Chair – Lamont McClure from Northampton County
- Vice Chair – Mike Rebert from PENNDOT
- Secretary – Becky Bradley from LVPC

***PRESENTATION ITEM: PennDOT District 5-0 Highway Status Report***

Mr. Vottero highlighted the following items; US 22 Widening, SR 29 04S/Cedar Crest Blvd. Upgrade, SR 145 - Section MLT 7<sup>th</sup> Street Multimodal Corridor Project, SR 145 - Section 14S Route 145 Signal Improvements, SR 145 – Section 13S Route 145 Safety Improvements, SR 309 – Section 14M Betterment, SR 309 & Tilghman Interchange, SR 1004 Lehigh – Race St. Intersection, SR 1017 – Section 02S Mauch Chunk Signal Improvements, Easton Two Way St Conversions, SR 22 – Section 03M From Farmersville Rd to 512, SR 248 – Section 05S Route 248 Realignment, SR 248 – Section 06S Route 248 Signal Improvements. Mr. McClure asked if there were any questions and there was a question in the chat box from Ms. Rackus. Ms. Rackus asked for the limits of the SR 1017 – Section 02S Mauch Chunk Signal Improvements project. Mr. Rebert stated that the intersections included in the project are Mauch Chunk Road/Presidential Drive, Mauch Chunk Rd/Girard Ave and Mauch Chunk Road/Scherersville Road. There were no further questions.

***INFORMATION ITEM: PennDOT TIP Program Administrative Actions***

Ms. Ruth reviewed the PennDOT TIP Program Administrative Actions. Ms. Ruth and Mr. McClure asked for any questions or comments. There were no questions, but Mr. Rebert stated that there are additional funds for the 2022 fiscal year from the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and that PennDOT is internally working on finding what projects that money can be put to. This will lead to several TIP Amendments at the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Molchany then asked if this would free money up in the 2023-2026 TIP and Mr. Rebert said that it would and it is currently a work in progress. Ms. Bradley suggested that PennDOT provide a presentation on the overview of the IIJA Bill and the impacts it has on the LVTS TIP. Mr. Rebert agreed and PennDOT will provide an overview presentation at the February 16<sup>th</sup> LVTS meeting. There were no further questions.

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

Mr. Hite provided the details of the December traffic count update that showed a slight dip reflecting the time between Christmas and New Year's Day. Route 33 came in at 76,251 vehicles at the end of the month. Interstate 78 East of 309 in Lehigh County came in at 69,277 vehicles and Interstate 78 East of 33 in Northampton County end the month with 69,254 vehicles. Route 309 north of Coopersburg in Lehigh County came in at 33,956 vehicles. Truck traffic showed a similar if not more pronounced holiday dip, as Interstate 78 east of Route 33 in Northampton County had 22,621 at the end of the month and I-78 east of Route 309 in Lehigh County finished at 18,738 trucks. Mr. McClure asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

***New Business***

***INFORMATION ITEM: White House Meeting – Phillips Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive***

Executive Armstrong first congratulated all the new officers and expressed his enthusiasm for all the great coordination between all the LVTS partners. Executive Armstrong then stated that at the White House meeting he was able to meet with the Secretary of Transportation and the American Rescue Funds Administrator. He noted that both agency heads were interested in how the coordination is in regions and that all plans are regional. Executive Armstrong noted

that the LVTS is well prepared for the funding that is to come from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the regional requirements that will be associated with them because of FutureLV: The Regional Plan and because the LVTS/LVPC is a regional agency charged with regional coordination per state and federal statutes. Mr. McClure asked if there were any questions. There were none.

### **Public Engagement and Participation:**

#### **INFORMATION ITEM: Media**

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

Mr. Assad summarized the most recent Plan Lehigh Valley 30-minute radio show, which was a replay of the 30-minute expert panel done for the LVPC 8th annual Gala + Awards. The panel featured experts talking about the future of societal shifts and local government, and they talked a lot about how the future of transportation spending is evolving because of the Federal Infrastructure Law. 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, February 7 and will be about the draft Transportation Improvement Program, with PennDOT District Engineer Mike Rebert as the guest.

##### *Business Cycle Column*

Mr. Assad stated that there are three Morning Call articles in the packet with all three concerning the amount of addition money flowing into the region from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Mr. Assad summarized the most recent Morning Call Business Cycle column that ran in January. The January column called for long overdue changes to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, better known as the MPC. After listing the many ways the MPC is letting Lehigh Valley communities down, the column, with a headline “Stop the Insanity” talked about the growing movement by Lehigh Valley mayors, judges, planners, and community leaders to develop a unified platform and advocacy strategy designed to help legislators see the constructive changes that can be made to help communities better control development. He stated that the next column was scheduled to publish February 13<sup>th</sup>.

##### *Lehighvalleylive.com / The Express-Times*

Mr. Assad summarized that lehighvalleylive.com/The Express Times did a transportation story that featured LVPC and PennDOT traffic counts before and after the Pandemic. The story in the packet shows that pre-pandemic traffic volumes have largely returned, and that truck traffic never really left. It relied heavily on the expertise of LVPC’s Transportation Planner Brian Hite.

#### **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: Pavement Markings on January 25, Winter Maintenance 101 on January 28, Curves on Local Roads, Issues and Safety Tools on February 1, Stormwater Facility Maintenance Program on February 3, Temporary Work Zone Traffic Control on February 8, Work Zone Traffic Control Workshop on February 9 and Local Road Safety Plans on February 15. Anyone can sign up at lvpc.org/ltap or contact Brian Hite.

**Adjournment**

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

Submitted by:

Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director

Paul Carafides, Director of Transportation Planning and Data