



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, February 16, 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. Lamont McClure chaired the meeting.

Mr. McClure 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 | Michael Alkhal (Alt) |
| City of Easton | David Hopkins (Alt) |
| LVPC | Becky Bradley |
| Northampton County | Lamont McClure |
| PennDOT District 5 | Mike Rebert |
| PennDOT Central Office | Brian Hare |
| 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 Allentown | Irene Woodward (Alt) |
| City of Easton | David Hopkins (Alt) |
| PennDOT Central Office | James Mosca |
| PennDOT District 5 | Jen Ruth |
| LNAA | Ryan Meyer |

Members Absent: William Reynolds/Darlene Heller.

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

Public Present: Steve Glickman, Brian Miller, Jennifer Crobak, Erich Zimmerman, Elliot Fink, Kevin Kalman, Andrew Kleiner, Amanda Leindecker, Kerry Cox, Michael Grantner, Marta Gabriel, Mark Spadea, Max Inkrote, Christine Frey, Josh Ortiz, David Alas, Richard Ames, Michael Dee, Sarah Cassi, Matthew Szuchyt, Scott Vottero, William Laird, Jennifer Walsh, Lee Rackus, Heather Kubic Skapyak, Ken O'Brien.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. McClure opened the floor to the public who wish to speak on items not on the agenda. Mr. Kalman inquired about the status of the Traffic Incident Management Committee. Mr. Carafides mentioned LVTS is working towards the formation of the Committee in the future. Mr. McClure asked if anyone else have an item. Hearing none, he moved on to the minutes.

Minutes

Mr. McClure asked for approval of the minutes with Chair of the Technical Committee, Mr. Cotter. Mr. Cotter stated that the Committee held the last Technical Committee meeting on January 19th, 2022. The January 19th, 2022, Coordinating Committee Meeting was held jointly with the Technical Committee. Mr. Stewart noted the actions voted on.

- Minutes from the December 15, 2021, Joint Technical & Technical Committee Meeting
- PM-1 Safety Performance Measures Target Setting
- 2023-2026 Technical Committee Officer Elections
- 2022-2024 Draft Unified Planning Work Program Adoption
- Adjournment.

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Technical Committee Meeting on January 19th, 2022. Mr. Mosca made the motion for approval of the Technical Committee Meeting minutes, 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. McClure moved on to the approval of the January 19th, 2022, Coordinating Committee Meeting minutes. The January 19th, 2022, Coordinating Committee Meeting was held jointly with the Technical Committee.

- Minutes from the December 15, 2021, Joint Technical & Coordinating Committee Meeting
- PM-1 Safety Performance Measures Target Setting
- 2022-2023 Coordinating Committee Officer Elections
- Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance Partner Agreement
- Adjournment

Mr. McClure asked for a motion to accept the Coordinating Committee Meeting minutes. Mr. Molchany made the motion to accept the Coordinating Committee Meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Messinger. Mr. McClure 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: PennDOT District 5-0 Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) and Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Projects Status Report

Mr. Vottero highlighted the following items; D&L Trail Catasauqua to Canal Park, Broadway and Delaware Ave., Allentown MLK Jr. Dr., Two Rivers Trail Gap 9A. There were no further questions.

INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEM: PennDOT District 5-0 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications (TIP)

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

Mr. McClure then moved on to the PennDOT District 5-0 TIP Amendments. There were for amendments which were discussed by Jen Ruth, PennDOT District 5-0.

Ms. Ruth reviewed the TIP Amendment #1 for Powder Valley Road over Indian Creek. The Amendment seeks to add Federal Fiscal year 2022 Final Design Phase in the amount of \$275,000 and Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Right-of-Way Phase in the amount of \$100,000 to the current TIP.

Ms. Ruth and Mr. McClure asked for any questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Cotter called for a motion from the Technical Committee to adopt the TIP Amendment and forward the recommendation to the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to approve the TIP Amendment. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. The floor was opened for comments and questions. Then Mr. Cotter, asked for the vote on the motion. Ms. Bradley called for votes and the motion carried with the Technical Committee.

Mr. McClure then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the TIP Amendment for Powder Valley Road over Indian Creek that was forwarded from the Technical Committee. Mr. Stoudt made a motion to accept the TIP Amendment. Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. Mr. McClure asked if any members had any questions or comments, hearing none he asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote. Ms. Bradley called for the vote and the motion was approved.

Ms. Ruth reviewed the TIP Amendment #2 for US Route 22 from Farmersville Road to State Route 512 which would increase the Construction Phase costs to cover bridge work and anticipated increase in materials costs in the amount of \$2,500,000. Ms. Ruth asked for any questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Cotter called for a motion from the Technical Committee to accept the TIP Amendment and forward the recommendation to the Coordinating Committee. Ms. Bradley made a motion to approve. Mr. Mosca seconded the motion. The floor was opened for comments and questions. Then Mr. Cotter, asked for the vote on the motion. Ms. Bradley called for votes and the motion carried with the Technical Committee.

Mr. McClure then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to accept the TIP Amendment for US Route 22 from Farmersville Road to State Route 512 that was forwarded from the Technical Committee. Mr. Molchany made a motion to accept the TIP Amendment for US Route 22 from Farmersville Road to State Route 512. Mr. Alkhal seconded the motion. Mr. McClure 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.

Ms. Ruth reviewed the TIP Amendment #3 State Route 611 Resurface Bucks County Line to Browns Drive which provides for a \$1,685,000 increase for Construction to fully cover current estimate for contracted work previously anticipated to be completed by Maintenance forces. Ms. Ruth asked for any questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Cotter called for a motion from the Technical Committee to adopt the TIP Amendment and forward the recommendation to the Coordinating Committee. Ms. Bradley made a motion to approve the TIP Amendment. Ms. Woodward 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. McClure then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the TIP Amendment for State Route 611 Resurface Bucks County Line to Browns Drive which was forwarded by the Technical Committee. Mr. Stoudt made a motion to accept the TIP Amendment. Mr. Molchany seconded the motion. Mr. McClure 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.

Ms. Ruth reviewed the TIP Amendment #4 for four added projects (Cedar Crest Corridor Improvement Study, LVTS On Demand Systemic Safety Improvements, SR 191 Lower Nazareth Intersection Improvements, and Freemansburg Ave Safety Improvements) to use Highway Safety Improvement Funds which consists of an adjustment of \$1,833,333 in Federal Fiscal Year 2022 of the State Route 29 – Shimersville Hill Safety Improvements construction phase to align with anticipated need and carried on the draft 2023-2026 TIP with an addition of \$1,666,667 to the construction phase in Federal Fiscal Year 2023 and addition of \$166,666 to the construction phase in federal Fiscal year 2024; Release funds from the Route 145 Safety Improvements Construction Phase in the amount of \$1,500,000 in Federal Fiscal Year 2023 and \$150,000 in Federal Fiscal Year 2024 due to the project receiving spike funds and being carried fully on the draft 2023-2026 TIP; Adjust LVTS Highway & Bridge Line Item Reserve for funds in the Construction Phase in the additional amount of \$183,333 in Federal Fiscal Year 2023, Subtract \$166,667 in Federal Fiscal Year 2024 and \$16,666 in Federal Fiscal Year 2024 as a balancing source to maintain fiscal constraint.

Ms. Ruth asked for any questions or comments. Mr. Kalman asked if an emergency vehicle signal at the Freemansburg Avenue/9th Street intersection would be include in the Freemansburg Avenue Safety Improvements project. Ms. Bradley replied to Mr. Kalman by mentioning that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will work to coordinate with Bethlehem Township to get more information on the project. Mr. Cotter called for a motion from the Technical Committee to accept the TIP Amendment and forward the recommendation to the

Coordinating Committee. Mr. Meyer made a motion to accept the TIP Amendment. Ms. Woodward 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. McClure then asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to accept the TIP Amendment for the addition of four Highway Safety Improvement Program funded projects. Mr. O'Neil made a motion to accept the TIP Amendment. Mr. Stoudt seconded the motion. Mr. McClure 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: PennDOT Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Additional Funding - FY22 TIP Administrative Actions

Mr. Rebert explained the breakdown of the 2022 fiscal year from the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The region will receive \$5,954,000 in National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funding, \$1,409,000 in Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding, \$81,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding, \$7,848,000 in Bridge Investment Program (BRIP) funding, and \$1,835,000 in Off-System Bridges (BOF) funding. There will be a second phase of IIJA funding in 2022 where the region will receive an additional \$1,100,000. Mr. Rebert mentioned there will be other funding available this year for the region in form of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding at \$900,000 and Surface Transportation (STU) funding at \$976,000. Mr. Molchany asked how the IIJA funding was divvied up by regional Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO). Mr. Rebert replied that the Financial Guidance Committee uses a formula to determine how much funding each MPO in the Commonwealth receives. Mr. Molchany asked considering the land use impacts the Lehigh Valley has experienced, if the metrics used for the Lehigh Valley were dated and is that the reason why some MPOs received more funding than the Lehigh Valley. Mr. Rebert replied that metrics are not outdated and that the land area size of a MPO also factors into the formula which is why some MPOs received more funding. Mr. Molchany then asked who approves the funding for the MPOs or is this something simply formula based. Mr. Rebert replied it's all formula-based and the formula is reviewed by representatives from MPOs and PennDOT districts across the Commonwealth. Mr. Hare mentioned that the formula has evolved to more asset-based criteria.

Mr. Rebert highlighted the 2022 projects that will receive IIJA funding. They are:

Bridge Investment Program Funds (BRIP) - \$7,848,000

- \$5,500,000 – Race Street over Lehigh River (108134) - Toll Credit due to not having Capital Budget
- \$1,448,000 – Richmond Bridge (12084) - To match how programmed on draft 2023 TIP
- \$900,000 – PA 33 Bushkill Creek Bridges (96431) – Advance to let off 2021 TIP

Off-System Bridge Funds (BOF) - \$1,835,000

- \$1,835,000 – Country Club Road over US 22 (89616) – Advance to let as design/build off 2021 TIP

National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) Funds - \$5,954,000

- \$3,000,000 – Cementon Bridge (11413) – Advance funds programmed in FFY 23 and 24
- \$330,000 – PA 33 Bushkill Creek Bridges (96431) – Advance to let off 2021 TIP
- \$170,360 – Williams Twp Canal Wall Replacement (79468) – Advance funds programmed in FFY 23
- \$2,453,640 – LVTS Highway & Bridge Line Item (102201) – To be assigned to projects as needed

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funds - \$81,000

- \$81,000 – Corridor Signal Improvement Line Item (82804) – To be assigned to projects as needed

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funds - \$1,409,000

- \$1,409,000 – Safety Line-Item LVTS (82807) – To be assigned to projects as needed

Mr. Molchany asked do we expect that if there is funding leftover from the 2022 projects, could that be used to accelerate projects from the 2023 TIP? Mr. Rebert and Mr. Mosca replied that will be the case. Mr. Molchany then asked if projects from the Long-Range Transportation Plan would be added if that is the case. Mr. Rebert replied that these were projects the MPO agreed upon and that they would be the first to be explored. However, this hasn't been discussed yet. Mr. Molchany asked if they are waiting until the end of the year to have this discussion. Mr. Rebert replied maybe, but we want to make sure we account for CMAQ projects. Mr. Rebert noted the high cost of reopening the TIP if projects meet the requirement for Travel Demand Modeling and other federal requirements. Mr. McClure asked if there are projects already identified to receive the funding for the LVTS Highway & Bridge Line Item. Ms. Ruth replied that the region has a long list of projects adopted in FutureLV: The Regional Plan and that there are on-going project overruns that will receive the line-item funding. Mr. Emili asked if the 2023 TIP will be discussed amongst an LVTS group once new funds not already discussed are determined. Mr. Rebert replied yes. Mr. McClure asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: Monthly Traffic Report

Mr. Hite provided the details of the January traffic count. Route 33 came in at 75,215 vehicles at the end of the month. Interstate 78 East of 309 in Lehigh County came in at 68,833 vehicles and Interstate 78 East of 33 in Northampton County end the month with 70,271 vehicles. Route 309 north of Coopersburg in Lehigh County came in at 35,899 vehicles. Truck traffic on Interstate 78 east of Route 33 in Northampton County had 24,746 at the end of the month and I-78 east of Route 309 in Lehigh County finished at 21,839 trucks.

The freight growth via truck traffic will continue to be monitored to understand that freight movements by truck are not only locally providing goods and services but also keeping America supplied especially as the societal reliance on e-commerce becomes the norm. Mr. McClure asked what does Mr. Hite account for the difference in the truck traffic? Mr. Hite replied that the differences occur at Route 412 corridor and the Route 33 connection from the south. Mr. McClure asked are there any further questions. There were none

New Business

PRESENTATION: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Briefing by Erich Zimmermann, Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Programs, National Association of Regional Councils

Mr. Zimmerman presented Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Briefing and how it is different from previous laws, the competitive nature of many of the programs and how different funding buckets have changed. A key difference between the IIJA and previous laws is the prioritization of regional planning through Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) like LVTS. Mr. Zimmerman's full analysis can be found at narc.org. Mr. McClure asked if there were any questions. There were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Community Challenge Grants

Ms. Bradley summarized how the AARP grant can fund smaller transportation projects like bike racks and crosswalks. LVTS has engaged with Lehigh Valley communities in discussing the benefits of exploring the use of the grant. Ms. Bradley encourages communities to submit data maps that show concentrations of the elderly population when applying for the grant. This information can be found at LVPC.org in the equity mapping tool under DataLV. If communities need a letter of support from the LVTS they can contact Mr. Carafides.

INFORMATION ITEM: Eastern PA Freight Alliance Request for Proposals for the Freight Infrastructure Plan

Ms. Bradley spoke about the alliance which is a coordination between a group of five MPOs that came together to form the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance - Lackawanna/Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization (LLTS), Lebanon County Metropolitan Planning Organization (LEBCO), Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVPC/LVTS), Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA MPO), and Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) - (a total of 398 municipalities). The group will look to develop a freight infrastructure plan which addresses the opportunities and challenges posed by this industry, especially as it relates to mobility, safety and infrastructure system maintenance and improvement. The Request for Proposals is now available and a link to the documents are on the LVPC website. Ms. Bradley asks for firms not to contact the LVPC/LVTS office because they cannot legally discuss the RFP. The RFP is going through the PennBID process. If firms are interested, they should visit <http://www.lvpc.org/legalnotices---employment.html> and submit their questions and proposal through the PennBid Portal.

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 involved a discussion on the Draft Transportation Improvement Program, with special guest, Committee Vice Chair Rebert. The discussion was about what's in the TIP, including key projects such as new interchanges on Routes 309, 191, and 22 and the Cementon Bridge project, and how the four-year TIP is the benefit of about \$80 million from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Job Act. 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, March 7 and will be about annual BuildLV Development report and the busy development year that was 2021.

Lehighvalleylive.com / The Express-Times

Mr. Assad summarized two lehighvalleylive.com/The Express Times detailing transportation issues . The first is an article, starting on page 28 of your packet with some details about the current Draft 2023-2026 Draft TIP, and how it is benefitting from the Federal Infrastructure Law, and the second is a story that essentially talks about the number of bridges in the region that have a poor rating from PennDOT. The story focuses on those bridges, in light of the bridge collapse in Pittsburgh last month.

Business Cycle Column

Mr. Assad stated that the last Business Cycle column was published in the Sunday, February 13 Morning Call. That column detailed the measures that Lehigh Valley municipalities are taking to control development, including the 52 ordinance, official map and zoning code changes they collectively made in 2021 alone. It also makes the case that Comprehensive Planning is more important now than ever because of the development pressures being experienced by the region. Our next column is scheduled to publish March 22, 2022.

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

Mr. Hite announced that the Local Technical Assistance Program is ramping up with full schedule of classes in the next month, starting with Winter Maintenance this Friday February 18 from 8 am to noon. February 22 is the popular Safe Driver class focused on municipal employee driving habits. And March 3rd will be the third in a series of stormwater one-hour classes this one focused on Incorporating Stormwater Improvements into PennDOT Projects. A wide range of class topics ranging from one to four hours in length and are all virtual. All are free and 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