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## LVPC Sets New Training, Education Schedule

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has a full schedule of education and training scheduled for 2022 to help planners, zoners, municipal officials and residents navigate the Lehigh Valley's evolving land development and transportation landscape.

The LVPC's Lehigh Valley Government Academy will include four in-person planning and zoning courses, at least three Transformative Talks virtual sessions and dozens of Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) classes in partnership with PennDOT.

The COVID-19 Pandemic forced the suspension of some in-person class in 2020, but LVGA has been retooled to handle some classes virtually, while using social distancing to handle others that are more effective in person.

"COVID-19 made us rethink how we look at training and education," said Becky Bradley, LVPC Executive Director. "We retooled the program, rearranged our conference room to allow social distancing and added new classes to the program because the Pandemic showed us how important it is that we remain an educational resource to the many volunteers who sit on the region's planning, zoning and government boards, as well as municipal staff and public works crews."

LVGA in-person classes will be limited to 18 due to social distancing – about half the previous limit -- but with the LVPC's fullest schedule ever. The LVPC offers planning and zoning-related classes in partnership with the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI), with more than 300 people graduating since 2014. Each course offers 10.5 hours of instruction over three weeks. In the past, these courses were all held in the Fall, but this year will be spread throughout the year to make them easier to attend. The four classes for 2022 are:

- **Zoning Administration** – April 4, 11, 18, from 5:30-9 pm.
- **Subdivision and Land Development** – May 3, 10, 17, from 5:30-9 pm
- **Community Planning** – September 7, 14, 21, from 5:30-9 pm.
- **Zoning** - October 6, 13, 20, from 5:30-9 pm

All classes will be at the LVPC offices at 961 Marcon Boulevard in Hanover Township. Each course costs \$125 plus processing fees. Access more information, registration and pay online at [lvpc.org/lvga](http://lvpc.org/lvga).

The LVGA program will also include at least three Transformative Talk virtual sessions on topics that lay out powerful tools that communities can use, such as **Traffic Impact Fees and Common Zoning Challenges**. In the most recent Transformative Talks, earlier this week, 31 local governments participated in two workshops on Coordinating and Implementing Zoning in multi-municipal plans.

Additional sessions, usually of 60-90 minutes, will be scheduled soon. Check [lvpc.org](http://lvpc.org).

The LVPC's partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation also continues with a full schedule of Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) classes for public works staffers, engineers or anyone interested in making community roads, trails and intersections safer and more efficient. All LTAP courses are free and anyone can sign up at [lvpc.org/ltap](http://lvpc.org/ltap).

Upcoming classes include:

- **Feb. 3:** Stormwater Facility Maintenance Program, 11 am to noon
- **Feb. 8:** Work Zone Traffic Control V, 8 am to noon
- **Feb. 9:** Work Traffic Control Workshop, 9 am to 11 am
- **Feb. 15:** Local Road Safety Plans, 8 am to noon
- **Feb. 22:** Safe Driver, 8 am to noon

LTAP questions can be directed to LVPC Transportation Planner Brian Hite at [bhite@lvpc.org](mailto:bhite@lvpc.org) or 610-264-4544.