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# TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM DRAFT



## Lehigh Valley Investing \$484 Million On Transportation Network

Over the next four years the Lehigh Valley will invest nearly a half-billion dollars on 118 road, bridge, trail, and transit projects that reach into every corner of the region.

The Draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) makes major investments such as \$66 million for the Route 309 and Tilghman Street interchange and \$21 million to rehabilitate the Hill-to-Hill Bridge in the Bethlehem, but it also spends nearly \$10 million on pedestrian, bicycle and trail projects in communities across the region and pumps extra money into maintaining the region's deteriorated bridges.

The TIP includes about \$80 million from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, but the plan will remain a draft until the public weighs in. The 30-day Public Comment period runs through May 31.

“We’re a growing region with a lot of infrastructure needs and this plan takes a comprehensive, thoughtful approach to addressing as many as possible,” said LVPC Director of Transportation Planning and Data Paul Carafides. “Our goal is always to create a safe, connected transportation network that provides access to everyone, whether they drive or not.”

The Draft Plan and a full schedule of ways to comment and attend virtual and in-person meetings can be found at [lvpc.org/tip](http://lvpc.org/tip). Opportunities to comment include:

- Anytime through May 31 – online at [lvpc.org/tip](http://lvpc.org/tip)
- Anytime through May 31 – by phone at 610-264-4544
- May 11 at 8 am -- virtual meeting
- May 17 at 4 pm – virtual meeting
- May 18 at 9 am – virtual meeting of Lehigh Valley Transportation Study
- May 19 at 7 pm – in-person meeting at Northampton County College Fowler Center.

Copies of the Draft Plan can also be viewed at [lvpc.org/tip](http://lvpc.org/tip) or at these locations:

- LVPC office, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Hanover Township, Lehigh County.
- PennDOT District office, 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown
- Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA), 1060 Lehigh Street, Allentown.
- Allentown Public Library, 1210 Hamilton Street, Allentown
- Bethlehem Public Library, 11 W. Church Street, Bethlehem
- Easton Public Library, 515 Church Street, Easton

Anyone can also learn more about the plan by tuning into La Mega 101.7FM Spanish Language radio at 9:30 am, May 16, or by listening to the May 2 WDIY FM 88.1 Plan Lehigh Valley radio show and live call-in, now streaming at [WDIY.org](http://WDIY.org).

Other major projects include spending \$9 million to begin finding safety solutions the Route 191 interchange along Route 22, \$5.5 million to resurface Route 22 from Farmersville Road to Route 512 and \$3.7 million for ramp and safety improvement at the Fullerton Interchange of Route 22.

Overall, the TIP includes \$189.1 million for roads, trails, community projects and freight programs, \$162.6 million for bridges and \$133.1 million for LANTA operations. Typically, roughly 80% of all funds are federal, with the remaining 20% coming from state and local sources.

The 2023-2026 TIP serves as the first four years of the region’s 25-year, \$2.5 billion Long Range Transportation Plan. The four-year plan is updated every two years, and while the 2023-26 Plan is a 7% increase over the 2021 plan, it falls well short of addressing the needs of a region that gains 4,000 more residents a year and has become an East Coast hub for freight move.

Even with the infusion from the IJA, the region’s \$4 billion list of needed projects that aren’t funded is likely only growing.

“It’s encouraging that the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has put a priority on our neglected infrastructure, and this Draft TIP is a step in the right direction,” said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. “I’m hoping we continue to make modernizing our infrastructure a priority because it’s at the heart of our economy and quality of life. It’s that important.”

The Draft TIP is scheduled to be before the Lehigh Transportation Study for a vote June 15. The Plan goes into effect October 1, 2022.