

STEVEN GLICKMAN  
Chair

CHRISTOPHER AMATO  
Vice Chair

KEVIN SCHMIDT  
Treasurer



LAMONT G. MCCLURE, JR.  
Chair, Coordinating Committee

BRENDAN COTTER  
Chair, Technical Committee

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP  
Executive Director, LVPC  
Secretary, LVTS



## LVPC Planner Now A Freight Academy Graduate

The LVPC's Brian Hite is a Transportation Planner, licensed truck driver and certified diesel mechanic, and now he can add another title for his hat rack: Freight Academy Graduate.

Hite in October was one of 37 students nationwide to graduate from the Eastern Transportation Coalition Freight Academy, at Rutgers University. The academy, held about every two years, is an immersive program designed to train public employees and municipal officials about the impacts of how that package gets from a factory floor on another continent to your doorstep, whether it be by plane, train, ship, truck or pipeline.

"I now have a lot better understanding of how freight movements in New Jersey and New York affect us here in the Lehigh Valley," Hite said. "Coming out of the pandemic, you realize how vital these operations are to our society. The growth of e-commerce has really changed the game."

**STEVEN GLICKMAN**  
Chair

**CHRISTOPHER AMATO**  
Vice Chair

**KEVIN SCHMIDT**  
Treasurer



**LAMONT G. MCCLURE, JR.**  
Chair, Coordinating Committee

**BRENDAN COTTER**  
Chair, Technical Committee

**BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP**  
Executive Director, LVPC  
Secretary, LVTS

At the LVPC, in addition to doing development project reviews, Hite is in charge of the traffic count, Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and Technical Assistance programs.

Freight Academy candidates who had to compete for a seat in the program, came from across the country for a program that included on-site training at places like the Port of New York & New Jersey, the UPS facility at Newark Liberty International Airport and the Raritan Center Industrial Park. Because of its growing place in the global e-commerce economy, the Lehigh Valley has become a regular visit for the Academy, with 2023 students getting a half-day classroom instruction at the ArtsQuest Center, before getting hands-on tours at the Alpha Inc. plastics plant in South Bethlehem and the newly completed 452,000-square-foot Petrucci Development warehouse on Airport Road in East Allen Township.

Graduates were required to prepare a capstone project, with Hite's focused on what a development with a rail intermodal facility needed to do to be a good neighborhood to the community.

Hite turned out to be an uncommon academy student, even for a program that draws students from a variety of careers across the country, said Marygrace Parker, Freight Academy Program Manager. He's the only transportation planner in the program's 17-year history who also had a Commercial Driver's License.

"Everybody in the group has a different perspective, and he was a unicorn who could say 'Commercial truck driver, diesel mechanic, [Metropolitan Planning Organization] planner extraordinaire'," said Parker, director of freight program for the College Park, MD-based Transportation Coalition. "And the innovations he brought from the Lehigh Valley were amazing. I'm encouraging everyone to adopt those."

What Parker is referring to is the LVPC's one-of-a-kind partnership with the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) to be part of every review of a freight facility so LANTA can strike deals with freight employers to include bus stops at large facilities where employees need public transit to get to work, and the LVPC's policy of recommending every new freight-based facility include driver amenities and truck parking.

"We're not going to change what's going on in the factory, but we can certainly help get people to work," Parker said. "Brian brought that to the group and I hope they all consider taking that back to their regions."

**STEVEN GLICKMAN**  
Chair

**CHRISTOPHER AMATO**  
Vice Chair

**KEVIN SCHMIDT**  
Treasurer



**LAMONT G. MCCLURE, JR.**  
Chair, Coordinating Committee

**BRENDAN COTTER**  
Chair, Technical Committee

**BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP**  
Executive Director, LVPC  
Secretary, LVTS