



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

STEVEN GLICKMAN
Chair

CHRISTOPHER AMATO
Vice Chair

KEVIN SCHMIDT
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 5:30 pm

AGENDA

THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED AT <https://tinyurl.com/LVPC2023> OR VIA PHONE 610-477-5793 Conf ID: 661 345 854#.

Roll Call

Courtesy of the Floor

Reports for January 2023:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Population and Employment Projections (DJ)
2. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Monthly Traffic Count Report (BH)
3. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Highway Projects Status Updates (PO)
4. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Long Range Transportation Plan Update (BB, PO, BH)
5. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Monthly Status Reports:
 - Lehigh Valley Passenger Rail Analysis (BB)
 - Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance Freight Infrastructure Plan (BB)

Next Transportation Committee Meeting:

February 23, 2023 at 5:30 pm



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Re: Population and Employment Projections

The Lehigh Valley's distinction as one of Pennsylvania's most-consistent and fastest-growing regions will continue through 2050, even as a shrinking Baby Boomer Generation causes most of the state to contract.

According to an LVPC demographic and economic analysis, Lehigh and Northampton counties will add nearly 100,000 people by 2050, fueled by migration, employment opportunities and a quality of life that's made it a place where people and businesses want to be. During that time, the Region will become more diverse as Hispanics become a larger segment of the total population, while the Lehigh Valley adds an average of 3,308 more people a year, or a percentage increase of 14.4%.

That represents a slowing from the roughly 4,300 new residents a year the Lehigh Valley had experienced between 1960 and 1920, but while smaller families and an aging population has already caused two-thirds of the counties in Pennsylvania to begin shrinking, the Lehigh Valley will continue strong and steady growth.

In 2020 alone, Pandemic-induced domestic migration drove more than 11,000 people into the Lehigh Valley, as more people fled dense urban areas, while others took advantage of new work from-anywhere opportunities.

Employment will also grow even faster than the population, adding more than 74,108 new jobs by 2050, with healthcare, manufacturing and transportation/warehousing leading the way. However, the "Baby Boomer" generation exiting the job market will likely mean a struggle for businesses filling jobs in the Region in the long-term.

As the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) of Lehigh and Northampton counties, the central mission of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is to address "current and ongoing regional planning issues while fostering cooperation between governments, private sector and nonprofit organizations and the general public". (LVPC 2021)

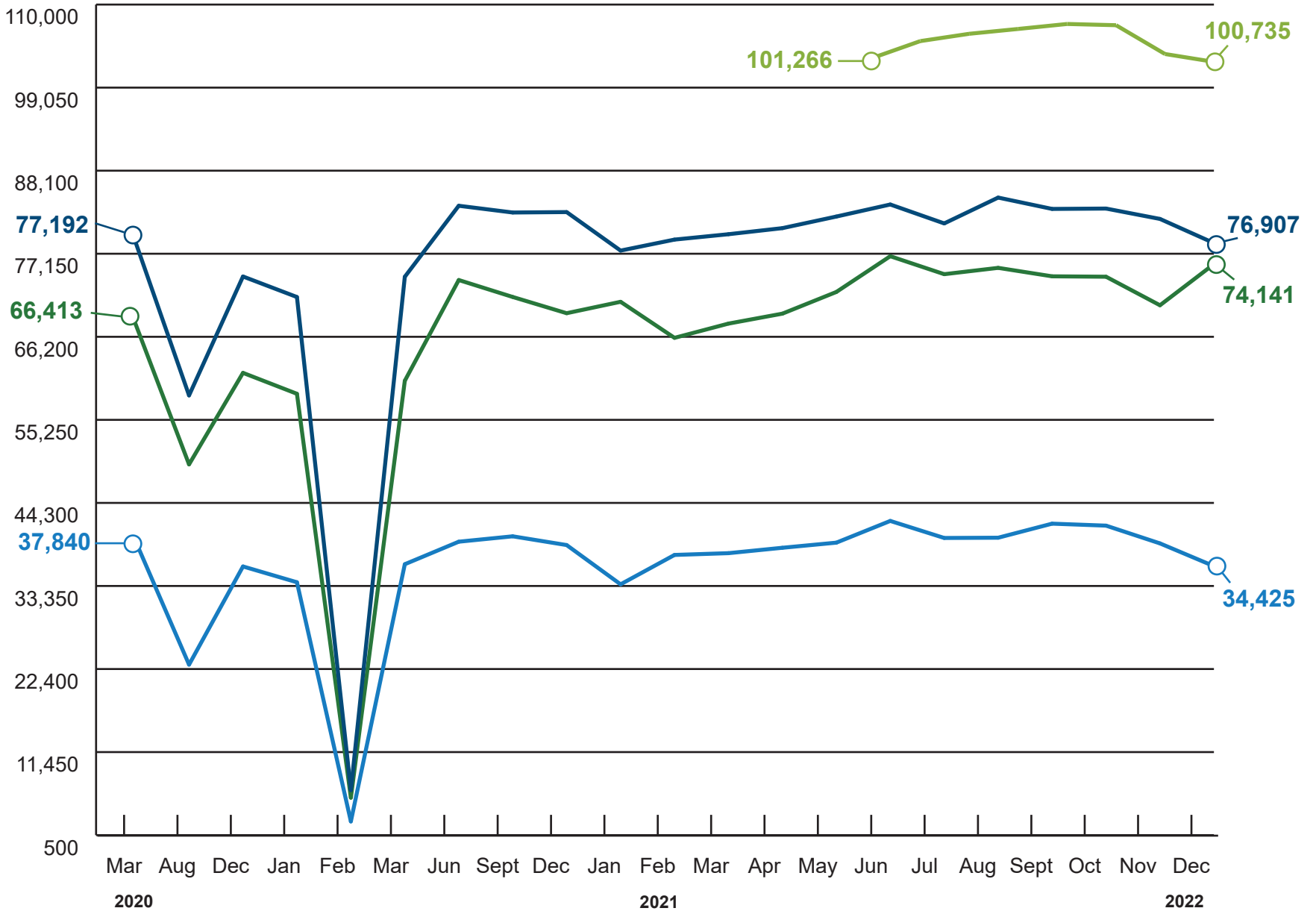
Done periodically by the LVPC, 30-year population and employment projections help municipalities plan virtually every facet of their community, from planning land use and social needs, to businesses determining how to evolve into the future to colleges and schools determining what resources will be needed in the years and decades to come.

Projections are especially critical for transportation planning, as changes in population and employment patterns can also affect traffic patterns, congestion, and emissions. The forecasts are a key input to the region's travel demand model that calculates the expected demand for transportation infrastructure.

Travel demand models track the traffic demand and congestion in the region over time to determine where improvements to roads, highways, and bridges are needed to accommodate future growth.

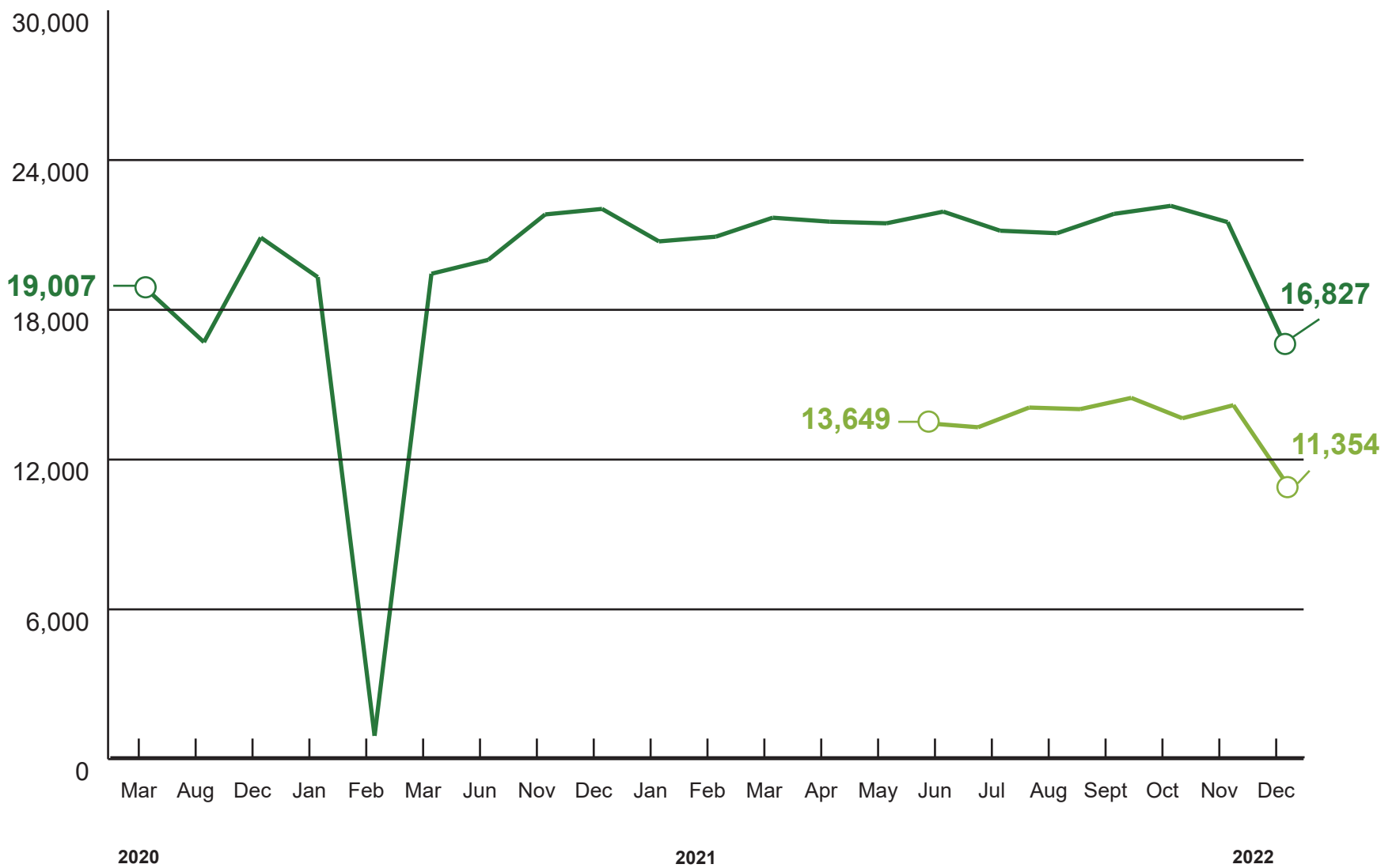
TOTAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC

- STATE ROUTE 33**
between Newburg Road and State Route 248 (Northampton County)
- INTERSTATE-78**
Just east of the State Route 309 exit (Lehigh County)
- STATE ROUTE 309**
Just south of State Route 378 (Lehigh County)
- STATE ROUTE 22**
between Airport Road and Lehigh River Bridge (Lehigh County)



TOTAL TRUCK TRAFFIC

- INTERSTATE-78**
Just east of the State Route 309 exit (Lehigh County)
- STATE ROUTE 22**
between Airport Road and Lehigh River Bridge (Lehigh County)



**LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY
HIGHWAY STATUS REPORT
MEETING JANUARY 18, 2023**

US 22, Section WDN Widening (C-C. Frey)

**Whitehall, South Whitehall, and Hanover Townships, and City of Bethlehem Lehigh County;
Hanover Township, Northampton County**

MPMS 96384 - est let N/A

- Design team working on Phase I ESAs and other NEPA clearance tasks; NEPA clearance status meeting scheduled with FHWA for January 30, 2023
- Preliminary Point of Access (POA) study is being updated with new traffic counts collected in October 2022; revised POA expected this month

SR 29, Section 04S Cedar Crest Boulevard Signal Upgrades (C-C. Frey)

Salisbury Township, Lehigh County

MPMS 110169 - actual let November 3, 2022

- Contract was awarded to J. D. Eckman, Inc.
- NTP was issued on December 16, 2022
- Anticipated completion date is September 22, 2025

SR 145, Section MLT 7th Street Multimodal Corridor (C-R. Prophet)

City of Allentown and Whitehall Township, Lehigh County

MPMS 99697 - est let April 1, 2027

- Final Design is being delayed to align with funding, currently programmed in FFY 2026

SR 145, Section 14S Route 145 Signal Improvements (C-C. Frey)

Whitehall Township, Lehigh County

MPMS 110170 - actual let November 3, 2022

- Contract was awarded to Bruce - Merrilees Electric Company
- NTP was issued on December 14, 2022
- Anticipated completion date is November 17, 2025

SR 145, Section 13S Route 145 Safety Improvements (C-M. Fallon)

City of Allentown, Lehigh County

MPMS 109971 – est let August 24, 2023

- Final plans for traffic design & signals ongoing, resubmitted December 12, 2022
- Coordination with City of Allentown, LANTA, and HOP unit ongoing
- ROW appraisals ongoing
- Utility coordination is ongoing, draft D-419 anticipated for January 2023
- ADA Ramps approved and TIF signed November 30, 2022
- Phase III ESA submitted November 22, 2022
- Sidewalk agreement comments received October 5, 2022
- Let date moved from February 16, 2023, to allow for ROW acquisitions to be completed

SR 309, Section 14M Betterment (C-M. Fallon)

North and South Whitehall Townships, Lehigh County

MPMS 102312 – est let March 14, 2024

- Utility investigation/coordination is ongoing
- Right of Way final plans submitted November 28, 2022
- NPDES permit comment response ongoing
- Coordination with Traffic Unit is ongoing
- Structure Foundation Report for Culvert Extension resubmitted November 23, 2022
- Railroad coordination ongoing
- Ongoing coordination with cultural historian for updating findings on Adam Good Farmstead
- Retaining Wall TS&L and SFR meeting held and comment response ongoing

**LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY
HIGHWAY STATUS REPORT
MEETING JANUARY 18, 2023**

SR 309, Section 12M 309 & Tilghman Interchange (K. Cox)

North and South Whitehall Townships, Lehigh County

MPMS 96432 - est let April 11, 2024

- ROW acquisition ongoing; Mainline ROW plan recorded
- Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) comments received
- NPDES technical review comments received
- Utility coordination ongoing, Sunoco pipeline providing 90% plans for review, coordinating with South White Township to identify water and sewer laterals
- Final Noise report comments received
- Structure Foundation Reports review ongoing, Broadway Bridge approved, half of sign structures approved, Tilghman Street bridge ongoing, Little Cedar Creek culvert ongoing
- Value Engineering ongoing
- The let date was moved to allow adequate time for ROW acquisition and permit approval

SR 1004, Section 03S Lehigh- Race Street Intersection (K. Cox)

Catasauqua Borough, Lehigh County

MPMS 57433 – est let January 26, 2023

- ROW Clearance obtained October 6, 2022
- PS&E review is complete
- Project was advertised on December 28, 2022

SR 1017, Section 02S Mauch Chunk Signal Improvements (C-R. Prophet)

South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County

MPMS 110174 - est let May 9, 2024

- Preliminary Engineering supplement executed on December 12, 2022
- Design team is re-evaluating improvements at intersection of Mauch Chunk/Pirna Avenue/Girard Avenue
- DFV and PMC Virtual Plans Display packet revisions underway
- Environmental Documentation ongoing, approval pending public meeting
- Traffic Signal Design Report update underway

SR 22, Section 15M SR 22/SR 191 Interchange Improvements (C-M. McGuire)

Bethlehem Township, Northampton County

MPMS 117606 – est. let April 1, 2030

- Scoping field view meeting held on September 20, 2022, FHWA has recommended project will require an Environmental Assessment (EA)
- PennDOT Connects meeting with Bethlehem Township and LANTA held on November 2, 2022
- NTP for PE issued on December 15, 2022

SR 191, Section 04S SR 191 Lower Nazareth Intersection Improvements (C-R. Himmelwright)

Lower Nazareth Township, Northampton County

MPMS 116936 – est. let March 12, 2026

- Traffic counts completed May 2022
- Survey completed August 2022
- Alternative Analysis Report being prepared

SR 248, Section 05S Route 248 Realignment (C-M. McGuire)

Bath Borough, Northampton County

MPMS 86853 – est let March 14, 2024

- Traffic Control and Signing and Pavement Marking Plans are progressing
- Utility companies are designing their facilities
- Final Structure Plan are being reviewed
- Right of Way acquisition is underway
- Permits are under review by DEP
- ADA ramp plans are under review
- Bridge parapet design posted on project PATH for consulting parties' review

**LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY
HIGHWAY STATUS REPORT
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SR 248, Section 06S Route 248 Signal Improvements (C-R. Prophet)

Lehigh Township, Northampton County

MPMS 110176 - est let June 8, 2023

- Combined Safety Review and Design Field View approved on November 10, 2022
- Final Traffic Control Plans resubmitted on December 13, 2022
- Final Traffic Signal Plans resubmitted on December 13, 2022
- Final Signing and Pavement Marking Plans resubmitted on December 13, 2022
- Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement number TSMA-48207 has been fully executed by PennDOT on December 14, 2022
- Right of Way Clearance Form submitted to PennDOT RW Unit on December 8, 2022, pending signature
- Pavement Design to be resubmitted on December 28, 2022
- Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Plans to be resubmitted in early January 2023, less than 1 acre of disturbance does not require approval by NCCD
- Construction Plans being advanced, anticipated pre-PS&E submission in late January 2023
- Let date repositioned to proceed with design bid build package rather than design build with ROW acquisition required

SR 2018, Section 02S Freemansburg Ave (SR 2018) Safety Improvements (C-J. Besz)

Bethlehem Township, Northampton County

MPMS 117509 – est. let December 4, 2025

- The initial baseline schedule was developed and approved
- NOITE letters were sent
- Survey and development of base mapping was completed
- Development of the deed mosaic is ongoing
- Traffic counts were completed, traffic analysis is ongoing
- Development of alternative geometric concepts is ongoing

**LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY
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ACRONYM REFERENCE	
ACM/LBP	ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL / LEAD BASED PAINT
ADA	AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT
BRPA	BRIDGE AND ROADWAY PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT
CE	CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
CEE	CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION EVALUATION
CO	CENTRAL OFFICE
CRP	CULTURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL
DCNR	DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEP	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DFV	DESIGN FIELD VIEW
DO	DISTRICT OFFICE
E&S	EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION
ESA	ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT
FD	FINAL DESIGN
FHWA	FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
H&H	HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC
HOP	HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT
HRSF	HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
JD	JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION
JPA	JOINT PERMIT AGREEMENT
L&G	LINE AND GRADE
LCCD	LEHIGH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
LGTS	LINE, GRADE AND TYPICAL SECTION
MPT	MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF TRAFFIC
NCCD	NORTHAMPTON COUNT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOITE	NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER
NPDES	NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
NTP	NOTICE TO PROCEED
PE	PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING
PHMC	PA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
PNDI	PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY INVENTORY
POA	POINT OF ACCESS
PS&E	PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATE
ROW	RIGHT OF WAY
RSGER	RECONNAISSANCE SOILS AND GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING REPORT
SEPS	SUBSURFACE EXPLORATION PLANNING SUBMISSION
SFV	SCOPE AND FIELD VIEW
SHPO	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
SPMP	SIGNING AND PAVEMENT MARKING PLAN
SUE	SUBSURFACE UTILITY ENGINEERING
T&E	THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES COORDINATION
TCP	TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN
TIF	TECHNICALLY INFEASIBILITY FORM
TIP	TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
TS&L	TYPE, SIZE AND LOCATION
USFWS	UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE