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## Comment Now on \$534 million in Spending

If you'd like to weigh in on how \$534 million will be spent on transportation projects over the next four years, the time is now.

Two public meetings are scheduled to gather comment on a 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program that funds more than 115 road, bridge, trail, rail and transit projects.

The first came Wednesday, during an hour-long Planning + Pizza session at the 961 Marcon Boulevard, Allentown offices of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

A second chance comes at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, at the Bethlehem Area Public Library. Anyone who can't make the meeting can still view the TIP and [comment here online](#).

"The TIP represents four years of transportation projects and this comment period is really the best chance for people to give their thoughts on more than 115 projects," said Michael S. Donchez, Senior Transportation Planner for the LVPC.

The \$534 million plan is a \$76 million increase over the current TIP, as some of the region's busiest roadways and bridges are slated for improvement.

The funding plan spends \$244.3 million for 58 road, trail and rail projects that include more than \$50 million to continue widening Route 22 and more than \$80 million for several projects along Route 309.

It spends \$144 million to repair or replace 57 bridges and it spends another \$145.9 million to operate LANTA, including the replacement of more than 100 buses and vans.

"As demand on the Lehigh Valley's infrastructure grows, continued investment in the transportation system is imperative," said Becky Bradley, Executive Director of the LVPC Commission and Secretary of the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, which approves the TIP. "We are proud to be able to increase funding to enhance mobility, maintain assets and improve safety."

The TIP funding is generally 80% federal and 20% state, with some occasional local matching funds. In this region, the program is administered by the LVPC and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

"We are very excited about the new Transportation Improvement Program," said PennDOT District 5 Executive Michael W. Rebert. "This investment of over a half billion dollars in Lehigh Valley infrastructure will benefit tourism, commerce and the everyday commuter."

But the TIP is still a draft and can still be adjusted, based on public comment, said Michael S. Donchez, Senior Transportation Planner for LVPC. The comment period closes May 22 and the TIP is expected to be adopted by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study June 6.

The spending plan goes into effect Oct. 1.