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November Newsletter

LVTS Creates Bicycle-Pedestrian-Transit Board

With a growing number of people looking for ways to spend less time in their cars, the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study in October created the region's first Multimodal Transportation Working Group.

The group will serve as an advisory board of the LVTS, not only giving greater voice to people advocating for more funding for alternative transportation, but helping the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission collect information as it devises the region's first master plan for pedestrian, biking and transit, said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley.

The Working Group will be a committee of the whole of the LVTS, and include stakeholders from community groups such as the Coalition for Alternative Transportation.

"We are seeing a greater interest from the community in other modes of transportation, whether it be walking, biking or transit," said Mike Donchez, LVPC Senior Transportation Planner. "As we prepare the first Bike-Ped master plan, this group will be invaluable in helping us set priorities."

Modeled after a Freight Advisory Board formed in 2015 to help the region better prepare for increased truck and freight that comes with the growth of distribution centers in the region, the Multimodal Working Group is expected to begin meeting in January.

"This group will help us, and more importantly help balance us, as we move forward," said Larry Shifflet, bureau director for PennDOT's Center for Program Development and Management.

The LVTS has established a \$458 million plan of spending for road, bridge and transit projects through 2020, but that plan will also include some projects designed to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and expand the region's trail network. The newly-established group will provide input on how that limited money can best be spent.

Anyone interested in serving on the Multimodal Working Group can contact the LVPC at LVPC.ORG or 610-264-4544.