



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

RICHARD MOLCHANY
Chair, Coordinating Committee

BRENDAN COTTER
Chair, Technical Committee

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Secretary,
Coordinating Committee +
Technical Committee

Lehigh Valley Transportation Study Minutes from the Wednesday, May 15, 2024 Technical Committee Meeting

Prior to the call to order, Mr. Dinkel stated the agenda and materials for the meeting were posted on the LVPC website. He provided directions on how to participate in the virtual meeting and protocol for the meeting to flow smoothly. The meeting was advertised in the Lehigh Valley Press on January 10, 2024.

Chairman Brendan Cotter chaired the meeting and welcomed committee members and the public participants and called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Mr. Dinkel took Roll Call.

Attendees

Technical Committee

Brendan Cotter	LANTA
Becky Bradley, AICP	LVPC
David Petrik (Alt)	City of Allentown
David Hopkins (Alt)	City of Easton
Jennifer Ruth	PennDOT District 5
David Alas	PennDOT Central Office

Members Absent:

Technical Committee

Ryan Meyer	LNAA
Matthew Tuerk	City of Allentown
J. William Reynolds	City of Bethlehem
Darlene Heller (Alt)	City of Bethlehem
Salvatore J. Panto Jr.	City of Easton

Staff Present: Becky Bradley, Brian Hite, Evan Gardi, Ben Dinkel, Matt Assad, Hannah Milagio

Public Present: Alan Garger, Brett Webber, Brian Harman, Chris Kufro (PennDOT District 5-0), Craig, Gene Porochniak (FHWA – Pennsylvania Division), Jay Bradley (LehighValleyNews.com), Jen Ruth (PennDOT District 5-0), Jennifer Swann, Jon Meaney, Kerri Cutright, Lawrence Peterson, Lee Rackus, Mark Garger, Nicholas Falsone, Nyomi Evans (PennDOT Central Office), Rich Ames (WSP), Rick Geho, Rick Molchany (Lehigh County), Scott Harney, Scott Slingerland (Coalition for Appropriate Transportation), Scott Vottero (PennDOT District 5-0), Toni Mitman, William Royer

Courtesy of the Floor

Ms. Bradley shared information about upcoming public meetings in the Lehigh Valley, including the PA turnpike widening and the 5th Street Bridge over Route 22 in Whitehall Township.

Mr. Scott Slingerland shared the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation is celebrating “Lehigh Valley Bike to Work Week” and has events planned with the Mayors of Bethlehem and Allentown.

Minutes

Mr. Cotter stated that the last Technical Committee was held on April 17th, 2024. Mr. Dinkel noted the actions voted on:

- Minutes from the March 20, 2024, Meeting
- Minutes from the March 27, 2024, LVTS Special Passenger Rail Meeting

- Draft 25-28 TIP Project List Amendment – ABE Northside Logistics and Cargo Complex (121443)
- Draft 25-28 TIP Project List Amendment – Allentown Center Square (119989)
- Adjournment

Chair Cotter asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Technical Committee Meeting on April 17th, 2024. Mr. Hopkins made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Alas. There were no questions or comments from members or the public. Chair Cotter asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion was approved.

Old Business

INFORMATION ITEM: 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Actions

Ms. Ruth stated there were five Regional Administrative Actions and one Statewide Administrative Action from April 6th to May 3rd.

INFORMATION ITEM: DRAFT 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Update

Ms. Bradley explained that since the Draft Project List was finalized in December, the LVTS voted to add the Lehigh Valley International Airport INFRA award to the Draft Project List. The LVTS submitted the draft TIP project list to the Intergovernmental Consultation Group (ICG) for their comments. After ICG's comments were received, the LVTS could start the 30-day public comment period, which began on 5.15 and will go until 6.15. After all the public comments are received by the LVTS, there will be a special LVTS meeting on June 27th to officially adopt the Draft 2025-2028 TIP before the deadline of 6.30. After that deadline, the LVTS TIP officially becomes part of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Ms. Milagio shared the public comment period began on 5.15 and will run until 6.15, physical copies are located at the three city libraries, the offices of LANTA, LVPC, and PennDOT District 5. It's also available online with a virtual comment box. The first public meeting is on May 23rd at the LVPC Transportation Committee Meeting.

Ms. Bradley added the LVPC General Assembly met last night, and an overview of the TIP was presented in front of our municipalities and elected officials. Comments from that meeting are recorded as official public comments.

Ms. Milagio finished the presentation with information about the special LVTS meeting scheduled for June 27th at 9am.

INFORMATION ITEM: Lehigh Valley Passenger Rail Study LVTS Special Meeting

Ms. Bradley explained at 10am later this morning, the LVTS is meeting for a second special meeting discussing passenger rail in the Lehigh Valley. PennDOT and Consultants from WSP will be attending the meeting and going over comments and responses that were received since the last meeting. The meeting is intended to start a dialog of what LVTS will or will not do next.

Mr. Cotter instructed meeting attendees to hold their questions and comments until the Special Meeting.

New Business

INFORMATION ITEM: Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Awards

Mr. Gardi presented the State-wide TASA award winners in the Lehigh Valley:

- The City of Allentown received \$1.5 million for Traffic Safety upgrades in School zones.
- Coopersburg Borough received \$1,337,316 for Phase 9 of their streetscape project.
- The City of Easton received \$930,118 for the Abbott Street Bridge over the Lehigh Canal.
- Community Bike Works received \$440,000 for their Youth Bike Education programs.

Ms. Bradley emphasized that these awards from the state-wide pot of TASA money, and the regional allocation of TASA money will be a topic of discussion this summer when the LVTS technical committee establishes an application and selection criteria for the regional projects.

Status Reports

PennDOT District 5-0 Multimodal Transportation Fund and Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Project Status Report

Mr. Vottero gave a brief status update of the projects. There were no questions.

Monthly Traffic Report

Mr. Hite gave an overview of the Continuous Traffic Counters in the Lehigh Valley. Route 22 had a slight uptick in traffic, with over 107,000 cars on the last Tuesday in April. Mr. Hite also explained that both counters on I-78 are down for repairs, but a counter on Route 33 is being reinstalled and is expected to be operational by Memorial Day. There is also a brand-new counter being installed in Palmer Twp on Route 22 between Route 33 and Easton that is expected to be operational by early June.

Vision Zero Application

Mr. Gardi presented that the LVTS has begun the extensive application for National Vision Zero recognition. The application requires the LVTS to adopt a Vision Zero Action Plan, which will closely align with our Traffic Safety Plan update.

Ms. Bradley added that members of the LVPC and LVTS get frequent e-mails from a gentleman opposed to Vision Zero.

Public Engagement, Grants, and Education

INFORMATION ITEM: Public Engagement

Mr. Assad shared about the most recent Plan Lehigh Valley Radio Show, which aired on May 6th and discussed the draft Transportation Improvement Program with PennDOT District 5 Executive Chris Kufro and LVTS Coordinating Committee Chair Richard Molchany. The next show will take a look at the green infrastructure project grant and will air at 6:30pm on June 3rd.

INFORMATION ITEM: PennDOT Connects 2024 Municipal Outreach Meeting

Mr. Hite shared that municipalities can learn about resources and programs available to them through PennDOT.

INFORMATION ITEM: Grants

Mr. Dinkel presented three grant opportunities:

- Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
- Bridge Investment Program – FFY 2025

Adjournment

- Mr. Cotter stated the next LVTS meeting is a special meeting, today, May 15th.
- The next regularly scheduled Joint LVTS meeting is June 12th. Mr. Cotter noted this is the second Wednesday of the month, to honor the Juneteenth holiday on the third Wednesday.
- There is a second special Joint Meeting on June 27th for the Draft 25-28 TIP adoption.
- The next Technical Committee Meeting is on July 17th.
- Ms. Bradley motioned to adjourn the meeting.