



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO

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Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes from the Thursday, September 25, 2025, Meeting

The LVPC held a public meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025. The meeting was advertised in the Lehigh Valley Press on January 8th, 2025.

LVPC Chair Chris Amato chaired the meeting.

Mr. Christian Martinez took Roll Call.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County

Michael Drabenstott, Bob Elbich, Sunny Ghai, Philip Ginder, Steve Glickman, Kent Herman, John Inglis, Stephen Repasch, Kevin Schmidt, Richard Molchany and Dennis Klusaritz

Northampton County

Christopher Amato, Scott Minnich, John Gallagher, Judith Haldeman, Steve Melnick, Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen, Jean Versteeg and Basel Yandem

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Ron Beitler, Percy Dougherty, Matthew Tuerk, Jennifer Gomez, Diane Kelly, Christina Morgan, Santo Napoli and Owen O'Neil

Northampton County

Jessica Cope, Ken Kraft, Rachel Leon, Carl Manges, Lamont McClure, Edward Nelson, Salvatore Panto, Jr., J. William Reynolds, Andrew Elliott, Charles Elliott, John McGorry, Crystal Rose and Tina Smith

Staff Present: Becky A. Bradley, David Cohen, Jillian Seitz, Matt Assad, Susan Myerov, Christian Martinez, Corinne Ruggiero, Mackenzie Geisner, Subham Kharel, Clay Karnis, Minsoo Park, Tracy Oscavich, Denjam Khadka, Taylor Beasley, Chris Embert, Hannah Milagio, Evan Gardi and Samantha Pearson

Public Present: Amy Unger, Phil Gianfarco, Lauren Palmer, Meredith Hauck, Cathy Fletcher, Josh Rappaport, Joe Uliana and Ed Konjoyan

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Commissioner Moritz-Chapelliquen commented on how nice it is to meet in person and stressed the importance of the commission continuing to work together to better the region.

CHAIR'S REPORT

MINUTES

Chair Amato stated that the minutes of the Thursday, August 28, 2025, LVPC meeting are attached. Chair Amato asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Repasch made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Melnick seconded the motion.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none. The motion passed. Commissioner Klusaritz abstained.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: Lehigh County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendment

Ms. Seitz presented a proposal to update Lehigh County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. As the LVPC prepares to launch the new Online Submission Portal, the County's ordinance has to be updated to require electronic plan submission through the new portal; and remove or revise any existing requirement for submission of paper plans.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff review. Commissioner Elbich made the motion, and Commissioner Melnick seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions.

Commissioner Glickman asked if every municipality in the County has to submit through the e-plan portal, or if it only applies to the County SALDO communities. Ms. Bradley and Ms. Seitz confirmed that all plan submissions, regardless of municipality, must go through the e-plan portal.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: Northampton County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Amendment

Ms. Seitz presented a proposal to update Northampton County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. As the LVPC prepares to launch the new Online Submission Portal, the County's ordinance has to be updated to require electronic plan submission through the new portal; and remove or revise any existing requirement for submission of paper plans.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff review. Commissioner Minnich made the motion, and Commissioner Moritz-Chapelliquen seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: Comprehensive Planning Committee Summary Sheet

Comprehensive Planning Committee Vice Chair Gallagher briefed the Commission on the Comprehensive Committee Summary Sheet that featured a zoning ordinance amendment from Hanover Township (NC) for the Aircraft Flightpath Highway Business District and a subdivision and land development ordinance update from Whitehall Township regarding recreation fees.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the summary sheet. Commissioner Ghai made the motion, and Commissioner Repasch seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions and the Chair commented on poor air quality in the region and offered mitigation strategies for new development in the Aircraft Flightpath Highway Business District zone in Hanover Township (NC).

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. Commissioners Ginder and Versteeg abstained.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: Environment Committee Summary Sheet

Commissioner Repasch briefed the Commission on the Environment Committee Summary Sheet that featured the Lehigh County Authority Preliminary Capital Plan for 2026-2030 for its Allentown and Suburban Divisions and a Pennsylvania Utilities Commission review of an application for Comcast Cable Communications to install new underground communications infrastructure at Lehigh Drive in the City of Easton.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff review. Commissioner Moritz-Chapelliquen made the motion and Commissioner Drabenstott seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed. Commissioners Ghai and Herman abstained from the Lehigh County Authority Capital Plan item.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

INFORMATION ITEM: US Route 22 Mobility, Safety and Congestion Management Plan RFP
Ms. Bradley informed the Commission regarding a request for proposals for a Mobility, Safety and Congestion Plan for US Route 22. Ms. Bradley directed anyone interested in the project to pennbid.net for further information.

Commissioner Minnich asked about the selection and bidding process for the project. Ms. Bradley clarified the process, explaining that proposals would be taken until 3 pm October 10, the project would be scheduled to begin in December and be completed a year later.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Bradley introduced Lauren Palmer and Meredith Hauck, from EverStrive Solutions, to present an overview of the LVPC Strategic Plan.

The EverStrive Solutions team presented on the process behind the development of the strategic plan, the key research findings, the strategic pillars of the plan and previewed the implementation plan.

Commissioner Moritz-Chapelliquen emphasized the role of LVPC Commissioners as champions of the LVPC, building off a recommendation made in the strategic plan presentation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Chair Amato notified the Commission that monthly reports are featured in each Commissioner's packet. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

INFORMATION ITEM: 2025 Lehigh Valley Awards Gala

Ms. Pearson shared that the 2025 Lehigh Valley Awards and Gala has been scheduled for December 3rd at Hotel Bethlehem. The celebration honors the region's most impactful planning, design, and community development achievements across Lehigh and Northampton counties. Ms. Pearson described the awards to be given out and their nomination process. Information was also provided about sponsorship availability and ticket reservations.

Chair Amato commended the addition of the Percy Dougherty Planning Award and celebrated his contributions to planning in the region.

INFORMATION ITEM: Big Check Presentations

Mr. Assad gave a recap of the media events held by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study that distributed \$11.4 million in transportation funding at communities across the Lehigh Valley.

Chair Amato notified the Commission that items for communications and public engagement are featured in the meeting packet. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Amato stated that the next LVPC meeting will be on Thursday, October 21 at 7 pm. Chair Amato then asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Minnich made the motion. Commissioner Repasch seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and Christian Martinez, Environmental Planner