



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 27th, 2025, at 5:30 pm

AGENDA

THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED AT <http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2025> OR VIA PHONE 610-477-5793 Conf ID: 651 626 091#.

Roll Call

Courtesy of the Floor

1. Staff Introduction
 - a. Minsoo Park, Economist

Old Business:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Nominations and Elections for 2025 Committee Chair and Vice Chair (BB)

New Business:

1. *PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEM*: Palmer Township Active Transportation Plan
 - a. *PRESENTATION ITEM*: Craig Beavers, Palmer Township Deputy Director of Planning, AICP Candidate
 - b. *ACTION ITEM*: Review Letter (BD)
2. *INFORMATION ITEM*: 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Riverside Drive RAISE Grant Amendment Public Meeting (HM)
3. *INFORMATION ITEM*: 2025 LVPC/LVTS Work Program Updates (BB, BD, BH)
 - a. Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance, Freight Infrastructure Plan
 - b. LVPC, PennDOT, and LANTA Memorandum of Understanding
 - c. LVPC Strategic Plan
 - d. LVPC Website Rebuild and Electronic System Development
 - e. Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy
 - f. Project Selection – Part I
 - i. Transportation Alternatives Set Aside
 - ii. Carbon Reduction
 - g. Roadway Functional Classification System Update
 - h. Regional Transportation Safety Plan Update
 - i. Walk Audit, Local Technical Assistance Program, Local Safety Plans, US 22 Safety Corridor Designation, Data Layer Updates
 - i. Enhanced Bus, Bus Rapid Transit Partnership Project
 - j. Riverside Drive Implementation Project
 - k. US Route 22 Improvements Plan

- I. National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Phase I Project

Adjournment

Next Transportation Committee Meeting:
March 27, 2025, at 5:30 pm



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February 7, 2025

Craig Beavers
Deputy Director of Planning
Palmer Township
3 Weller Place
Easton, PA 18045

Re: Palmer Township 2025 Active Transportation Plan: A Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Review

Mr. Beavers,

The LVPC review of the *2025 Active Transportation Plan: A Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update* by Palmer Township was completed to provide comments regarding consistency with the goals and policies of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, a bi-county comprehensive and long-range transportation plan for Lehigh and Northampton Counties as well as the goals and policies of *WalkRollLV: Active Transportation*. The LVPC also reviewed any existing Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Lehigh and Northampton Counties, initiatives and plans to identify any corresponding mobility projects, programs, or policies for the region.

The Palmer Township Active Transportation Plan Update is generally consistent with the goals and associated policies of *FutureLV* as follows:

Goal 1: Efficient and Coordinated Development Pattern

- Policy 1.2: Direct growth by establishing a network of mixed-use centers and mixed-transportation corridors.
 - o Link centers with high-capacity, mixed transportation corridors.
 - o Support pedestrian-scale development.

Goal 2: Connected Mixed-Transportation Region

- Policy 2.1: Develop a mixed-transportation network to support a more compact development pattern, optimize roadway capacity and encourage alternative travel options.
 - o Establish mixed-transportation corridors.
 - o Enhance The Link – the Lehigh Valley multi-use trail network.
 - o Connect regional trails to Centers and Corridors.
 - o Promote funding opportunities for mixed-transportation and recreation facilities.
- Policy 2.2: Provide a safe, well-maintained transportation network to move people and goods efficiently, while capitalizing on existing infrastructure.
 - o Improve efficiency of existing infrastructure.

- Encourage an interconnected street, sidewalk and trail network.

Goal 5: Safe, Healthy, Inclusive and Livable Communities

- Policy 5.2: Increase social and economic access to daily needs for all people.
 - Promote safe routes to schools and playgrounds.
 - Ensure transportation accessibility for all persons.
 - Improve connections between bus stops and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- Policy 5.3: Create community spaces that promote physical and mental health.
 - Improve walkability of post-wat centers.
 - Promote street trees and pedestrian scale lighting.
 - Strengthen sidewalk, bike route and trail infrastructure.

Additionally, the update aligns with the following recommendations in *WalkRollLV: The Active Transportation Plan*:

Bicycle Commuting Corridors

- Northampton Street (Greenwood Avenue to Larry Holmes Drive)
 - Project 3 of the Central Palmer study area is the Northampton Street Bike Lane.
 - The corridor ranges from 6,500 to 8,500 AADT, it connects densely populated areas in three separate municipalities and connects the Two Rivers Area Trailway via the Wilson Bike Path.

Recommendations

- Walk/Roll recommends a reconfiguration of the 25th Street Intersections. It is recommended that it be a protected intersection with all right turn lanes removed, or a compact modern roundabout instead of signals.
- Walk/Roll also recommends Separated Bike Lanes from Greenwood Avenue to 25th Street, eliminating the center left-turn lane and provide buffered bike lanes on each side of the street.
 - Parking protected bike lanes are also suggested if there is a legislative change in Pennsylvania allowing them.
- Where Wilson Bike Path crosses Northampton Street on the Palmer/Wilson Border, Walk/Roll suggests upgrades to the crossing with a median refuge island, a raised crossing, and a rectangular rapid flashing beacon to warn drivers of crossing pedestrians.

Finally, the project aligns with the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study's Traffic Safety Plan mitigation strategies as follows:

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- Walkable Neighborhoods:

- Implementation of techniques designed to improve pedestrian movements, including well designed streets and sidewalks, places to walk to, interesting buildings, people, comfort, accessibility, green networks and beauty.
- Alternative Transportation:
 - An alternative method or means of travel other than the private motor vehicle, including walking, cycling, carpooling or mass transit.
- Pedestrian Accommodations:
 - Any series of pedestrian amenities, including but not limited to push buttons, crosswalks, ramps, sidewalks, etc.

The Palmer Township *2025 Active Transportation Plan: A Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan* Update will positively impact the residents of the Palmer Township and thousands of other residents within the Lehigh Valley who travel through this area. The plan suggests critical connections to our commuter trail network for pedestrians and bicyclists. Plans of this kind benefit disadvantaged communities and helps promote equitable access to important destinations for employment, education, retail, and recreation. This plan will help implement many key goals and policies of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, *WalkRollLV: Active Transportation Plan*, the Traffic Safety Plan, and several other critical planning documents.

The LVPC review team supports the township's efforts and is available for any further questions or aspects requested regarding this plan review.

Sincerely,

Evan Gardi

Transportation Planner

**LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY
BRIDGE STATUS REPORT
MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

**SR 145 over Jordan Creek Bridge Replacement (C-J. Crawford)
City of Allentown and Whitehall Township, Lehigh County
MPMS 110076 – est. let November 1, 2029**

- Coordination continuing with LANta regarding their bus stops and Enhanced Bus Service (EBS) project
- Coordination with the municipalities regarding the Jordan Creek Greenway Trail anticipated later this Fall
- Design team continuing to work on Preliminary TCP submission, including operational analysis of adjacent intersections during each stage
- PADEP and PAFBC have concurred with conceptual stream rehabilitation measures to be installed in conjunction with the bridge replacement and their limits, design team conducting H&H analysis to confirm no adverse impacts to the surrounding properties, designer submitted preliminary stream rehabilitation measures for review January 15, 2025
- Final TS&L and proposed geotechnical investigations will be finalized upon review of H&H

**SR 378 Hill to Hill Bridge Rehabilitation over Lehigh River (C-B. Teles)
City of Bethlehem, Lehigh and Northampton Counties
MPMS 93630 – est. let April 9, 2026**

- ROW plan was completed, appraisals have been initiated
- Highway, Traffic Control, bridge and lighting progressing
- Fencing requirements received January 2025, coordination with Norfolk Southern continues
- Utility coordination continues
- Boring field work is complete, Foundation Report submitted January 2025
- Permit related activities continue, COE Section 408 permit submitted to PennDOT for review December 2024
- Stormwater Management activities progressing, NPDES permit under PennDOT review
- Coordination with USCG and FHWA continues
- Pavement Design and pavement marking plan submitted January 2025 for review
- Draft Pre-Bid Construction Schedule prepared, refinement continues

**Fifth Street (SR 1029) Bridge Replacement (C-C. Frey)
Whitehall Township, Lehigh County
MPMS 94873 – est. let April 1, 2027**

- Project to be let with the SR 22 Fullerton Interchange project due to overlapping project limits and traffic control measures.
- Design team and DUA have determined the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority (NBMA) waterline will need to be relocated due to proximity to the proposed Fifth Street Bridge abutment foundations. Meeting to be scheduled with NBMA to discuss options once utility mapping is updated for recent UGI gas line construction
- Final Design supplement covering Final Structure Plans, Foundation Report, and Phase II/III ESAs executed October 24, 2025
- Final Design supplement for a Gap ROW Plan in process to advance the acquisitions involving relocation
- Several Whitehall Township officials provided positive feedback on the project and have verbally committed to maintaining the sidewalk on the bridge; a maintenance agreement being prepared for official signature

**Lower Saucon Road (SR 2001) over E Branch of Saucon Creek (C-J. Crawford)
Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County
MPMS 119940 – est let December 10, 2026**

- Project cleared for archaeological resources and historic resources January 27, 2025
- TS&L and H&H and Safety Review resubmitted for final approval January 23, 2025
- Designer working to finalize Design Field View and CE Level 1b Documents

**LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY
BRIDGE STATUS REPORT
MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

Church Road (SR 1016) over Trib to Little Bushkill Creek (C-E. Berg)
Plainfield Township, Northampton County
MPMS 12106 – est let June 10, 2027

- Phase 1 Bog Turtle Habit Study completed, report under review.
- Historic Resource Survey forms completed and submitted to District CRP on June 28, 2024
- Line, Grade & Typical Submission approved
- Safety Review Submission conditionally approved
- Preliminary H&H Report submitted
- Preliminary TS&L submitted

Raubsville Road (SR 2006) over Freys Run (M. Patel)
Williams Township, Northampton County
MPMS 109914– est. let February 13, 2025

- ROW clearance has been received
- Contract has been advertised

Fish Hatchery Road (SR 2010) over Little Lehigh Creek (C-M. McGuire)
City of Allentown, Lehigh County
MPMS 119933 – est let July 29, 2027

- Preliminary Traffic Control including pedestrians in progress
- Section 106 Coordination in progress
- Preliminary Type, Size and Location Plan approved

Powder Valley Road (SR 2025) over Indian Creek (C-J. Crawford)
Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County
MPMS 109237 – est. let April 19, 2026

- Project moving forward as superstructure replacement to avoid water surface elevation changes on adjacent properties
- Designer preparing to do soil/foundation borings this spring to verify existing substructure conditions for superstructure replacement

Hecktown Road (SR 2027) Bridge over Route 22 (C-R. Himmelwright)
Bethlehem Township, Northampton County
MPMS 89614 – est. let August 21, 2025

- Right of Way acquisition ongoing
- Final MPT Plans ongoing
- Final Structure Foundation Report ongoing
- Ongoing utility coordination for relocations

Farmersville Road (SR 2029) Bridge over Route 22 (C-M. McGuire)
Bethlehem Township, Northampton County
MPMS 71707 – actual let August 22, 2024

- Contract was awarded to H&K Group, Inc. on September 19, 2024
- NTP was issued on October 28, 2024
- Anticipated completion date is October 21, 2026

**LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY
BRIDGE STATUS REPORT
MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

**Limeport Pike (SR 2029) over Hosensack Creek (C-M. Fallon)
Lower Milford Township, Lehigh County
MPMS 119936 – est let April 22, 2027**

- Phase I Bog Turtle Study submitted May 10, 2024
- Safety submission submitted January 21, 2025
- TS&L conditional approval received November 21, 2024
- SEPS approved December 18, 2024

**South Walnut Street (SR 7408) Bridge over Trout Creek (C-J. Besz)
Slatington Borough, Lehigh County
MPMS 94680 – est. let April 10, 2025**

- ROW acquisition continues
- Utility coordination is complete; prior utility relocation work, by utility companies, ongoing
- The Phase III ESA was accepted on January 7, 2025
- The Final MPT was revised, resubmitted, and returned as “Revise and Resubmit” on January 14, 2025; revisions are ongoing
- The Final Traffic Signal Plans were signed and approved on October 22, 2024
- The Final Traffic Signing and Striping Plans were submitted and approved on September 18, 2024
- The Final Structure Plans were “Accepted as Noted”, and revised and returned for signatures on January 27, 2025
- The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and the Joint Permit Application were approved, and the permits issued on December 10, 2024
- The DM-3 Plan Check was conducted and returned as “Accepted as Noted” on December 23, 2024
- The 90% Constructability Review was conducted and returned as “Accepted as Noted” on December 19, 2024
- Section 106 Consulting Party coordination for development of mitigation measures was completed and documents posted on PA Project Path on January 22, 2025
- Preparation of the Pre-PS&E Submission is ongoing

**LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY
BRIDGE STATUS REPORT
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<u>ACRONYM REFERENCE</u>	
ACM/LBP	ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL / LEAD BASED PAINT
ACOE	ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ADA	AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT
BRPA	BRIDGE AND ROADWAY PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT
CBR	CONSTANT BIT RATE
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
GP	GENERAL PERMIT
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
NOITE	NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER
NPDES	NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
NTP	NOTICE TO PROCEED
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
TS&L	TYPE, SIZE AND LOCATION
USFWS	UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE