



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 Wednesday, April 16, 2025 Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting

Prior to the call to order, Ms. Milagio stated the agenda and materials for the meeting were posted on the LVPC website. She 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 8, 2025. Mr. David Hopkins chaired the Coordinating Committee portion of the meeting, and Mr. Brendan Cotter chaired the Technical Committee portion of the agenda.

Mr. Hopkins welcomed the members and the public participants and called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Ms. Milagio took Roll Call.

Attendees:

Technical Committee

Brendan Cotter	LANTA
Becky Bradley, AICP	LVPC
David Petrik (Alt.)	City of Allentown
Basel Yandem (Alt.)	City of Bethlehem
David Hopkins (Alt.)	City of Easton
Jen Ruth	PennDOT District 5
Nick Raio	PennDOT Central Office

LVTS Coordinating Committee

David Hopkins (Alt.)	City of Easton
Becky Bradley, AICP	LVPC
David Petrik (Alt.)	City of Allentown
Michael Alkhal (Alt.)	City of Bethlehem
Chris Kufro	PennDOT District 5-0
Jim Mosca	PennDOT Central Office
Owen O'Neill	LANTA
Thomas Stoudt	LNAA

Members Absent:

Technical Committee

Ryan Meyer	LNAA
Matthew Tuerk	City of Allentown
J. William Reynolds	City of Bethlehem
Salvatore Panto	City of Easton

Coordinating Committee

Rick Molchany (Alt.)	Lehigh County
Matthew Tuerk	City of Allentown
J. William Reynolds	City of Bethlehem
Lamont McClure	Northampton County
Michael Emili (Alt.)	Northampton County

Staff Present: Becky Bradley, Evan Gardi, Ben Dinkel, Brian Hite, Hannah Milagio, Faria Urmey, Subham Kharel, Mackenzie Geisner

Public Present:

Steve Turoscy, Brian Hare, Lawrence Peterson, Craig Beavers, Sherri Penchishen, Scott Harney, Jeff Rai, Mike Rebert, Evan Jones, Brian Miller, Scott Slingerland, Kent Baird, Gene Porochniak, Lee Rackus

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Hopkins welcomed Mr. Yandem as the new alternate for the City of Bethlehem on the LVTS Technical Committee. Mr. Yandem introduced himself as the Assistant Director of Public Works and City Engineer for the City of Bethlehem. There were no questions from members or the public for Mr. Yandem.

Minutes

Mr. Cotter stated that the last Technical Committee was held on March 19, 2025. Ms. Milagio noted the actions voted on:

- Minutes from the February 19th, 2025, Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Transportation Planning Agreement between LVPC, PennDOT, and LANTA
- 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Riverside Drive RAISE Grant TIP Amendment
- Adjournment

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Petrik made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Raio. There were no questions or comments from members of the public. Mr. Cotter asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion was approved.

Mr. Hopkins stated the Coordinating Committee meeting was held on March 19, 2025. Ms. Milagio noted the actions voted on:

- Minutes from the February 19th, 2025, Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Transportation Planning Agreement between LVPC, PennDOT, and LANTA
- 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Riverside Drive RAISE Grant TIP Amendment
- Adjournment

Mr. Hopkins asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Mosca made the motion, seconded by Mr. O'Neil. Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any questions or comments from the members and the public. Hearing none, Mr. Hopkins asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion was approved.

Old Business**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: State Transportation Commission 12-Year Program Survey**

Ms. Army presented a summary of the State Transportation Commission's (STC) online public forum, which was held to engage the public and solicit feedback and questions on the STC's 12-Year Program. The public comment period for the 12-Year Program will close on April 30, 2025.

Mr. Cotter noted that the LVTS can advocate for regional priorities to be included or advanced in the 12-Year Program through the public comment period. He noted that per the Transportation Planning Agreement with PennDOT and LANTA, the LVTS must send a list of larger, regional projects from the adopted Long Range Transportation Plan, to the STC for consideration of inclusion in the 12-Year Plan. A list of mid-range and long-range projects from *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, with estimated costs exceeding the average project size of \$7 million.

Ms. Bradley reviewed how the project list for the LVTS' advocacy for potential inclusion in the STC's 12-Year Program was developed. She noted that the LVPC recommends that the LVTS reinforce the need for projects on the current Transportation Improvement Program and request additional funding from statewide funds to advance projects on the National Highway System that extend into the mid-range that were started in the short-range. The LVPC also recommends that the staff evaluate projects for specific criteria to determine the final list to be forwarded to the STC with the request for inclusion in the 12-year program. These criteria include: bridge condition, safety concerns (fatalities and serious injuries), annual average daily traffic, congestion, inclusion in *Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan*, and proximity to the Express Bus Service (EBS/BRT) routes.

Mr. Cotter opened the floor for member discussion. Mr. Mosca thanked the LVPC staff for their work and the LVTS for being proactive in their support for the 12-Year Plan development and transparency. Mr. O'Neil stated that the inclusion of the EBS/BRT routes made sense because it is the primary transit goal of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. Mr. Cotter noted that the list included in the packet is long, and he asked if members had any questions on the methodology or wanted to add other projects. Ms. Bradley stated that more projects could not be added because of fiscal constraint, and that the methodology would be communicated to the Commonwealth. Mr. Cotter thanked Ms. Bradley for her explanation.

Mr. Raio asked why some projects were listed multiple times. Ms. Bradley informed him that a project with multiple listings indicates the project has funding in multiple ranges. Mr. Harney noted that the title of a project was Route 22 from the Lehigh River to Airport Road, but the description mentioned 15th Street to Airport Road, and he asked for clarification. Ms. Bradley said the staff would consult with PennDOT and report back. Mr. Yandem asked why the Linden Street conversion project was not included on the list. Mr. Hite noted that this project has a lower cost than the minimum \$7 million for inclusion on the list. Mr. Hopkins asked what it meant for a project to be included in fiscal constraint. Ms. Bradley stated that projects listed in the short, mid, or long ranges of the Long-Range Transportation Plan are included in fiscal constraint. There were no additional questions.

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend to the Coordinating Committee that the LVTS forward the project list recommended by the staff for the STC's consideration of inclusion in the 12-Year Plan. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to recommend to the Coordinating Committee Lehigh Valley projects for the STC's consideration of inclusion in the 12-Year Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Petrik. Mr. Cotter asked if there were any additional questions from members or the public, and there were none. Ms. Bradley called for the vote and the motion carried.

Mr. Hopkins asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to recommend the project list to the STC for consideration of inclusion in the 12-Year Plan. Mr. Mosca made a motion to recommend the project list to the STC for consideration of inclusion in the 12-Year Plan, which was seconded by Mr. O'Neil. Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any additional questions from members or the public, and there were none. Ms. Bradley called for the vote and the motion carried.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS: 2025 Work Program Updates

Roadway Functional Classification System Update

Ms. Army presented an update on the Roadway Functional Classification System project. She reminded meeting participants that the functional classification of a roadway can impact design, funding eligibility, and performance monitoring. Because of the significant regional growth since the last Functional Classification update, the daily vehicle miles travelled of both counties has increased by nearly 1 million. Ms. Army stated that LVPC staff have been working on collecting, analyzing, and mapping data on planning for future developments, population and employment density, land uses, traffic volume, and significant traffic generators to propose changes to the functional classification of road networks within Lehigh Valley region.

Ms. Geisner reviewed an ArcGIS tool that staff created to visualize all relevant datasets and identify key trip-generating locations across the Lehigh Valley. The visualization tool was displayed during the meeting. Dr. Kharel provided additional detail on the data analysis that supports the Roadway Functional Classification Update. He stated that the staff will prepare a list of corridors for consideration, which will help the LVTS Technical Committee prioritize functional classification upgrades or downgrades. Mr. Kharel showed two examples of analysis and recommendations. The first example was Route 100 and Tilghman Street in Upper Macungie Township, and it is recommended that both roadways be upgraded. Ms. Geisner provided the second example at South 25th Street and Freemansburg Avenue, and it is recommended that these roadways be upgraded.

Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any questions from LVTS members and the public. Mr. Harney asked if the functional classification is meant to describe the current characteristics of the roadway, or the needed/desired characteristics of the roadway. Ms. Bradley noted that it reflects the current characteristics, per federal guidelines. Mr. Slingerland asked if an upgrade to the functional classification

for Butler Street would increase truck traffic or the speed limit in that section. Ms. Bradley stated that trucks can drive on all roadways because of Commonwealth law. A speed limit could be raised to an upgraded location, but that would require a study and justification. She also noted that the list of potential roadways to be upgraded will be very long, which speaks to regional growth. There were no additional questions.

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Project Selection Criteria

Mr. Gardi noted that the Technical Committee met for a Workshop on March 24, 2025, to determine TASA project selection criteria. The Technical Committee considered state and federal criteria to create LVTS-specific scoring criteria and weighting, which were all displayed during the meeting. The next TASA workshop will be held on May 21, when the staff will present the scored project list. The vote to allocate TASA funds would occur during the Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting on June 18.

Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any questions from LVTS members or the public. Ms. Rackus asked if there was a local match requirement. Mr. Gardi said there was no local match requirement. Mr. Hite added that projects need to be designed and shovel ready for consideration. There were no additional questions.

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion to recommend approval of the LVTS TASA Project Selection Criteria and Weighting to the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Raio made a motion to recommend approval of the LVTS TASA Project Selection Criteria and Weighting to the Coordinating Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Yandem. Mr. Cotter asked if there were any questions from Technical Committee members or the public, and there were none. Ms. Bradley called for the vote, and the motion carried.

Mr. Hopkins asked for a motion to approve the LVTS TASA Project Selection Criteria and Weighting. Mr. Kufro made a motion to approve the LVTS TASA Project Selection Criteria and Weighting, which was seconded by Mr. Alkhal. Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any questions from Coordinating Committee members or the public, and there were none. Ms. Bradley called for the vote, and the motion carried.

Carbon Reduction Program Funds Reallocation

Ms. Army noted that the Carbon Reduction Monitoring and Evaluation Program which was included in the Transportation Improvement Program is an ineligible use of funds for the Carbon Reduction Program because it includes “planning activities”. This project was included because the Long-Range Transportation Plan and the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program were adopted before the guidance on Carbon Reduction Program eligible activities were released. The LVTS will adopt selection criteria for Carbon Reduction eligible projects to allocate funding, and this criteria would be determined at LVTS Technical Committee workshops.

Ms. Milagio stated that the workshops for Carbon Reduction Program funding would be held on June 25 at 9 AM and July 16 at 10:30 AM, both at the LVPC Office. The first workshop will set scoring criteria to evaluate potentially funded projects in the second workshop. The anticipated vote for the Carbon Reduction project list to take place at the August 20 LVTS meeting.

Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any questions from LVTS members or the public, and there were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Ruth noted that, from March 8 to April 4, there were five administrative actions and two statewide actions:

- Administrative Action #1: PA 309 Resurface, Lehigh County
- Administrative Action #2: Shimersville Hill Safety Improvements (Final Design Phase), Lehigh County
- Administrative Action #3: Construction Assistance – Fed, Lehigh County
- Administrative Action #4: Church Road over Tributary to Little Bushkill Creek
- Administrative Action #5: Shimersville Hill Safety Improvements (Utility Phase), Lehigh County
- Statewide Action #1: Northampton County Bridge 168 (High Street), Northampton County
- Statewide Action #2: LVTS CMAQ-LANTA Flex, Lehigh County

Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any questions from LVTS members or the public, and there were none.

New Business

INFORMATION ITEM: 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Bradley reminded meeting participants that the LVTS adopted this UPWP in October 2024 with a start date of July 1, 2025. During the finalization of the contract, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the US Federal Highway Administration required technical revisions to language as a result of Executive Orders implemented by the new administration. These changes are seen as non-material. Terms to be removed include diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility (non-access), energy impacts, climate change, greenhouse gas, racial equity, environmental justice, Justice40, Council on Environmental Quality. References to the following rescinded Executive Orders were removed: Environmental Justice, Racial Equity, Justice 40, Limited English Proficiency.

Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any questions from LVTS members or the public, and there were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning

Mr. Gardi noted that the LVPC is charged with developing a community-informed charging use case list to address the Electric Vehicle (EV) needs of the region. A regionwide survey is currently open to identify priority locations and destinations for EV infrastructure. The LVPC will also host a Planning and Pizza workshop on May 22 at the LVPC Office to gather more community input.

Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any questions from LVTS members or the public, and there were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: 1st Quarter of 2025, January to March Traffic Monitoring Report

Mr. Hite noted that one of the core functions of the LVPC supporting the LVTS is the Federal Highway Administration's Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data collection and analysis program. Four continuous traffic counters are in operation in the region, and Mr. Hite presented the data for each counter on the last Tuesday of the month:

- US Route 22, East of the Lehigh River Bridge:
 - January 2025: 101,618 vehicles (9,254 trucks)
 - February 2025: 102,493 vehicles (10,063 trucks)
 - March 2025: 106,143 vehicles (11,577 trucks)
- PA Route 33, South of PA Route 248
 - January 2025: 78,159 vehicles (8,954 trucks)
 - February 2025: 81,532 vehicles (10,087 trucks)
 - March 2025: 84,163 vehicles (12,003 trucks)
- US Route 22, East of PA Route 33
 - January 2025: 49,185 vehicles (2,410 trucks)
 - February 2025: 51,042 vehicles (3,001 trucks)
 - March 2025: 53,281 vehicles (2,856)
- PA Route 309, North of Coopersburg Borough
 - January 2025: 36,093 vehicles
 - February 2025: 37,064 vehicles
 - March 2025: 38,273 vehicles

Mr. Hopkins asked if there were any questions from LVTS members or the public, and there were none.

Status Reports

Mr. Hopkins said the status reports on PennDOT District 5 Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) and TASA Projects, the monthly Traffic Report and Public Engagement, Grants and Education were included in the meeting packet. There were no questions or comments from the committees or public.

Adjournment

Mr. Hopkins stated that the next LVTS meeting would be a Technical Committee meeting on May 21, 2025, at 9 AM. A Technical Committee workshop would follow that meeting at 10:30 AM at the LVPC Office. He noted that the next Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting would be held on

June 18 at 9 AM. He also mentioned that the Carbon Reduction Program Technical Committee workshops would be held on June 25 at 9 AM and July 16 at 10:30 AM, both at the LVPC Office. Ms. Bradley made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned.