



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, July 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 June 4, 2025. Mr. Rick Molchany chaired the Coordinating Committee portion of the meeting, and Mr. Brendan Cotter chaired the Technical Committee portion of the agenda.

Mr. Molchany 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
Ryan Meyer	LNAA
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

Rick Molchany (Alt.)	Lehigh County
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
James Mosca	PennDOT Central Office
Thomas Stoudt	LNAA

Members Absent:

Technical Committee

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

Coordinating Committee

Matthew Tuerk	City of Allentown
J. William Reynolds	City of Bethlehem
Lamont McClure	Northampton County
Michael Emili (Alt.)	Northampton County
Owen O'Neill	LANTA

Staff Present: Becky Bradley, Evan Gardi, Hannah Milagio, Faria Urmy, Giovanna Rizkallah, Vicent “Enzo” Fantozzi

Public Present:

Scott Slingerland, Craig Beavers, Toni Mitman, Jeff Rai, Lee Rackus, Scott Vottero, Heather Heeter, Rich Ames, Brian Hare, Scott Harney, Lawrence Peterson, Brian Miller, Ralph Eberhardt, Kerry Cox

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Molchany asked if there were comments for items not on the morning’s agenda, and there were none.

Minutes

Mr. Cotter stated that the last Technical Committee monthly meeting was held on June 18, 2025. Ms. Milagio noted the actions voted on:

- Minutes from the April 16th, 2025, Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Minutes from the April 30th, 2025, Special Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Minutes from the May 15th, 2025, Special Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Minutes from the May 21st, 2025, Technical Committee Workshop Meeting
- Eastern PA Freight Alliance Memorandum of Understanding
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning List Adoption
- TIP Amendment #1: PA 33 Bushkill Creek Bridges
- Adjournment

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion to approve the June 18, 2025 minutes. Mr. Petrik made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Meyer. 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. Molchany stated the last Coordinating Committee monthly meeting was held on June 18, 2025. Ms. Milagio noted the actions voted on:

- Minutes from the April 16th, 2025, Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Minutes from the April 30th, 2025, Special Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Minutes from the May 15th, 2025, Special Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Eastern PA Freight Alliance Memorandum of Understanding
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning List Adoption
- TIP Amendment #1: PA 33 Bushkill Creek Bridges
- TASA Awards
- Adjournment

Mr. Molchany asked for a motion to approve the June 18, 2025 minutes. Mr. Petrik made the motion, seconded by Mr. Stoudt. Mr. Molchany asked if there were any questions or comments from the members and the public. Hearing none, Mr. Molchany asked Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion was approved.

Mr. Cotter stated that the Technical Committee met for a Workshop Meeting on June 25, 2025. Ms. Milagio noted the actions voted on:

- Carbon Reduction Program Selection Process and Project List
- Adjournment

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion to approve the June 25, 2025 minutes. Mr. Raio made the motion, seconded by Mr. Yandem. 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.

Old Business

INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS: 2025 Work Program Updates

ACTION ITEM: Carbon Reduction Program Funds Project Selection Criteria and Allocations

Ms. Urmey explained the purpose of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and the eligible uses for funding. She outlined the LVTS Technical Committee's criteria and project selection process for the CRP, noting that the Technical Committee held a public workshop on June 25, 2025 to allocate CRP funding across the next four Federal Fiscal Years (FFY): 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028. Ms. Urmey reviewed the project selections made by the Technical Committee, which were included in the meeting packet:

- City of Bethlehem: Linden Street Conversion
 - \$1,800,000 in FFY 2025
- LANTA: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Route Infrastructure
 - \$366,000 in FFY 2025
 - \$319,000 in FFY 2026
 - \$300,000 in FFY 2027
 - \$219,000 in FFY 2028
- Hellertown Borough: Main Street and Polk Valley Road Improvements
 - \$600,000 in FFY 2026
- City of Allentown: Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Improvements
 - \$300,000 in FFY 2026
- City of Allentown: LED Streetlight Conversion
 - \$500,000 in FFY 2026
 - \$219,000 in FFY 2027
- City of Easton: Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Accommodation Improvements
 - \$500,000 in FFY 2026
 - \$300,000 in FFY 2027
 - \$200,000 in FFY 2028
- City of Bethlehem: Broad Street Multimodal Project
 - \$1,400,000 in FFY 2027
- LVTS: Riverside Drive RASIE Grant Project
 - \$1,800,000 in FFY 2028

Mr. Molchany asked for a motion to approve the Carbon Reduction Program project list as forwarded by the Technical Committee. Mr. Hopkins made the motion to approve the Carbon Reduction Program project list, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Stoudt. There were no questions from LVTS members or the public. Ms. Bradley called for the vote, and the motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEM: 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program Updates/Mid-Year Active Projects Report

Ms. Bradley reviewed the second half of the 2025 Work Plan projects timing. The schedule listed below was reviewed and displayed during the meeting:

- July 2025
 - 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update Scheduling
 - US 22 Plan Request-for-Proposals Issued
 - Trail Gap Analysis Start
 - Express Bus Service (EBS)/Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Data Decision-Making Tool Complete
- August 2025
 - Eastern PA Freight Alliance Implementation Agreement Signed by All Partners
 - Lehigh County Freight Land Use Community Kick-Off
- September 2025
 - LVPC Strategic Plan
 - Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update Scheduling Beyond 2025 Workplan
 - Project Selection Request-for-Proposals Issued
- October 2025
 - Population and Employment Projections
 - US 22 Proposal Award
 - Other Data Updates Presentation

- Estimated Functional Classification of Roadways Complete
- November 2025
 - Trail Gap Analysis Ends
 - E-Plan Submission System Testing
 - LVPC Website Rebuild Status Update
 - Estimated Project Selection Proposal Award
- December 2025
 - Annual List of Obligated Projects
 - Draft 2027-2030 TIP List
 - Lehigh County Freight Land Use Guide Complete

Mr. Molchany asked if there were any questions from LVTS members. Mr. Mosca thanked Ms. Bradley for her presentation. He noted that it is a great model for keeping the LVTS committees informed, and that other MPOs could use this as an example.

Mr. Molchany asked if there any questions from the public. Mr. Slingerland stated that safety is critical, and he asked if there would be public input opportunities for safety planning and the trail gap analysis. Ms. Bradley noted that new data sets for safety were just received by the staff, and that the announcements for the recently submitted Safe Streets for All grant are anticipated in October. Safety planning will move ahead next year, and the scope of that project will depend on whether or not a federal award is granted. She also noted that the trail gap analysis is currently in the data phase, and that the project team is looking to have data processed and ready for public engagement in early September.

Ms. Bradley also noted that a connection with the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) has been made, but the FRA has had a significant reduction in staff. There is currently one staff person at FRA who would work with the LVTS, and she should be available for the September meeting.

Mr. Molchany stated that the most important project on the workplan update list is the TIP because that is how transportation funding gets on the ground in the region. The TIP is always in motion, and there are a lot of projects that need money but not enough funding to support these needs. He expressed gratitude for the LVPC and the staff for their support in developing the TIP, and he asked if there was any update. Ms. Bradley noted that the staff had just received financial guidance. There is a transit shortfall, as the state does not yet have a budget, but partners are working together to address the issues. The LVTS is required to use the list of projects from the currently adopted version of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. Ms. Bradley expressed hope that the TASA and CRP project selection processes helped committee members and staff build up their skills and confidence on project selection. She stated that, during the last TIP update, the LVTS agreed that the focus would be on large, regional projects. There was not a lot of flexibility on the project list because once a project has used federal funding, it must be completed or payback all of the money spent. The TIP used to be in the \$300 million range, but the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) resulted in a significant increase. The IIJA is set to expire in October 2026, so transportation formula funds may change.

Mr. Molchany expressed gratitude to the Technical Committee for establishing protocols through the TASA and CRP project selection processes. He noted that the partnership between the MPO and PennDOT District 5 is helpful to develop the project list, and that the communication between the MPO and municipal partners is successful at stressing the importance of the MTP project submissions. He asked if there were any additional questions from the LVTS members or the public, and there were none.

INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEM: 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Ruth stated that TIP Amendment #1 was for four of the six TASA projects approved at the last LVTS Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting: Coalition for Appropriate Transportation Youth Bike Education, South Bethlehem Greenway Trail Extension, Albert Street D+L Trail, Downtown Easton Intersection Improvements. The remaining two projects, Community Bike Works Youth Bike Education and Allentown Safe Routes to School, are already on the TIP and do not require an amendment. The funding source for the projects is the Transportation Alternatives (TAP) line item.

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion to recommend approval of TIP Amendment #1: Transportation Alternative Set-Aside to the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Yandem made a motion to recommend TIP Amendment #1: Transportation Alternative Set-Aside to the Coordinating Committee, seconded by Mr. Petrik. There were no questions from Technical Committee members or the public. Ms. Bradley called for the vote, and the motion carried.

Mr. Molchany asked for a motion to approve TIP Amendment #1, as forwarded by the Technical Committee. Mr. Mosca made a motion to approve TIP Amendment #1, as forwarded by the Technical Committee, seconded by Mr. Kufro. There were no questions from Coordinating Committee members or the public. Ms. Bradley called for the vote, and the motion carried.

Ms. Ruth noted that, from June 7 to July 4, there were two administrative actions:

- Administrative Action #1: Construction Assistance Line Item, Lehigh County
- Administrative Action #2: Hecktown Road Bridge over US Route 22, Northampton County

There were no questions from LVTS members or the public. Mr. Molchany thanked Ms. Ruth for her work.

Status Reports

Mr. Molchany said the status reports on PennDOT District 5 Highway Projects, the Public Engagement, Grants and Education memo, and information regarding the Limeport Pike Bridge Replacement Plans Display were included in the meeting packet. There were no questions or comments from the committees or public.

Adjournment

Mr. Molchany stated that the next Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting would be held on August 20 at 9 AM. Mr. Kufro made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned.