



## 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, December 17, 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. 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
Nick Raio	PennDOT Central Office

##### 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
Michael Emili (Alt.)	Northampton County
Chris Kufro	PennDOT District 5-0
James Mosca	PennDOT Central Office
Owen O'Neill	LANTA
Thomas Stoudt	LNAA

#### Members Absent:

##### Technical Committee

Matthew Tuerk	City of Allentown
J. William Reynolds	City of Bethlehem
Salvatore Panto	City of Easton
Jen Ruth	PennDOT District 5-0

##### Coordinating Committee

Matthew Tuerk	City of Allentown
J. William Reynolds	City of Bethlehem
Lamont McClure	Northampton County

**Staff Present:** Becky Bradley, Evan Gardi, Subham Kharel, Hannah Milagio, Samantha Pearson, Giovanna Rizkallah

**Public Present:**

Lawrence Peterson, Scott Vottero, Brett Webber, Craig Beavers, Evan Jones, Manny Ferris, Scott Harney, Brian Hare, Scott Slingerland, Brian Miller, Gene Porochniak

**Courtesy of the Floor**

Mr. Molchany asked if there were comments for items not on the morning's agenda. Mr. Slingerland shared that the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation (CAT) move to the newly constructed parking garage in West Bethlehem was moving along well. A ribbon cutting would be held at some point in January. He also expressed gratitude to PennDOT for providing stabilization funding to LANTA, and to the LVTS for supporting LANTA. 2025 was a challenging year for funding cuts to transit, especially when transit ridership in the Lehigh Valley is growing. Mr. Slingerland stated that, if there are transportation funds available for bridges, streets and highways, there should be funds available to support public transit. Mr. O'Neil clarified that transit is not impacted by cuts, but rather by the lack of new funding sources. Transit operating and capital costs are increasing, and the current funding levels cannot maintain the exist service levels without new funding sources.

Ms. Bradley stated that the potential interstate designations for Routes 22 and 33 were reviewed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Special Committee of the council of Highways and Streets. Both requests were declined at this time because "deficiencies in geometrics should be rectified prior to redefining the route." She noted that this was expected, and that achieving interstate designation is a process. The LVTS will work with PennDOT to understand what is needed to further pursue interstate designations for both. Mr. Molchany asked to confirm that this was not a permanent rejection and that they could resubmit after further work was completed, and Ms. Bradley confirmed this was true.

Ms. Bradley thanked Mr. Molchany for his years of support and service to the LVPC and the LVTS, as well as his commitment to quality information and data. Mr. Molchany expressed gratitude to the LVPC and the LVTS, stating that this work truly is essential to region because of the stress placed on transportation infrastructure by increased land development. Ms. Pearson shared that the LVPC had the LVPC wanted to recognize his service and leadership by presenting a clock that was engraved with: "For the time you devoted, the commitment you showed, and the impact you made."

Ms. Rizkallah introduced herself to the LVTS as the newest fulltime staff member at the LVPC. She provided a brief background of her accomplishments and education. Mr. Molchany welcomed her to the LVTS. There were no further comments on items that were not included in the agenda.

**Minutes**

Mr. Cotter stated that the Technical Committee would vote on three sets of minutes. Ms. Milagio noted the actions voted on at the three meetings:

- November 5 Joint Technical + Coordinating Committee Workshop
  - Adjournment
- November 19 Technical Committee Meeting
  - Minutes from the October 15, 2025 Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
  - Minutes from the October 22, 2025 Technical Committee Workshop
  - Congestion Management Process Project Selection Criteria
  - Adjournment
- December 4 Joint Technical + Coordinating Committee Workshop
  - Adjournment

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

Mr. Molchany stated the Coordinating Committee would vote on three sets of minutes. Ms. Milagio noted the actions voted on at the three meetings:

- October 15 Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting
  - Minutes of the September 17, 2025 Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting
  - Adjournment
- November 5 Joint Technical + Coordinating Committee Workshop
  - Adjournment
- December 4 Joint Technical + Coordinating Committee Workshop
  - Adjournment

Mr. Molchany asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Mosca made the motion, seconded by Mr. Stoudt. There were no questions or comments from members of the public. Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion was approved.

### **Old Business**

#### ***INFORMATION ITEM: 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)***

Ms. Bradley noted that three TIP development were be held virtually to review carryover projects, develop selection criteria, complete a project selection process, and review the draft project list. She noted that the draft project list was reviewed at the December 4 Workshop, and that the next step is for the LVTS approve the draft list so that it can be sent to PennDOT Central Office and the US Department of Transportation for vetting and review. Mr. Mosca added that the deadline for this submission to PennDOT Central Office is December 31, and it is truly a draft list. PennDOT and federal partners will review the projects for eligibility, cash flow, and any issues that can be identified before the list goes out for public comment before adoption. Ms. Bradley stated that, once the list is submitted, staff would be able to complete other tasks needed for the TIP adoption.

Mr. Molchany asked for confirmation that the current vote needed is to send the draft list to PennDOT Central Office, and that the final vote would occur in June. Mr. Mosca confirmed that this was true, and he added that this TIP would be combined with all the TIPs across the commonwealth for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for federal review. Mr. Molchany noted that this is a step in the process, and that there will be more communications on the TIP as the process continues.

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend the approval of the 2027-2030 Draft TIP Project List to the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Hopkins made the motion to recommend approval of the 2027-2030 Draft TIP Project List to the Coordinating Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Raio. There were no questions or comments from members of the public. Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion was approved.

Mr. Molchany asked for a motion to approve the 2027-2030 Draft TIP Project List, as forwarded by the Technical Committee. Mr. Kufro made the motion to approve the 2027-2030 Draft TIP Project List, which was seconded by Mr. Stoudt. There were no questions or comments from members of the public. Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion was approved.

#### ***INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM: 2025-2028 TIP***

##### **TIP Amendment #1: Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Projects**

Ms. Peterson stated that TIP Amendment #1 is for the addition of the projects selected for Carbon Reduction Program funding to the 2025-2028 TIP. The projects being added are Main Street and Polk Valley Road Improvements in the Borough of Hellertown, Martin Luther King Jr Drive Pedestrian Improvements in the City of Allentown, Allentown LED Streetlight Conversion, and Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Accommodation Improvements in the City of Easton.

Mr. Cotter asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to recommend TIP Amendment #1 for the CRP Projects to the Coordinating Committee. Ms. Bradley made a motion to recommend TIP Amendment #1 for the CRP Projects to the Coordinating Committee, and it was seconded by Mr. Meyer. There were no questions or comments from LVTS members of the public. Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion was approved.

Mr. Molchany asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve TIP Amendment #1 for the CRP Projects, as recommended by the Technical Committee. Mr. Stoudt made a motion to approve TIP Amendment #1 for the CRP Projects, which was seconded by Mr. O'Neil. There were no questions or comments from LVTS members of the public. Ms. Bradley to call for a vote and the motion was approved.

### **TIP Administrative Actions**

Mr. Peterson noted that, from October 4 to December 5, there were 11 administrative actions, one statewide action, and two interstate administrative actions:

- Administrative Action #1: Main Street from 21<sup>st</sup> Street to Cherryville Road, Northampton County
- Administrative Action #2: Lehigh Street + Race Street Intersection, Lehigh County
- Administrative Action #3: Hecktown Road Bridge over Route 22, Northampton County
- Administrative Action #4: Donats Peak Road Bridge over Kistler Creek, Lehigh County
- Interstate Administrative Action #1: LVTS Interstate Truck + Safety Study, Lehigh County
- Interstate Administrative Action #2: District Wide Interstate Concrete Patching, Northampton County
- Administrative Action #5: Transportation Alternative Project Management, Lehigh County
- Administrative Action #6: State Route 512 over Brush Meadow Creek, Northampton County
- Administrative Action #7: State Route 309 Resurface, Lehigh County
- Administrative Action #8: Mauch Chunk Road Signal Upgrade, Lehigh County
- Administrative Action #9: Shimersville Hill Safety Improvements, Lehigh County
- Statewide Administrative Action #1: Coplay Multimodal Street Improvements, Lehigh County
- Administrative Action #10: St. John Street Improvements, Northampton County
- Administrative Action #11: LVTS Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ) – LANTA Flex, Lehigh County

Mr. Molchany noted that administrative actions did not require a vote by the LVTS. He stated that amendments and administrative actions on the TIP were essential to maintain fiscal constraint, and that the LVTS is always looking ahead to make sure that funding will be available to address needs. There were no additional comments or questions on this item.

### ***DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM: 2026 LVTS Meeting Schedule***

Ms. Milagio noted that, at the LVTS Technical Committee meeting in November, there was a thorough discussion of adjusting the standing meeting schedule to allow for the Technical and Coordinating Committees to meet separately. In response to that discussion, the LVPC Staff examined a variety of scheduling scenarios. Based on availability of LVTS members, legal advertising requirements, and staffing capacity, two options were developed. Both options propose two changes from the 2025 meeting schedule. The first proposed change is that there will be no LVTS meeting in August. The second proposed change is that the Coordinating Committee does not meet every month, but instead meets in January, March, May, June, September, October and December. These dates correlate with the adoption of performance measures, the TIP, and other items that require Coordinating Committee consideration.

Ms. Milagio presented Option One, which would continue the current meeting pattern. This option includes one LVTS meeting per month, with the Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting jointly seven times, and the Technical Committee meeting on its own four times in 2026. She then presented Option Two, which would hold separate meetings for the Technical and the Coordinating Committees. This option includes a Technical Committee meeting on the second Wednesday of every month, except August, and a Coordinating Committee meeting on the third Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, June, September, October and December. The LVPC Staff are asking for a discussion and vote today by the LVTS on which option the committees would like to pick for 2026 so that internal processes

can be adequately prepared and legal advertising requirements from the PA Sunshine Act and the LVTS' Public Participation Plan can be met.

Mr. Molchany opened the floor for discussion on the meeting schedule options. Mr. Stoudt asked for clarification on the October date, which was listed as the fourth Wednesday of the month. Ms. Milagio noted that this was intentional because the LVPC Staff would be supporting American Planning Association Pennsylvania Chapter's Annual Conference the third week of October. Mr. Molchany stated that in both options, the Coordinating Committee meetings will be held on the same days. The difference in schedules will have a larger impact on the Technical Committee, particularly those members who serve on both committees. He asked Mr. Cotter to lead the discussion.

Mr. Cotter summarized the discussion from the November Technical Committee meeting. He asked Technical Committee members to share their thoughts on the schedule options. Mr. Hopkins stated that he supports Option Two because Joint Meetings have been too long, and schedules do not allow for members to consistently attend three-hour long meetings. He also stated that staff should look to streamline the content of the meetings.

Mr. Porochniak asked if there was a process in place for e-ballot votes. Mr. Molchany stated that the LVTS had conducted a vote via e-ballot before, but there was not a process specified in the LVTS bylaws. Mr. Porochniak asked how TIP amendments would be handled from July to September if the Coordinating Committee did not meet. Mr. Molchany stated that this was an issue that could be addressed if/when there was a need. He added that agendas are overfull because there is a lot going on, and that the Coordinating Committee may need to meet more frequently to streamline meetings.

Mr. Cotter asked Technical Committee members how they felt about Option Two. Mr. Raio echoed Mr. Porochniak's comments about the gap between Coordinating Committee meetings in the summer. Mr. Molchany stated that the Coordinating Committee schedule is the same in both options, and that the obligation was really on the Technical Committee to decide on whether or not they would like to have separate meetings. Members who are on both committees would have more meetings to attend. Mr. Hopkins addressed Mr. Porochniak's concerns by stating that, if an additional Coordinating Meeting is required, one can be called for an advertised.

Mr. Kufro noted that the other two MPOs that the District 5 staff are involved hold their committee meetings separately. Mr. Cotter stated that Technical Committee meetings may still be longer because it's where technical and planning discussions take place. Mr. Mosca stated that other regions around the commonwealth hold separate meetings. He also echoed Mr. Porochniak's comments, but it should be fine to have this gap between Coordinating Meetings if special meetings could be called for when needed.

Mr. Molchany noted that a decision needed to be made on the base schedule, and that the Technical Committee should decide if they would like to have separate meetings. Mr. Hopkins made a motion to recommend Option 2 (holding separate Technical and Coordinating Committee meetings) for the 2026 LVTS Schedule to the Coordinating Committee, and Mr. Petrik seconded the motion. Ms. Milagio noted that, because Ms. Bradley and Mr. Meyer needed to leave the meeting, the Technical no longer held a quorum. Mr. Hopkins changed his motion to be for Option 2, contingent on an affirmative e-ballot from the members who were not present at the time of the vote. Mr. Petrik seconded the motion. Ms. Milagio called for the vote, and the motion carried.

Mr. Molchany asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve Option 2 for the 2026 LVTS Schedule, contingent on the affirmative e-ballots from Technical Committee members who were not present at the time of the vote. Mr. Mosca made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. O'Neil. Ms. Milagio called for the vote, and the motion carried.

#### ***DISCUSSION ITEM: 2026-2027 LVTS Technical + Coordinating Committee Officer Nominations***

Mr. Molchany read from the LVTS Bylaws: "Officers shall consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair and a Secretary. The Chair shall preside at all meetings. The Vice Chair shall act for the Chair in the event of his or her absence. The Secretary shall keep records of actions and attest contracts. All officers shall serve for a

two-year term of office and may serve for two consecutive terms.” He stated that nominations would be collected for all officer positions in both counties during this meeting, followed by an election at the January meeting. Mr. Molchany stated he has felt honored to be the Chair of the Coordinating Committee, which has been a rewarding experience for him to do great work for the region with the other members.

Mr. Molchany asked for nominations for officers of the Coordinating Committee. Hearing none from the Committee, Mr. Molchany nominated Mr. O’Neil as Chair, Mr. Kufro as Vice Chair, and Ms. Bradley as Secretary. Mr. Cotter asked for nominations for the officers of the Technical Committee. Hearing none from the Committee, Mr. Cotter nominated Mr. Yandem for Chair, Mr. Raio for Vice Chair, and Ms. Bradley for Secretary. Mr. Cotter noted that nominations would also be accepted from the floor during the January election.

#### ***INFORMATION ITEM: Annual List of Obligated Projects***

Mr. Gardi stated that the Annual List of Obligated Projects is a federal legislative requirement to make publicly available a list of all federal transportation funded projects for the previous federal fiscal year (FFY), October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025. The list also includes projects that have been completed during that time. He noted that an obligation is the federal government’s legal commitment to pay the federal share of a project cost, usually by phase of the project, that has been authorized by a federal agency. Projects for which funds have been obligated are not necessarily initiated or completed in the program year, and the amount of the obligation will not necessarily equal the total cost of the project.

Mr. Gardi noted that in FFY 2025, \$53,742,280 was obligated in highway, bridge and enhancement grant projects. De-obligations, or monies saved from previously obligated projects, in FFY 2025 for these projects were \$7,563,600. Transit funding obligations in FFY 2025 were \$2,031,823. Interstate system obligations in the region were \$5,603,640 for FFY 2025.

Mr. Gardi stated that there were \$92,846,194 in completed transportation projects and \$401,659,004 in estimated under construction projects. He noted that the Annual List of Obligated Projects will be posted to the LVPC website before the end of the month, and he thanked the LVPC Graphic Design team for their work on the report. Mr. Molchany asked if there were any questions from LVTS members. Mr. Mosca thanked the LVPC staff for their work on getting this together, and he reiterated that posting the Annual List of Obligated Projects to the website is a federal requirement. There were no additional questions from LVTS members or the public.

#### ***INFORMATION ITEMS: 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program Updates/Active Projects Report***

##### **US Route 22 Plan**

Mr. Gardi shared that the contract for the Mobility, Safety and Congestion Management Plan for US Route 22 had been awarded to Michael Baker International in conjunction with JMT, Traffic Planning and Design, Drive Engineering and AD Marble. The anticipated completion for the project is December 2026. Mr. Molchany reminded meeting participants that the funding for the study was made available through Senator Nick Miller and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. There were no questions from LVTS members or the public.

##### **Lehigh Valley Trail Connection Strategy**

Mr. Gardi stated that the Lehigh Valley Trail Connection Strategy is a regional approach at identifying and evaluating gaps in the trail network across Lehigh and Northampton Counties. The overall vision is “To develop an interconnected trail network that ensures users can move throughout the Lehigh Valley and beyond; strengthening multi-modal connectivity, expanding equitable access to outdoor recreation, and enhancing quality of life.” To accomplish this vision, staff have identified trail gaps across the regional trail network with support from available data and community partners. These gaps provide a base from which to identify higher impact projects.

Mr. Gardi showed a map of the regional trails identified, which includes open, under construction, and conceptual trails. The trails outlined on the map were scored, and the top ten trail gaps were identified as:

- Jordan Creek Greenway: Mauch Chunk Road to Lapp Road

- Jordan Creek Greenway: Route 309 to Trexler Nature Preserve
- Karl Stirner Arts Trail: Karl Stirner to Palmer Bikeway
- Delaware + Lehigh (D+L): Dauphin and Bradford Streets
- D+L: Ironton Rail Trail north to D+L at Cementon and south to Race Street
- D+L: Riverside Drive from Jordan Drive to Water Street
- Martin Luther King Trail Phase 2: Cedar Creek Parth trailhead at West Hamilton Street to Lehigh Parkway
- Stockertown/Tatamy Rail Trail: Southern end of Stockertown Rail Trail to Two Rivers Trailway at Tatamy
- Two Rivers Trailway: D+L Trail at Glendon Hill Road to Lehigh Drive
- Bushkill Township Trail: Route 512 to Appalachian Trail at Wind Gap

Mr. Gardi outlined the criteria created to score the trail gaps:

- *FutureLV: The Regional Plan Alignment*
- *Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan Alignment*
- Regionally Specific Criteria
  - Population + Employment
  - Ammenities Connections
  - Transit Integration
  - Sidewalk Network Connections
- Multi-Jurisdictional Impact
- PA Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (DCNR) Statewide Priority Trail Gaps
- Connection to Public Recreational Facilities
- Length of Trail Gap Segment
- Shovel Readiness

Mr. Gardi stated that the Trail Gap Connection Strategy can be used in municipal planning efforts including comprehensive plans, active transportation plans, and ordinance updates. The Strategy will also have an impact on the updates to *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* and the Global Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance. He noted that the Strategy will be reviewed by LVPC's Environment and Transportation Committees, and adopted by the LVPC Full Commission, at the January meetings.

Mr. Molchany stated the Strategy can also be an important resource to seek funding to address these trail gaps. Residents of the Lehigh Valley continually share that opportunities for passive recreation, open space and multimodal transportation are important to them, and trails support these needs. There were no additional comments or questions from the LVTS members or the public.

## New Business

### ***INFORMATION ITEM: Scranton – New York Corridor ID Agency Stakeholders***

Mr. Gardi stated that the LVTS has been asked to sit on a committee for the Scranton to New York Passenger Rail Line. Since the corridor passes along the border of Northampton County and potential stops would be a commutable distance outside the region, the LVTS was noted as a valuable stakeholder in this process moving forward. Mr. Gardi showed a map of the potential service route from Scranton to New York and noted that this process will be valuable as the region looks to continue the Lehigh Valley Passenger Rail effort.

Mr. Molchany noted that, as a stakeholder, the LVTS is in a position to make comments, which would be a positive thing. He also shared that Ms. Bradley was continuing to attempt to coordinate with the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) for a presentation at an upcoming LVTS meeting, and that behind-the-scenes efforts to seek funding to further the Lehigh Valley Passenger Rail study are ongoing. There were no additional questions or comments from LVTS members or the public.

## Status Reports

Mr. Molchany said the status reports on PennDOT District 5 Transportation Alternative Set-Aside and Multimodal Transportation Fund Projects, the Monthly Traffic Report, and the Public Engagement, Grants and Education memo were included in the meeting packet. There were no questions or comments from the committees or public.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Molchany stated that the next LVTS meeting will be a Technical Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 14. The next Coordinating Committee Meeting will take place a week later on Wednesday, January 21. Both meetings will be held at 9 AM. Mr. O'Neil made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned.