



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

C/O LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
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The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study Coordinating Committee met on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission conference room. In attendance were:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Name

Representing

Craig Messinger**

City of Allentown

Matt Dorner**

City of Bethlehem

Richard Young***

Northampton County

Armand Greco*

LANta

Becky Bradley*

LVPC

Michael Donchez

Tracy Oscavich

Ray Green

PennDOT Central Office

Larry Shifflet*

Lory Anderson

PennDOT District 5-0

Michael Rebert* (Chair)

PUBLIC PRESENT

John Caperilla

Borton-Lawson

Kathy Dimpsey

FHWA

Carol Halper

Congressman Charlie Dent's Office

Nathan Jones

Bethlehem Township

Matt Malozi

Rettew Associates, Inc.

Bill Royer

State Representative Ryan Mackenzie

Matt Szuchyt

Senator Pat Browne's Office

Nelson Varughese

City of Allentown

(*Denotes Voting Member and Number of Votes)

Mr. Rebert chaired the meeting.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

None.

MINUTES

Mr. Greco moved for approval of the minutes from the July 16, 2014 Coordinating Committee meeting. Mr. Shifflet seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation on Long Range Transportation Plan Interim Update

Ms. Bradley said we have done an interim update to the Long Range Transportation Plan which refers to the 2015-2018 TIP. This allows that TIP to then be utilized for the projects that are in the Lehigh Valley. Basically that is what this addendum does. Our plan for getting our full Long Range Transportation Plan done is to have the final plan to you in June. The State is in the process of updating their Long Range Transportation Plan as well. We will be able to see that and coordinate it with our Long Range Transportation Plan soon. We are presenting the Interim Lehigh Valley Long Range Transportation Plan to the Coordinating Committee today. Ms. Dimpsey said this extends to cover beyond a twenty year period until 2040. Mr. Rebert moved to approve the Long Range Transportation Plan Interim Update. Mr. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Ms. Oscavich said in about two weeks we are going to have our Lehigh Valley Awards Ceremony along with the release of our Sustainable Communities Summary document. If you haven't received a copy and would like to review it, let me know. Ms. Bradley said the Federal initiative included 14 partners over three years who came together to look at sustainability-related things in the region. There were ten projects involved in the study. It is actually going to have all of those projects summarized and we have developed 31 new goals for the region. There is a significant number of transportation goals particularly related to some of LANta's work. We are excited about the release of this document. Mr. Greco asked what extent would this group be involved in the draft of the *ILV* document. Ms. Bradley said the group would not influence the *ILV* document specifically but the new goals will influence the Long Range Transportation Plan. The document will influence the Regional Comprehensive Plan update as well. Both plans are in the process of beginning to be updated in 2015.

Mr. Shifflet discussed multi-modal as part of Act 89. There was money carved out for a newly created multi-modal funding category within not just PennDOT but there was a part carved out for DCED. DCED announced their projects several weeks ago. PennDOT is getting close to having a list finalized for release in the next few weeks. We also have a statewide open

round for Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects. There are many very similar applicants. We are trying to pick projects that don't duplicate projects with other applicants who will be going through the review committee. We want to help extend our funding as far as we can. TAP will be a combination of the multi-modal. Ms. Anderson asked if the TAP funds are separate. Mr. Shifflet said they are separate and multi-modal state funds are part of Act 89. He said we are going through the projects before we make final selections. Another thing that came out of Act 89 is local bridge bundling. We did three pilots — one in Northeast Pennsylvania, one in Central Pennsylvania (Altoona) and one in Southwest Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh area). Mr. Shifflet said in the next month we will be close to our final selections. We will be looking for all of the MPO's to be helping out with that program some time before the end of the year. Mr. Shifflet said yesterday there was a round table discussion where they kicked off the announcement of the Green Light Go Program which is part of the Act 89. A webinar is another thing they are offering statewide. Mr. Greco asked about the rapid bridge replacement program. Mr. Shifflet said the proposals from the four short listed vendors were due back to the Department September 29th. The review team is presently reviewing the proposals. Mr. Greco asked if he was expecting multiple awards. Mr. Shifflet said they will pick a proposal based on technical expertise, cost, etc. There will be a lot going on in the next few months as far as additional projects. Mr. Shifflet said on the 2015 TIP there is a line item to help out with costs. However, the first four years we set aside statewide line items to handle the initial costs. Mr. Shifflet concluded his presentation.

Ms. Bradley said the covered bridge that was replaced by the Lehigh Valley Zoo turned out beautifully. It functions well and maintains the context of that area. Ms. Bradley thanked the PennDOT representatives for a good job with that bridge.

Mr. Shifflet said there is nothing to report about Federal funding. We have an extension until May and a couple of bills are being floated around. Ms. Halper said she just touched base with staff and they have an extension through May 31, 2015 which goes to the Highway Trust Fund and Surface Transportation Committee. Congressman Dent is on the Appropriations Committee for transportation. Mr. Shifflet said the good news is we have an extension.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mr. Rebert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Greco moved to accept the motion. Ms. Bradley seconded the motion.

Submitted by,

Kathleen M. Sauerzopf for
Becky A. Bradley, AICP
Secretary
LVTS Coordinating Committee