



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

C/O LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
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The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study Coordinating Committee met on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. PennDOT District 5-0, 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA. In attendance were:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Name

Representing

Craig Messinger**	City of Allentown
Nelson Varughese	
Matt Dorner**	City of Bethlehem
David Hopkins**	City of Easton
Richard Molchany***	Lehigh County
Steve Turoscy	
Stan Rugis***	Northampton County
Brendan Cotter*	LANta
Becky Bradley*	LVPC
Michael Donchez	
George Kinney	
Ray Green	PennDOT Central Office
Larry Shifflet*	
Michael Rebert* (Chair)	PennDOT District 5-0

PUBLIC PRESENT

Kurt Derr	State Senator Lisa Boscola
Kathy Dimpsey	FHWA
Cory Donahue	
Carl McGlouglin	Borton-Lawson
Taylor Munoz	State Senator Mario Scavello
Carol Obando-Derstine	U.S. Senator Bob Casey
Bill Royer	State Representative Ryan Mackenzie
Justin Simmons	121 st Legislative District
Matt Szuchyt	State Senator Pat Browne
Nancy Wilt	State Representative Peter Schweyer

(*Denotes Voting Member and Number of Votes)

Mr. Rebert chaired the meeting.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

None.

MINUTES

Mr. Shifflet moved for approval of the minutes from the October 8, 2014 Coordinating Committee meeting. Ms. Bradley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Report on the Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Donchez said we are currently in the update process of the *Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP). We have developed revised goals and policies for the LRTP. We've been coordinating with the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) and LANta. In addition to that we've been coordinating with our freight consultant CDM Smith who is working on a freight plan for the Lehigh Valley. Freight will be incorporated into the LRTP for the first time in a much more robust fashion. We have taken some of the goals, objectives and policies from the consultant for the freight component as well as LANta. LANta has provided their portion of the goals and policies. We are currently waiting for the Airport Authority's contribution towards the goals and policies for the LRTP. Once we are in receipt of them, we will incorporate them into the LRTP as well.

Mr. Donchez said, as far as moving forward, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) staff has set up a meeting next week with PennDOT District 5-0 to begin the evaluation of the projects that are on the current LRTP and the 85 projects we received during the January and February outreach meetings. The 85 projects received for consideration on the LRTP total a little over \$400M in value. We will evaluate them on a project by project basis to see how they fit into the LRTP.

Mr. Donchez said the LRTP has to go through an air quality conformity analysis and determination. We have contracted with AECOM Consultants out of Newark, New Jersey to provide those services for us. The consultant will conduct the air quality conformity analysis and develop the determination report. In addition to that, they will also conduct a benefits and burdens analysis on the projects in the LRTP and their resulting impact on the Environmental Justice communities.

Mr. Hopkins asked if all projects are subject to the air quality conformity analysis. Mr. Donchez said not every project is subject to the analysis. Projects that are deemed as being air quality significant are subject. For example, a bridge replacement project that is not adding any additional capacity is considered an air quality neutral project. Adding lanes or hybrid buses could have a positive air quality benefit. That would be considered an air quality significant project. Mr. Hopkins said the first step is determining if there is an impact and, if there is,

determining what that impact is. Mr. Donchez said the first step is determining which projects are air quality significant and then determining what the overall impacts are as a result of modeling those projects.

Mr. Donchez said, as far as the schedule is concerned, we are looking to have a draft of the LRTP completed by the end of May 2015. Prior to that we are looking to bring the draft list of projects to the next LVTS Technical Committee meeting which will be the end of April 2015. We will begin the 30 day public review and comment period late May 2015 to late June 2015 with final adoption of the plan in late June 2015.

Mr. Rebert suggested, once we go through the Technical Committee meeting, a copy of the projects should be given to the Coordinating Committee. There are a lot of projects. There are a couple competing interests that we may not be able to accommodate everything on the LRTP.

Mr. Donchez said, as part of the LRTP, we will develop an unmet needs section of the LRTP. Financial resources are limited and the transportation needs typically far exceed the available financial resources. The unmet needs portion will be a list of projects that, if we additional funding, we could address those projects.

Mr. Molchany asked if the projects on the current TIP are part of the \$3.3 billion or is this an incremental add. Mr. Donchez said the current TIP projects are part of the \$3.3 billion. We will also evaluate the TIP projects to see what sort of progress has been made. Some of those projects might come off the LRTP and some will stay on because there are still additional phases to do. That will be part of our evaluation.

Status on the Lehigh Valley Freight Plan

Ms. Bradley said Mr. Donchez spoke about the schedule for the LRTP and how we are doing the region's first freight movement plan and how we will take what we learn from the freight movement plan and move that into the LRTP along with the other transportation needs such as transit and the bridge program. Both the freight plan and the LRTP will be complete simultaneously in June 2015. Our intent, because typically that plan is approved by the Coordinating Committee and will continue to be, but it stopped there in previous plans. It did not go much further. We will partner with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (GLVCC). They have an annual transportation summit that PennDOT, LVPC and LANta attends. We thought we would take that opportunity since we are already working together to promote what is in both the LRTP and the freight plan. PennDOT and LANta will be presenting at the GLVCC event. We hope to get the new Transportation Secretary, Leslie Richards, at this event. More information will be available soon.

Ms. Bradley said our consultant, CDM Smith, is also the consultant for the PennDOT LRTP and freight movement plan. We were able to work with PennDOT to dovetail our effort. This allowed us access to information and the consultant. We were able to partner with PennDOT and it has been great.

Ms. Bradley continued by updating the Coordinating Committee on the Lehigh Valley Freight Plan. The update included: the Interview/Outreach Summary; Freight Profile (Freight Flows, Products and Commodities, Freight Infrastructure Network, Performance and Conditions,

Employment; and Options for Incorporating Freight in the Project Selection Process. Options for incorporating freight into the Lehigh Valley project prioritization process include the following for Highway Candidate Projects: Network, Funding, Employment, Planning, Connectivity, Safety, Efficiency. Options for incorporating freight into the Lehigh Valley project prioritization process include the following for Bridge Candidate Projects: Network, Truck Travel Demand, Redundancy, Condition Rating.

Ms. Bradley said our next steps are to develop goals and policies for infrastructure investment prioritization, not only for the LRTP but specifically for freight to tie those two things together. Our total funding is \$3.3 billion. We have to figure out how some of these freight activities may or not fit within that cap; develop an unmet needs chart and identify options for meeting those unmet needs - that could be innovative things like public/private partnerships or other ways as well; and complete and release both the LRTP and Lehigh Valley Freight Movement Plan by June 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

2015 Transportation Performance Report

Mr. Shifflet presented the *2015 Transportation Performance Report*. This is the second edition. The first was presented in 2013. That report had a much different focus. Act 89 had not been passed at that time so it was more of a focus on “here is where we are at, here is where we would like to be at but cannot quite get there”. The 2015 report tells a good story of the Act 89 implementation. There has been a year under Act 89 and we are now able to show some trend lines and predictions. It has four focus areas – safety, mobility, preservation, and accountability – and under each of those shows trend lines for future, present and a few other items. The report is 26 pages. It is an easy read with a lot of graphs and pictures. It is available at www.talkPAtransportation.com.

Mr. Shifflet said, also on this website, you will see we are hosting our kick-off of the 2017 Twelve Year Program April 16, 2015 with a webinar. Secretary Richards and the five Deputy Secretaries will be there to kick off the 2017 TYP. This is the second round approaching the TYP this way. We learned a lot from the first round. Previously we did this by holding public hearings throughout the state. We were down to receiving a handful of actual public testimony in front of the State Transportation Commission (STC) so we wanted to approach it differently in 2013. We kicked it off very similar to what we are doing with the 207 TYP with a public webinar and an online survey. We are using some of the things we learned from the first go around to try to enhance the response. We have probably increased our public participation by 1000%. It was more MPO and consultant participation at the hearings. You get a lot of public asking the questions on the webinar. Secretary Richards and the Deputy Secretaries will be answering the questions if it falls under their area of expertise.

Mr. Shifflet said the webinar is April 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and encouraged people to participate. Another thing tried to encourage participation is to keep the meeting outside the normal work schedule. We were holding public hearings at 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. and most people are not going to take off from work to come and testify in front of the STC. This is an opportunity to participate after work hours. The link for the webinar and survey is also on the www.talkPAtransportation.com website.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Rebert reminded the Coordinating Committee members that Ms. Leindecker distributed a list of administrative actions associated with the TIP. There are 10 administrative actions. They are a matter of moving funding from one project or phase or year to another to keep things balanced and keep projects moving. These were safety improvement projects. The Lehigh Valley was given a little over \$3M each year for safety improvement projects. There are a lot of Lehigh Valley wide systematic approach type projects. There are some location specific projects. Mr. Rebert reviewed the Fiscal Constraint Table (attached).

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mr. Hopkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and Mr. Rebert adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Alice J. Lipe for
Becky A. Bradley, AICP
Secretary
LVTS Coordinating Committee

BAB:ajl
Finalized 05/27/15