



C/O LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION  
 961 MARCON BOULEVARD, SUITE 310  
 ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18109  
 (610) 264-4544

The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study Coordinating and Technical Committees met in a joint session on Monday, May 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA. In attendance were:

***TECHNICAL COMMITTEE***

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Representing</u></b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Steve Neratko*     | City of Allentown          |
| Darlene Heller*    | City of Bethlehem          |
| David Hopkins*     | City of Easton             |
| Brendan Cotter*    | LANta                      |
| Becky Bradley*     | LVPC                       |
| Michael Donchez*   |                            |
| George Kinney*     |                            |
| Ray Green*         | PennDOT Central Office     |
| Christopher Kufro* | PennDOT District 5-0       |

***COORDINATING COMMITTEE***

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Craig Messinger**   | City of Allentown      |
| Michael Alkhal**    | City of Bethlehem      |
| David Hopkins**     | City of Easton         |
| Richard Molchany*** | County of Lehigh       |
| Stan Rugis***       | County of Northampton  |
| Owen O'Neil*        | LANta                  |
| Becky Bradley*      | LVPC                   |
| Larry Shifflet*     | PennDOT Central Office |
| Michael Rebert*     | PennDOT District 5-0   |

***PUBLIC PRESENT***

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Jim Brady         | STV, Inc.                                |
| Jodi Chomicky     | LVPC                                     |
| Michael Dee       | State Representative Dan McNeill         |
| Kathy Dimpsey     | FHWA                                     |
| Kerry Fields      | PennDOT District 5-0                     |
| Carol Halper      | U.S. Congressman Charlie Dent            |
| Brian Harman      | The Pidcock Company                      |
| Heather Heeter    | Borton-Lawson                            |
| Matt Malozi       | Rettew Associates                        |
| Brian Miller      | Upper Milford Township                   |
| April Niver       | US Representative Matt Cartwright        |
| Lee Rackus        | Whitehall Township                       |
| Bill Royer        | State Representative Ryan Mackenzie      |
| Scott Slingerland | Coalition for Appropriate Transportation |
| Steve Strella     | State Representative Julie Harhart       |
| Matt Szuchyt      | State Senator Pat Browne                 |
| Stephen Turoscy   | County of Lehigh                         |
| Jeff Warren       | Gilmore & Associates                     |
| Candace Williams  | State Representative Justin Simmons      |

\*Denotes voting member

Mr. Rebert chaired the joint LVTS Technical Committee and Coordinating Committee meeting.

***MINUTES***

Mr. Cotter moved for approval of the minutes from the April 25, 2016 LVTS Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Hopkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shifflet moved for approval of the minutes from the April 6, 2016 Coordinating Committee meeting. Mr. Messinger seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

***STATUS OF TIP TRANSIT PROJECTS***

Mr. Cotter provided an update of the TIP transit projects to the Technical and Coordinating Committees. The updates included:

- 30 new LANtaVan vehicles received that were put into service March, 2016
- Four additional vehicles will arrive in the summer of 2016 to replace the 2008 and 2009 vans

- Received three new hybrid diesel/electric buses in February and March 2016 (Note: these will be the final hybrid buses LANta will receive before moving to Compressed Natural Gas [CNG])
- Six buses on order with the manufacturer and will be delivered in June 2017. These will be the first CNG buses.
- Ten buses have been authorized for delivery in November or December 2017
- Replaced two existing bus shelters in Whitehall Township and Northampton Borough
- Two new shelters installed at Tilghman and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets, Allentown and Freemansburg Ave., Bethlehem Township
- Three new shelters planned ready for municipal submission

### ***TIP AMENDMENTS***

None.

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

#### ***Draft 2017 Transportation Improvement Program & Air Quality Conformity Analysis***

Mr. Donchez presented the list of highway and bridge projects for the draft *2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program* (included in meeting May 23, 2016 meeting packet).

Mr. Donchez said we have to meet financial guidance targets. The projects within the draft TIP cannot exceed the amount of financial resources available over the next four year period. The financial guidance was targeted at about \$275,000,000. The FAST Act went into effect after the guidance was issued. As a result of the FAST Act, the Lehigh Valley will additionally receive approximately \$20,000,000. That brings the base program to \$295,000,000 over the next four years. Of the additional \$20,000,000, approximately \$8,000,000 went to the National Highway Performance program; a little over \$2,000,000 went to the Surface Transportation program; the Highway Safety Improvement Program received about \$1,200,000; the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality received about \$1,600,000; the Transportation Alternatives Program received about \$88,000; and the Surface Transportation Program/Urban received about \$7,000,000.

Mr. Donchez reviewed the draft TIP which was distributed as part of the meeting packet. With spike funding and economic development funds received, the total for the draft TIP is approximately \$314,000,000 over the next years for the highway and bridge program.

Mr. Donchez said one additional step that is required is the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The TIP, as a whole, has to show that it is not contributing to the worsening of air quality within the two-county region. There are two tests that the region is required to undergo to demonstrate conformity with the national air quality standards. We have to look at ozone and particulate matter tests.

Mr. Donchez said, as far as ozone is concerned, we are a non-attainment area. We are given emissions budgets by EPA based upon the standard. When we test the projects within the TIP against that standard, we are below the emissions budget that has been established for us.

Mr. Donchez said particulate matter is large pollutants that are 2.5 microns in size. There are three different particulate matter standards – 1997 Standard, 2006 24-Hour Standard and 2012 Annual Standard. We meet the 2012 Annual Standard so we are in attainment. We still have to test for the 2006 24-Hour Standard and we are in attainment. The TIP, as a whole, passes. We meet the National Ambient Air Quality standards.

We will have a formalized 30-day public review period for the draft TIP and it will be early to mid June to early to mid July. We will work to establish a firm date for the formalized 30-day comment period.

After a short discussion, Mr. Rugis moved for the Technical Committee to authorize the release of the draft TIP for the 30-day public review and comment period. Seconded by Mr. Cotter, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Molchany moved for the Coordinating Committee to authorize the release of the draft TIP for the 30-day public review and comment period. Seconded by Ms. Bradley, the motion passed unanimously.

### ***Lehigh Valley Transportation Study/North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Memorandum of Understanding***

Mr. Kinney said a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the LVTS and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) was presented at the April 2016 Technical Committee meeting and explained the MOU (see attached). Mr. Shifflet moved to approve the MOU between LVTS and NJTPA. Seconded by Mr. Alkhal, the motion passed unanimously.

### ***Events***

Ms. Bradley said there is a Planning + Pizza Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 12:00 pm in the LVPC conference Room. Mr. Kinney and Mr. Donchez will explain how to get a project on the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. There will be free pizza.

Ms. Bradley said the Freight Advisory Committee will meet June 3, 2016, 11:30 am in the LVPC conference room. Mr. Kinney said the co-chairs are Chris Kufro, PennDOT District 5-0 and Brian Hare. A review of the agenda followed (see attached). Ms. Bradley said we are taking registrations and it is very important to register because of the limited space in our conference room.

Ms. Bradley distributed a flyer about the Lehigh Valley Transportation Forum 2016 (see attached) and said annually LVPC partners with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (GLVCC), LNAA and LANta for the annual Transportation Summit. The forum this year is Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at Mack Trucks.

Ms. Bradley said LVPC will release our Sidewalk Inventory at a Planning + Pizza on June 27, 2016. We will also have Ray Gothie from PennDOT Central talking about State pedestrian and bicycle initiatives. It will be in the LVPC conference room and we are taking registrations. This study will be on connectivity rather than the condition of the sidewalks.

Ms. Bradley said some LVPC employees and friends biked to work Friday, May 23, 2016.

Ms. Bradley said LVPC has the following LTAP programs coming up:

- Roadway Drainage, May 27, 2016, 8:00 am at LVPC
- Pavement Markings, June 7, 2016, 8:00 am
- Unpaved & Gravel Roads, June 30, 2016, 8:00 am

## ***OLD BUSINESS***

### ***Upcoming Freight Advisory Committee Meeting Announcement***

Mr. Rebert announced the Freight Advisory Committee will meet June 3, 2016 in the LVPC conference room.

### ***Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Update***

Ms. Bradley said, collectively, the City of Allentown, Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, PennDOT, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, LANta and the LVPC applied for a TIGER grant to complete a section of the D&L Trail between Whitehall Township and the City of Allentown. It would be a multimodal corridor by the new Waterfront development, under Route 22 and into Whitehall Township. Usually only much larger regions receive TIGER grants such as Pittsburgh and Philadelphia receive them. The Waterfront Partners are the entire match for our TIGER grant. Several people from the area attended a debriefing in Washington, DC on our application from last year. It scored very well but it is competitive so they gave us some advice to make the application better. We took it into account. Our grant is attractive and the information is solid. Mr. Bradley thanked everyone for their help.

## ***CORRESPONDENCE***

None.

## ***COURTESY OF THE FLOOR***

Mr. Molchany opened a discussion on rail service in the Lehigh Valley, both internally and to points beyond the Lehigh Valley. The discussion included the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with New Jersey, Federal Certification guidelines and the need for the MOU which spells out who pays for projects in each state. Funds do not cross state lines. Rail is not a role of LVTS. A commuter study must be done first. Norfolk Southern controls this topic. We learned that, if Amtrak runs an inspection train, it would have to come through LVTS and not a non-profit group and we take that seriously. It cannot be a private venture or a non-profit venture. It has to come through the legal transportation planning entity for our region. It was noted that the timeframe is 2030. The cost alone, especially in the state of New Jersey, is frowned upon for this project. Also, there is no way for Amtrak to get to Philadelphia simply because of all the rail trails initiatives. Ms. Bradley said to point people to the Morning Call article which explains this very well.

Mr. Molchany mentioned the transportation study as it relates to LANta and some of the commuter opportunities with LANta. The BRT is exciting news. Mr. O’Neil said he could do a future presentation about this.

Mr. Shifflet thanked the LVPC/LVTS and PennDOT for the work on the TIP development. He acknowledged there is a lot of work that goes into the TIP.

There being no further business, Mr. Rebert adjourned the LVTS Technical Committee and LVTS Coordinating Committee meetings.

Submitted by,

Alice Lipe for  
Becky A. Bradley  
LVTS Technical Committee  
LVTS Coordinating Committee

BAB:ajl  
Finalized 06/21/16

Attachments: Lehigh Valley Transportation Study/North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority  
Memorandum of Understanding  
Freight Advisory Committee Agenda  
Lehigh Valley Transportation Forum 2016 Flyer

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

MPO Boundaries and Coordination of Transportation Planning and Programming  
Between  
Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS)  
And  
North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)

### **Background and Purpose**

- A. The Year 2010 Census defined the Urbanized Area for Allentown Pennsylvania as extending into New Jersey along the Delaware River specifically portions of Warren and Hunterdon counties. By federal statute, a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), or coverage by an adjacent MPO, is required where there is a Urbanized Area.
- B. LVTS is one of the three MPOs within the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area (TMA). NJTPA is part of the New York – Newark, NY – NJ – CT TMA. With TMA status comes additional planning requirements and Federal Surface Transportation funding which is based on Urbanized Area population.
- C. LVTS and NJTPA agree that each MPO recognizes the Pennsylvania – New Jersey State Boundary as the boundary between their MPO UAB's and of their respective Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Warren and Hunterdon Counties are already considered in LVTS's modeling and forecasting efforts. The purpose of this MOU is to establish the transportation planning and programming responsibilities as they relate to the portion of the Allentown Urbanized Area that extends into Warren and Hunterdon Counties of New Jersey.

### **Understandings**

- A. LVTS and NJTPA agree to carry out the transportation planning and programming processes in a cooperative and coordinated fashion, and in compliance with federal planning regulations, including periodic certification reviews by USDOT.
- B. Staff from both MPO's will communicate regularly, share information (UPWPs, Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs), and Plans) and meet as needed to achieve the needed level of cooperation and coordination.
- C. The boundary between the two MPO's will remain at the Pennsylvania – New Jersey State Boundaries.
- D. Management of the shared TMA will be divided with responsibilities remaining with the area that lies within their respective state.

- E. Each MPO will retain all MPO and TMA planning and programming responsibilities for their respective areas within the respective States.
- F. To help ensure continuity of federal funds and help support project delivery, both LVTS and NJTPA agree to abide by the methodologies and processes used to allocate federal funds. Any sub-allocation of urbanized area funding would be based on state to state agreement and through recognized processes.
- G. This agreement will be reviewed when either one of the entities identifies the need for a review, but no later than 2023 or when the Urbanized Areas are defined.

Adopted by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2016

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Michael Rebert  
Chairman, LVTS

Adopted by the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2016

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Peter S. Palmer  
Chairman, NJTPA





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## Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

### **Lehigh Valley Freight Advisory Committee**

**Wednesday June 1, 2016**

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission  
Large Conference Room**

#### **AGENDA**

##### **1. Call to Order**

##### **2. Welcome and Introductions**

Lead by Co-Chairs:

Brian Hare, PE, Chief, Planning and Contract Management, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Central Office

Christopher Kufro, PE, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 5

##### **3. Lehigh Valley Planning Commission / Lehigh Valley Transportation Study**

Becky Bradley, Executive Director and George Kinney, Director of Transportation of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Update on current projects and initiatives; BuildLV, WalkLV & Lehigh Valley Chamber Transportation Summit

##### **4. National & Pennsylvania Freight Initiatives**

Brian Hare, PennDot & Co-Chair of the LVFAC will provide a status update as to the State Freight Movement Plan

Dante Staciokas, Lehigh Carbon Community College, will present on the issues of tractor trailer driver shortages / parking shortages

Pennsylvania State Police Motor Carrier Enforcement Officer Brian Carpenter will present on motor carrier enforcement activities in the region

##### **5. Courtesy of the Floor – 2 Minute Reports**

Attendees are invited to offer updates on the activities of their companies and agencies

##### **6. Adjourn**

**Lunch will be available at 11:15 AM prior to the start of the meeting.**

**Next Meeting of the Lehigh Valley Freight Advisory Committee**

**August 3, 2016 at 11:30 AM**

Presented by:



Presenting Partner:



# Lehigh Valley Transportation Forum 2016

Wednesday, June 8, 2016  
Mack Truck Customer Center  
2402 Lehigh Parkway South, Allentown

10:30 am- Registration & Networking

11:30 am- Lunch & Program Begin

1:30 pm- Adjourn

PennDOT Secretary  
Leslie Richards



FedEx Ground VP Strategic Planning  
Stephanie Cohen



LVPC Executive Director  
Becky Bradley



#LVTF16



Hosted by The Chamber's Transportation Committee, LVPC and The Traffic Club of Lehigh Valley, #LVTF16 focuses on educating & engaging our business community in the vital issue of transportation & infrastructure.

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