



LVTS establishes Freight Advisory Committee

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On November 30th, the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) officially established a Freight Advisory Committee for the Lehigh Valley. The emphasis on freight movement and logistics is continuing to evolve, and the formation of this Committee follows the adoption of the *MOVELV: Regional Freight Plan* and the need to plan for and manage relevant infrastructure.

The Freight Advisory Committee will advise LVTS on all goods movement issues, studies and projects, and the development of a functional and efficient freight system. The Committee will consider the movement of freight to and from manufacturing sites, cities/downtown areas, intermodal facilities, warehouses and utilities, as well as the region's freight transportation network (i.e., highways, railroads, ports, airports and pipelines).

Anticipated Committee results and benefits include technical studies, capital improvements to transportation facilities, and greater consideration of freight movement in short and long range planning activities. Critical to this success will be the sharing of information and technology among public and private freight interests, recognizing the region's intermodal capabilities and capacity, and developing and implementing a regional goods movement strategy.

The Committee is initially scheduled to meet three times annually with the opportunity to increase the number of meetings pending interest and staff resources. Meetings are intended to create an environment for information sharing, training, and education. The following objectives will be used as a guide to the development of Committee agendas:

- Insure the participation of the freight industry in the planning process.
- Identify improvements to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of freight.
- Implement regional congestion and intermodal management programs.
- Improve communications and data and technology sharing.

While certain industry professionals have been originally identified to serve on the Freight Advisory Committee, membership and meetings are intentionally open to all goods movement and transportation professionals located or operating in the Lehigh Valley. The inaugural meeting is scheduled for February 3rd from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the LVPC Office. RSVP required to bhite@lvpc.org or (610) 264-4544.