



## Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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Executive Director

### LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

#### Minutes from the Thursday, July 25, 2019 Meeting

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's conference room located at 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 310, Allentown, PA.

Mr. Repasch chaired the meeting.

Ms. Vazquez took Roll Call.

#### Members in Attendance:

##### Lehigh County

Percy Dougherty, Bob Elbich, Mike Gibson, Steve Glickman, Michael Harakal, Miriam Huertas, Richard Molchany, Christina Morgan, Owen O'Neil, Kathy Rader, Stephen Repasch, Kevin Schmidt, and Donna Wright

##### Northampton County

Christopher Amato, Liesel Dreisbach, Darlene Heller, Susan Lawless, Robert Lammi, Kevin Lott, Carl Manges, William McGee, John McGorry, Stephen Melnick, Pamela Pearson, Spirit Rutzler, Tina Smith, Gerald Yob, and Greg Zebrowski

#### Members Absent:

##### Lehigh County

Julio Gurdy, Kent Herman, Marty Nothstein, and Leonard Lightner

##### Northampton County

Janell Connolly, Malissa Davis, Charles Elliott, and David O'Connell

**Staff Present:** Becky Bradley, Bethany Vazquez, Charles Doyle, Geoff Reese, Matt Assad, Peter Barnard, Sue Rockwell, Jill Seitz and John von Kerczek

**Public Present:** Kevin Kalman and Jeff Ward

#### COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Kalman spoke regarding the establishment of a Lehigh Valley Incident Management Task Force and inquired about the LVPC's participation in the already established PennTIME working Group. Ms. Bradley thanked Mr. Kalman for his inquiry and stated that staff would reach out in the coming days regarding options for the LVPC in this process. Mr. Kalman thanked the Commission for their time.

Mr. Amato inquired of the Commission for advice regarding an upcoming warehouse development in his hometown of White Township, New Jersey. Mr. Repasch stated that though the Commission does not deal with New Jersey matters if anyone had advice they would be able to share that now was the time. Ms. Rader advised Mr. Amato to suggest to his township that they should look into a Land Use Attorney for such matters. Mr. Amato thanked the Commission for their time.

## **MINUTES**

Mr. Repasch stated that the minutes of the June 27, 2019 LVPC meeting are attached. Mr. Lammi made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Pearson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### *1. New LVPC Commissioner*

Mr. Repasch welcomes Mr. Carl Manges, alternate for Mayor Panto in the City of Easton, to the Commission. Mr. Manges made brief remarks.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Comprehensive Planning Committee**

#### *1. Project Review, Summary Sheet*

Mr. Barnard presented the Comprehensive Committee Project Review Summary Sheet. Seven items were reviewed in the Comprehensive Committee Project Summary Sheet. All are either consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan or matters of local concern. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the comments as presented in the summary sheet. Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion. With Mr. Gibson abstaining from the Emmaus Borough vote and Ms. Rader abstaining from the Upper Macungie vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Environment Committee**

#### *1. Project Review, Summary Sheet*

Ms. Rockwell reviewed the Environment Committee Project Review Summary Sheet. Neither application conflicts with the County Comprehensive Plan and per DRBC documentation, no adverse impacts are anticipated with continued operation of either facility. Mr. Lammi made a motion to approve the comments as presented in the summary sheet. Ms. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### *2. Monocacy Creek Act 197 Ordinance Municipal Adoption – Status Update*

Mr. Reese reviewed the status of the Monocacy Creek Act 167 Ordinance Adoption. The plan was approved on May 21, 2018 by the Department of Environmental Protection. Currently, 12 municipalities in the watershed have adopted the plan. The City of Allentown is still outstanding in its adoption of the ordinance. Mr. Reese explained that due to the lack of practical impact of the ordinance on the small area located within the City, Allentown may not adopt the ordinance.

#### *3. Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan*

Mr. Reese shared the ASR Media Walk/Roll Outreach video, sponsored by United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, with the Commission. Currently, the team is waiting for a draft plan in design format, from the consultant. The consultant, thus far, has sent chapters of the draft plan that are currently under the staff's review. The next Multimodal Working Group meeting will be September 25<sup>th</sup> at America on Wheels beginning at 3:00 pm.

## **Transportation Committee**

### *1. State Transportation Commission 12-Year Program Outreach Results*

Mr. Doyle shared the results of the State Transportation Commission 12-Year Program Outreach with the Commission. The results were similar to previous years with Road Pavement, Traffic Flow, and Bridges being the top three concerns of participants. Mr. Doyle went through some of the demographics of the study as well as shared other highlights from the statistical report. The report can be viewed in its entirety on [talkpatransportation.com](http://talkpatransportation.com).

### *2. Build Grant: Closing the Delaware + Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Gap*

Ms. Bradley reviewed the Build Grant with the Commission and shared a PBS39 News coverage clip about the project. The project will connect and create a robust, multimodal commuting corridor stretching from the City of Allentown through Whitehall Township. Utilizing existing roadways, an abandoned rail freight-of-way and an unimproved footpath, this brownfield redevelopment culminates the efforts of 29 municipalities, five counties, state governments, 16 non-profit organizations and over 800 business entities in the Lehigh Valley. The project will close Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley's highest priority trail gap along the Delaware + Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail Network, supporting a continuous on-road and off-road commuter corridor. The total BUILD project cost is roughly \$40.6 million with a grant request on around \$21.3 million and a committed match of around \$19.3 million. Other related funding sources amount to about \$15.5 million.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *1. FutureLV*

Ms. Bradley, Mr. Reese, and Mr. Barnard reviewed the Plan Implementation of the FutureLV Plan as well as the role of the LVPC. Ms. Bradley started the presentation with a background of the separation of role between LVPC and LVTS, while also addressing the recent PennDOT funding cuts. Mr. Barnard continued the conversation reviewing the changes in criteria and definitions regarding land uses of regional significance in the FutureLV Plan. Mr. Reese and Ms. Bradley closed the presentation by discussing the key initiatives of the plan. Ms. Bradley reviewed the State Transportation cuts and their effect on the FutureLV Plan. Ms. Bradley discussed how transportation funds are allocated as well as gave a brief history behind the FAST act, Act 89, and other funding related documents and plans. Various funding charts were shared with the Commission as well as a review of each funding category and the projects that are covered within each pot of funds. Ms. Bradley encouraged the Commission to reach out to their local Representatives and Senators to express concerns of transportation funding and the effects of these cuts on the area's future needs. Ms. Bradley also shared the FutureLV Planning Action Team Meeting schedule with the Commission and encouraged participation from all.

- a. Working Group Meeting:* The next FutureLV Working Group Meeting will take place on August 19, 2019 at the LVPC office from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

### *2. LVPC Annual Lehigh Valley Awards Call for Nominations*

Nominations for the 2019 LVPC Awards is now open and will close on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None this month.

## **COMMUNICATION**

1. *2019 Web Hits (Mid-Year Report)*  
Mr. Assad shared highlights from the 2019 Web Hits Mid-Year Report with the Commission
2. *WFMZ 6 o'clock News with Bo Koltnow Recap*  
Mr. Assad shared that Ms. Oscavich went on WFMZ with Bo Koltnow to discuss the D+L Trail Gap and Build Grant.
3. *WGPA Radio Show: Closing the D+L Trail Gap + Walk/Roll LV Recap*  
Mr. Assad shared that Mr. Reese and himself went on WGPA Sunny 1100 AM to discuss the D+L Trail Gap and Walk/RollLV at 11:00 am on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. *Monthly BuildLV: Subdivision and Land Development Report*  
Ms. Bradley presented information on the June Monthly BuildLV: Subdivision and Land Development Report. The report will be distributed publically around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month and is available at lvpc.org.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING WERE MADE:**

1. *Planning + Pizza @ LVPC Office, 12:00 – 1:00 pm*  
The next P+P sessions will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> discussing the topic of Freight and August 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Walk/RollLV Plan.
2. *Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) @ LVPC Office*  
The upcoming LTAP class will be and ADA Transition Plans + Self Evaluations, August 6<sup>th</sup> (8:00 am – 12:00 pm)
3. *Freight Advisory Meeting*  
The LVPC Freight Advisory Meeting will be held at the LVPC office on August 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 am.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business, Mr. Molchany made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Repasch seconded the motion.

Submitted by:  
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director  
Bethany Vazquez, Program Associate