

Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO

Transportation Study

Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting

October 6, 2021 pm
Minutes

1:05 Steve Pitoniak opened the meeting.

Mr. Pitoniak noted that, per the Sunshine Act requirements, the meeting and agenda was advertised in the Scranton Times, Citizens Voice and Hazleton Standard Speaker and meeting and agenda were posted on the LLTS MPO website.

Mr. Pitoniak mentioned that there is a proxy from John Pocius for Scranton Mayor Paige Cognetti. No requests for access for public comment from Luzerne or Lackawanna County were received.

Chris Chapman conducted roll call for Coordinating Committee, Technical Committee, TAC Committee and non-members present.

Mr. Pitoniak announced that Bob Fiume will be leaving COLTS and taking over as Director at LCTA and he will be their representative on the committees. He is at COLTS as of this date and he will chair the meeting.

1. Public Comment

Discussion of items not on the agenda. No public comment was offered.

2. Action Items

2a. Approval of July 28th Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Pitoniak asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the July 28th meeting minutes.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the July 28th minutes, second by John Pocius, motion carried.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the July 28th meeting minutes.

Rich Roman moved to approve the July 28th minutes, second by Brenda Sacco, motion carried.

[July 28th LLTS MPO Minutes](#)

2b. Current TIP and Actions

Mr. Pitoniak noted that there are no amendments.

Steve Fisher stated the TIP and Actions were distributed prior to the meeting. There are minor adjustments to close out 2021 fiscal year (FY) end September 2021. The TIP that was distributed are for projects and phases starting October 2021 for the 2022 FY. Actions from this point forward are for FY 2022.

[Current TIP](#)

2c. Eastern PA Freight Alliance Freight Study

Mr. Pitoniak noted that in the last meeting there was a vote from the MPO to coordinate with four other MPO's to authorize and undertake a freight plan study that will be known as the Eastern PA Freight Alliance (EPFA). The EPFA has received approval of 80% funding from PennDOT.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for a Resolution from the Technical Committee to authorize the MPO to enter into an agreement to spend funds for the EPFA study, PennDOT has approved funding and the MPOs are responsible for 20% of the total.

The LLTS MPO is estimated to be responsible for approximately \$16K.

Matt Jones commented that the 20% funding from the MPO's is reimbursable through the UPWP.

Butch Frati moved to approve the funding for the EPFA study from the Technical Committee, second by John Pocius, motion carried.

Bob Fiume asked for a resolution from the Coordinating Committee to authorize the MPO to enter into an agreement to spend funds for the EPFA study.

Alan Wusfus moved to approve the funding, second by Rich Roman, motion carried.

[EPFA Resolution](#)

3. Discussion Items

3a. PennDOT Pathways/Transportation Revenues Options Commission (TROC)

Kristin Mulkerin presented a brief update of PennDOT Pathways and the TROC.

There are no major updates on Pathways. Diversion workshops are completed and the process continues for the candidate bridges. They anticipate public hearings will be scheduled for the candidate bridges to be held in the near future.

Transportation Revenue Option Commission (TROC) has no major updates. The committee continues to work with the legislature.

There is no news on the federal infrastructure bill as action has been delayed.

A short term extension continues the Fast Act to October 31st. There are no new authorizations until at least October 15.

Matt Smoker thanked Kristin for her comments.

3b. Fall Project Commencement

Jay Schectman presented an overview of the upcoming Let projects with seven emergency repair projects and seven others for this quarter:

- MPMS# 116585 SR 2036 Emergency Flood Repair (Henri) Road Restoration
- MPMS# 116605 SR 2039 Emergency Flood Repair (Ida) Road Restoration
- MPMS# 116657 SR 2039 Emergency Flood Repair (Ida) Road Restoration
- MPMS# 116606 SR 239 Emergency Flood Repair (Ida) Road Restoration
- MPMS# 116607 SR 2035 Emergency Flood Repair (Ida) Road Restoration
- MPMS# 116604 SR 2036 Emergency Flood Repair (Ida) Road Restoration
- MPMS# 116613 SR 2020 Emergency Flood Repair (Ida) Road Restoration

Note: Steve Pitoniak asked about funding for the emergency repairs and how it would affect the budget. Rich Roman noted that some emergency repairs would be funded through the emergency program from PennDOT Central Office. Steve Fisher said that Federal Highways may come up to look at the projects and determine what projects are eligible for federal funding and other non-eligible projects will be presented to PennDOT Central Office for funding.

- MPMS# 89712 SR 1025 over Hick's Creek Bridge Replacement 15' structure
- MPMS# 68992 SR 1048 over Harvey's Creek Bridge Replacement 30' structure
- MPMS# 115715 I-81 over Leggets Creek Bridge Preservation 23' structure
- MPMS# 115719 SR 1016 over Lackawanna River Bridge Preservation
- MPMS# 115724 I-81 over Lake Blytheburn Outlet Bridge Preservation 10' structure
- MPMS# 115725 I-81 over Lake Blytheburn Road Bridge Preservation
- MPMS# 115726 I-81 over Little Wapwallopen Creek Bridge Preservation

Fall Let Projects

3c. MPO Regional Priorities

Chris Chapman presented the update. PennDOT Central Office asked the MPO to provide priority projects. These are high profile, high visibility projects. The projects are on the TIP or TYP. Through the TIP development meeting with the District the following projects were submitted to Central Office for consideration:

In Luzerne County

- 1) MPMS# 102030 SR 2002 (San Souci Parkway) from Township Road (Loomis Street) to SR 2005 (Carey Avenue). Road reconstruction. TIP
- 2) MPMS# 114271 SR 309 over Susquehanna River, SR 309 (North Cross Valley Expressway over SR 2004 (River Street), Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad and Susquehanna River in Wilkes-Barre City. Bridge Rehabilitation. TYP
- 3) MPMS# 115819 SR 1009 (Market Street) over Susquehanna River. Bridge Preservation in Wilkes-Barre City and Kingston Borough. TIP

Lackawanna County

- 4) MPMS# 84368 SR 6011 Green Ridge Street over Lackawanna River. Bridge Replacement in the City of Scranton. TIP

- 5) MPMS# 61813 SR 6 (Robert P. Casey Highway) to SR 6006. Highway Restoration in Olyphant, Dunmore, Throop, Jessup, Archbald, and Mayfield Boroughs, also Carbondale Township. TIP
- 6) MPMS# 7911 North Main Avenue Bridge over Leggets Creek. Bridge Rehabilitation/Restoration in the City of Scranton. TIP

Steve Pitoniak noted that SR 6 (Casey Highway) will be 20 years old and there is a lot of traffic and improvements are needed.

[LLTS MPO Regional Priorities](#)

3d. Fall Planning Partners

Chris Chapman reviewed. There have been two meetings so far, both virtual half days with four scheduled meetings in total. Kate McMahon from NEPA Alliance has been one of the planning partner leads. There are updates for Electric Vehicles (EV), public outreach, FHWA, FTA, and public participation. Two more sessions are planned.

3e. Interstate Steering Committee (ISC) Presentation

Julianne Lawson presented the status of the interstates in District 4-0. On August 18, District 4-0 presented to the Interstate Steering Committee (ISC) an update for 2023. Highlights of I-80, I-81, I-84 and I-380 are presented here. There are 184 miles of interstate, 368 segment miles and 284 bridges. 34% of the interstate is more than 50 years old. There are Open Graded Sub-base (OGS) problems where the sub base crushes over time compromising the roadway. 16% of the interstate have OGS in concrete sections including many newer sections. Many sections are in Luzerne and Lackawanna County. Alkali Silica Reaction (ASR) problems are in many concrete sections which is a reaction between the concrete and rock underlayment. ASR is found in 18% of the interstate including I-84 and other interstate sections. There are 32 poor structures mostly on I-81, all poor structures, have plans for repair or under design. District 4-0 has the highest deterioration rates in the state.

We have many freight generators and major intermodal (IM) facilities in Luzerne and Lackawanna County that impact roadway congestion.

Rich Roman commented, about the major needs for the interstates and the large numbers. The District does its best to compete for funding. District 4-0 has 185 miles of interstate, largest in the state.

Matt Smoker offered his thanks to Julianne. Matt Smoker commended the District and the MPO for sharing this information and how it helps in competing for federal funds.

[2021 Interstate Plan](#)

3f. Transportation Alternatives Set Aside

Chris Chapman and Steve Pitoniak

Grants for use of alternative transportation such as trails, in place of vehicular travel, typically available every other year.

There are 6 applicants. In Luzerne County, there are Hanover Township, Pittston and West Hazleton. In Lackawanna County, there is Dickson City, Jessup and an anticipated 2nd meeting with Whites Crossing.

John Pocius inquired on the amount of funding available statewide. There is approximately \$18M available. The grants generally range from \$50K to \$1M.

3g. Bridge Asset Management System (BAMS) and Pavement Asset Management System (PAMS) Overview

Steve Pitoniak and Chris Chapman presented an overview.

District 4, District 5 and the 3 MPOs in those districts, are part of a trial program. The model used in our region will be rolled out statewide. There is lot of information to assimilate from road and bridge data.

There are many questions how the various entities will manage the information.

This will not affect the projects on the TIP, however it may change the priority of which projects are done when. There are concerns on how the program will affect the TIP, TYP and the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Steve Pitoniak commented, that based on the proposed modeling, it will be more data centric. There are other components such as Environmental Justice (EJ), Title VI issues and AADT road counts considered in the process. There are not clear answers on the program as of now.

4. Progress Reports

4a. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) update

Steve Pitoniak and Chris Chapman.

Steve Pitoniak noted that it is a 2-year document done on a 2-year cycle.

Thanked Chris Chapman for his work and John Petrini for setting the model for UPWP that we can used to follow in the UPWP update process.

A first look was submitted to FHWA. The format is basically the same as the document from two years ago with project updates.

Some changes and updates are made to reflect changes in the law. There are anticipated changes to work tasks for the 2022-2024 UPWP. Central Office and FHWA will have 30 to 45 days to review, then budget tables need to be added. A public comment period will follow. We will attempt to get this approved at the January MPO meeting.

Many sub documents of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) need to be updated. Those plans include the Limited English Proficiency (LEP), Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ) and Public Participation Plans (PPP). The Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan needs to be updated. There are agencies inquiring on van funding, as the current plan is 13 years old and some agencies were not included. Matt Smoker commented that he has the UPWP draft and he will turn it around before the November 12th date. He acknowledged the amount of work that went into the last UPWP. There is a lot of work to revise information from the planning priorities letter. He mentioned that the staff did a good job on the last round and our current work thus far which builds upon the success of the last program.

[2022-2024 UPWP Update](#)

4b. 2023-2026 TIP Update & Schedule

Steve Pitoniak discussed the recent activities.

There is a draft schedule for the document update including a number of meetings already held, to add priorities and update projects. We should be on track for approval at the July 2022 meeting based on our development schedule. Chris thanked Steve Fisher and the District staff for working with the MPO.

[LLTS-MPO 2023-2026 TIP Schedule](#)

4c. Scranton and Wilkes Barre Bicycle Pedestrian Network Plan

Chris Chapman, Steve Pitoniak and consultants Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. and Campbell Thomas presented the Bicycle and Pedestrian Study for the Central Business Districts of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre at the PA Greenways and Trails Summit in Erie. A slide show presented that explained a regional overview. Then the consultants took over, explaining results and analysis. Chris and Steve followed up on funding opportunities and how it would be included in future planning. The presentation went well. There were many questions asked and many notes taken by participants. Chris thanked Bob Campbell from Campbell Thomas and Stephanie Milewski from Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. in presenting with them.

[Scranton Wilkes-Barre Bike & Pedestrian Plan](#)

4d. PennDOT Connects

Steve Fisher offered that there are no updates to report. There will be a report forthcoming from Central Office. A presentation by the committee members for the District documenting the progress will be held when the information is available. Steve Pitoniak noted that a Steering Committee meeting was held September 27th and many updates and requirements were discussed. When updates are available, we will follow up with a regional meetings to discuss guidance going forward. Municipal meetings will be scheduled in Luzerne County. Steve Fisher mentioned that for the 2023 TIP update with the new financial guidance there is not a lot of room for new projects.

4e. Update of Bylaws and Committee Structure

Steve Pitoniak presented an overview.

A draft of the updated bylaws and committee structure is incorporated in the agenda. Steve Pitoniak, Chris Chapman and the staff at District 4-0 along with Dean Roberts and Matt Smoker had a number of meetings to develop a new organizational chart. All members should review the document and make comments. This is a major overhaul of the MPO structure. The certification review noted that the bylaws and structure needed to be updated.

The MPO is considering one general committee with subcommittees to include all groups that are now represented with the MPO. The goal is to have the document presented for adoption at the January MPO meeting. If this plan is approved, there will be an executive committee with 15 member agencies represented directly and subcommittee chairs that would serve on the executive committee. The planning partners meeting today brought up several items that will have to be incorporated, such as virtual meeting and electronic voting.

[Draft Bylaws LLTS MPO](#)

4f. Upcoming MPO Meetings

The upcoming meetings will be available with a virtual component.

All meetings are at 1:00 PM unless otherwise noted

- January 19th, 2022
- April 20th, 2022
- July 6th, 2022
- October 5th, 2022

Other Business

Chris Chapman announced that Steve Pitoniak will be retiring and this will be his last MPO meeting. Chris congratulated Steve on his retirement and for his years of service, and that he will be missed. Chris, on a personal note, thanked Steve for his training and mentoring.

Steve Pitoniak mentioned that Mary Liz Donato will be the new Planning Department Manager and will take his place on the committee.

The following offered their good wishes and memories of working with Steve and how he will be missed.

John Petrini offered best wishes and thanked Steve for all he had done for him and credited him for his continued success. Regards from Steve Fisher for John being the worker he is.

Brenda Sacco thanked Steve for his years of service and that he will be missed.

John Pocius enjoyed working with Steve over many years. He recalled his guidance on the Planning Commission and on the MPO. He wished him good health, good luck, have a good retirement and enjoy life.

Joe Corcoran hoped that Steve will continue as a guest on the MPO calls and sharing his depth of knowledge. Joe wished him well and recounted his many years working together.

Matt Smoker offered his thanks to Steve for his long career and contributions and how he is well respected regionally and throughout the state.

Steve asked for a motion to adjourn from the Technical Committee.

John Pocius moved to adjourn the meeting, second Chris Chapman. Motion carried.

Bob Fiume commented that Steve a done a good job and wished him luck.

Bob Fiume asked for a motion to adjourn from the Coordinating Committee.

Alan Wufsus moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Brenda Sacco. Motion carried.

**LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY MEETING
MPO TECHNICAL-COORDINATING COMMITTEES**

July 28, 2021

<u>COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u>	<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT & NO PROXY</u>	<u>PROXY PRESENT</u>
<u>PENNDOT</u>			
Richard N. Roman, District 4-0 Office, Committee Vice-Chair	X		
Kristin Mulkerin, Central Office (Dean Roberts PennDOT Central Office-Proxy)	X		
<u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u>			
<i>Vacant</i> (Board of Commissioners)			
Brenda N. Sacco, Director of Planning & Economic Development	X		
<u>LUZERNE COUNTY</u>			
Romilda Crocamo, Esq., Acting County Manager (Matthew Jones, Executive Director of Luzerne County Planning & Zoning – Permanent Proxy)	X		
<u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u>			
Jeffrey L. Cusat, Mayor - (Alan Wufsus, Hazleton City Engineering Technician - Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>CITY OF SCRANTON</u>			
Paige Cognetti, Mayor - (John Pocius, LaBella Associates - Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>CITY OF WILKES-BARRE</u>			
George Brown, Mayor - (Attilio "Butch" Frati, Director of Operations - Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE - LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u>			
Robert Fiume, COLTS Director, Committee Chair	X		
<u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE - LUZERNE COUNTY</u>			
Lee Horton, LCTA Interim Executive Director - (Kathy Bednarek, LCTA Grants Coordinator - Permanent Proxy)			X

AVIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Carl Beardsley, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport
Director

X

***PA NORTHEAST REGIONAL RAILROAD
AUTHORITY**

Larry Malski, President

X

***FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

Matt Smoker, Innovative Finance & Planning Implementation
Manager

X

***FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)**

Timothy Lidiak, Project Manager

X

***FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

Lori Pagnanelli, District Office Manager

X

*Non-Voting Member

LLTS Technical Committee Members Present:

Steve Pitoniak,
Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission, Committee Chair
Dean Roberts,
PennDOT Central Office, Committee Vice-Chair
Susan Hazelton,
PennDOT District 4-0 Assistant District Executive for Design
Gerard Babinski,
PennDOT District 4-0 District Bridge Engineer
Brenda Sacco,
Lackawanna County, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Barbara Idhaw,
Lackawanna County, Engineering Consultant, Greeman-Pederson, Inc.
Chris Chapman,
Luzerne County, Transportation Planner
John Pocius,
Proxy for Scranton City Mayor, Paige Cognetti, Engineering Consultant, LaBella Associates
Kathy Bednarek,
Permanent Proxy for Lee Horton, Luzerne County Transportation Authority, (LCTA)
Grants Coordinator for LCTA
Stephen Mykulyn,
Lackawanna County Aviation Representative
Matt Jones,
Executive Director, Luzerne County Planning and Zoning
Ralph Sharp,
Proxy for Mayor Cusat, Hazleton Public Transit Director
Jay Schectman,
Luzerne County, Transportation Planner
Butch Frati,
Proxy for Wilkes-Barre Mayor
Alan Baranski,
Permanent Proxy for Jeffrey Box, NEPA Alliance President/CEO
Matt Smoker,
FHWA Innovative Finance & Planning Implementation Manager

LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Members Present:

Christine Dettore, DCNR
Stephanie Milewski, North Pocono Trails Association
Denise Corcoran, ARCIL
Vivian Williams, Scranton Area Foundation
Aaron Whitney, Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
Alan Stout, Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Owen Worozbyt, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association
Shane Novak, Luzerne County Planning Committee

Non-Members Present:

Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0
Julianne Lawson, PennDOT District 4-0 Planning and Programming
Emma Pugh, PennDOT District 4-0
John Petrini, PennDOT District 4-0
Eddie O'Neill, Luzerne County
Mary Liz Donato, Lackawanna County Planning
Joe Corcoran, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association
Kate McMahon, NEPA Alliance
Heather Kubic-Skapyak, Greenman-Pederson, Inc.