

**Lackawanna/Luzerne Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization
2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program
Public Comment Cover Letter**

Comment Period

The public comment period will begin on December 21, 2022 and will end on January 25, 2023. Legal advertisements will be placed in the Scranton Times Tribune, the Wilkes-Barre Citizen's Voice and the Hazleton Standard Speaker newspapers, the largest circulation newspapers in both counties, on January 25, 2023.

Public Display

The Transportation Improvement Program and supporting documents are available for review at the Lackawanna County Government Center at the Globe, Luzerne County Planning and Zoning at Penn Place, PennDOT District 4-0 Office, County of Lackawanna Transit System, Luzerne County Transportation Authority and Hazleton Public Transit.

The documents are also available electronically on the Lackawanna/Luzerne Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization website and the PennDOT District 4-0 web page. The LLTS MPO website is:

<http://www.lltsmpo.com>

Documents on Display

The following documents are available for public display and comment:

1. The 2023-2026 Lackawanna/Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization (LLTS MPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Cover Letter.
2. The 2023-2026 Transportation Conformity Determination Report (1997 Ozone NAAQS) for the LLTS MPO TIP.
3. The 2023-2026 LLTS MPO (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre MPO TIP) Highway and Bridge Projects with public narrative.
4. The 2023-2026 LLTS MPO (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre MPO TIP) Transit Projects for the County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS), Hazleton Public Transit (HPT) and the Luzerne County Transit Authority (LCTA) with public narrative.
5. The 2023-2026 LLTS MPO Interstate TIP - Highway and Bridge Projects with public narrative.
6. The 2023-2026 LLTS MPO TIP Public Comment Period Advertisement.

Additional Outreach

The following Native American Tribes that have an interest in projects in the LLTS MPO area were also contacted:

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

Delaware Nation, Oklahoma

Delaware Tribe of Indians

Eastern Shawnee Area of Oklahoma

Oneida Indian Nation

Onondaga

Seneca-Cayuga Nation

Shawnee Tribe

Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Wisconsin

Tuscarora Nation

Other Public Participation

In 2017 the Scranton Area Foundation and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia inaugurated a transportation equity council for the Scranton metropolitan area. The Transportation Planning Equity Council met on a quarterly basis as a group through 2017 and 2018 as well as in various sub-committees dealing with such areas as National Models and Best Practices, Mass Transit in NEPA and Alternative Transit Options.

The group was rebranded in 2019 to “NEPA Moves” and membership was expanded through the entire MPO and now includes other northeast counties including Monroe, Wayne and Wyoming. The group’s mission statement and guiding principles include:

“All Northeast Pennsylvania residents feel part of a thriving region thanks to a comprehensive and equitable transportation system that creates and expands opportunities. Life is better because everyone has access to possibilities.”

- *Access to the region’s transportation systems is front and center in every community and economic development plan as well as every health and workforce conversation.*
- *An interconnected and collaborative transportation system that has been built on partnerships.*

Both the Lackawanna and Luzerne County Planning Commissions as well as the County of Lackawanna Transit System and the Luzerne County Transportation Authority and PENNDOT District 4-0 staff are on the committee and the Planning Department Manager for Lackawanna County and the Transportation Planner for Luzerne County serve on the NEPA Moves Steering Committee. The project manager for NEPA Moves is also a member of the LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee.

The group has worked in the past and is continuing to work with the Institute for Public Policy at Wilkes University in conducting surveys of transit customers and non-customers on the system and with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia to publish "[Getting to Work on Time: Public Transit and Job Access in Northeastern Pennsylvania](#)". The group is continuing to work with Geisinger Hospital on the demonstration project to get clients to their facilities in Danville and Scranton.