

Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO

Transportation Study

Technical and Coordinating

Committee Meeting

January 9th, 2024
Minutes

At 1:02pm, Dean Roberts opened the meeting.

Mr. Roberts noted that, per the Sunshine Act requirements, the meeting and agenda were advertised in the Scranton Times, Citizens Voice, and Hazleton Standard Speaker and the meeting time and agenda were posted on the LLTS MPO website more than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

1. Draft 2024-2025 UPWP Public Comment Meeting

Mary Liz Donato gave an update on the one-year cycle being conducted this year. Next year the plan will be to return to the two-year basis. This is the transportation related work program for both Lackawanna and Luzerne County as well as the transit authorities. There were no questions or comments regarding the UPWP.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Roberts asked if there were any comments. There were no public comments.

3. Action Items

3a. Approval of the October 25, 2023, Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Roberts requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the October 25th meeting. The motion was made by Sue Hazelton, seconded by Ms. Donato. The motion carried.

Bob Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the minutes from October 25th. The motion was made by Rich Roman, seconded by Mr. Roberts. The motion carried.

[October 25, 2023, Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes.](#)

3b. 2023 TIP and Actions

Steve Fisher gave a report covering the 2023 TIP administrative actions and amendments. There were no amendments made. No vote was necessary.

3c. Approval of the PPP, LEP, and Title VI Plans

Casey Bottiger provided a report covering updates made to the Public Participation plan (PPP), Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP), and Title VI plan. Public comment period was open from September 12th to October

26th. The PPP was made to be more concise to improve readability. New public engagement strategies were also added to help gather information from stakeholders. The changes made to the Title VI plan were made to increase transparency with the plan. The LEP plan was updated by adding recent demographic and socio-economic analysis maps. The changes also included short-term recommendations to improve access to language assistance resources.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the PPP, LEP, And Title VI Plans. The motion was made by Alan Baranski, seconded by Matt Jones. The motion carried.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the PPP, LEP, And Title VI Plans. The motion was made by Mr. Roman, Seconded by Mark Barry. The motion carried.

3d. Approval of the 2024-2025 UPWP

Mr. Roberts stated that Ms. Donato had explained the UPWP at the beginning of the meeting. There were no further concerns or questions regarding the 2024-2025 UPWP.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the 2024-2025 UPWP. The motion was made by Gerard Babinski, seconded by Mr. Baranski. The motion carried.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the 2024-2025 UPWP. The motion was made by Tim McGrath, seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion carried.

3e. Approval of the Statewide Performance Measures (PM1)- Safety Targets

Jonathan Shaw described how the performance measures are established by the state. The MPO will be using the same targets set by the state.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the PMI Safety Targets. The motion was made by Susan Hazelton, seconded by Mr. Baranski. The motion carried.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the PMI Safety Targets. The motion was made by Mr. Roman, seconded by Mr. McGrath. The motion carried.

3f. TIP Reaffirmation

Steve Fisher Provided the reaffirmation information regarding the approximate \$3.5 million increase to the Elm Street bridge project. The reaffirmation is only needed from the coordinating committee.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to reaffirm the Elm Street bridge project. A motion was made by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion carried.

3g. TASA Large MPO Awards Reaffirmation

Mr. Shaw stated that the TAC Committee met and scored TASA presentations to make recommendations for projects to be awarded. A vote was necessary from the Technical Committee and the Coordinating Committee.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to reaffirm the TASA Large MPO Awards. The motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Barbra Idhaw. The motion carried.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to reaffirm the TASA Large MPO Awards. The motion was made by Mr. Roman, seconded by Mr. Fiume. The motion carried.

4. Discussion Items

4a. Winter Project Commencement

Jonathan Shaw and Eric Middleton presented an overview of the upcoming Let projects with six projects for the quarter:

- MPMS 117977: Federal Aid Paving 4-24-FP1
- MPMS 17106: SR 115 Retaining Wall Repair
- MPMS 67333: SR 3040 over Tributary Nescopeck Creek
- MPMS 9175: SR 1050 over Toby Creek
- MPMS 79534: SR 3019 over Hazle Creek
- MPMS 115731: SR 315 over RBM&N Rail Bridge Preservation

4b. Annual Obligations

Mr. Middleton stated that the LLTS MPO is the federally mandated organization through which federal transportation funds are distributed, planned, programed, and invested in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. The MPO is required to provide an annual obligation report every federal fiscal year. The report for 2023 is posted on the MPO website.

4c. Spring planning Partners

Mr. Roberts stated that there are no major updates for the spring planning partners conference. There will be a planning partners call in the following weeks.

4d. Federal Certification Review

Gene Porochniak stated that FTA is the lead on the certification review for the LLTS MPO. There will be a meeting before the certification deadline in the fall.

4e. Funding/Grant Opportunities

Mr. Shaw talked about the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. The focus of the RAISE program is to invest in surface transportation. This competitive program closes for applications on February 28th. The Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation program supports projects that deploy advanced transportation technology to improve emergency evacuation and dynamic ride sharing initiatives. The deadline to apply is February 22nd. Mr. Shaw also mentioned the Bridge Investment Program, which is for bridge projects or planning activities with costs up to \$100 million.

4f. Safe Streets and roads for All [SS4A] Awards

Ms. Donato reported that Lackawanna County is working on their RFP for the SS4A Action plan grant. Mr. Shaw stated that Luzerne County is waiting for their contact regarding the SS4A Action plan grant they received.

4g. Long Range Transportation plan (LRTP) Update

Mr. Jones stated that there needs to be an update made to the LRTP. The last update was made winter/spring of 2021, the new iteration should be made by winter/spring of 2026. Both counties will work on the project and hire a consultant to help draft the plan.

5. Progress Reports

5a. PennDOT Connects

Mr. Fisher reviewed the compilation of projects that PennDOT will need to work on regarding outreach for PennDOT connects. The next outreach meeting will be held at district 4 on April 26th. Mr. Fisher also stated that there would be technical assistance available in the future for any planning or programming projects.

5b. Joint County Plans for 2023

Ms. Donato reviewed the Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan/Limited-English Proficiency Plan, Congestion Management Process, and Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. Ms. Donato stated that there had been multiple outreach meetings with stakeholders regarding the various plans. Mr. Shaw stated that April is the target month to have the plans published minus the congestion management plan to follow later.

5c. Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Update

Mr. Fisher stated that the review process has begun and the new projects that will be added and removed will be listed. There is hope that there will be redistribution in August to allow some extra funding to be available to add new projects to the 2025 program.

5d. Scranton to NYC Rail Corridor Identification and Development Program

Ms. Donato stated that the passenger rail project has been approved. There will be future meetings between PennDOT, New Jersey Transit, and the rail authority to discuss next steps. There will be new information available after these meetings.

5e. Eastern PA Freight Alliance Freight Study

Ms. Donato stated that the stakeholder outreach sessions have been completed. There were over 4000 surveys reported, which was very encouraging.

5f. 2023 LLTS MPO Hybrid Meeting Schedule

The tentative schedule for MPO meetings in 2024 was decided upon. Those upcoming meetings will be available with both an in-person and a virtual component. The location is to be determined.

All meetings are at 1:00 PM unless otherwise noted:

- April 9th, 2024
- July 9th, 2024
- October 8th, 2024

6. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Mr. Roberts Adjourned the meeting at 1:51PM

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

October 5th, 2022

<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)			
<u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u>			
<i>Vacant</i> (Board of Commissioners)			
Brenda N. Sacco, Director of Planning & Economic Development	X		
<u>LUZERNE COUNTY</u>			
Romilda Crocarno, esq. - (Matthew Jones, Executive Director of Luzerne County Planning & Zoning – Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u>			
Jeffrey L. Cusat, Mayor - (Joshua Esposito, Hazleton City Engineering Technician - Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>CITY OF SCRANTON</u>			
Paige Cagnetti, Mayor - (Tom Reilly Jr., Reilly Associates- Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>CITY OF WILKES-BARRE</u>			
George Brown, Mayor - (Mark Barry, Director of Operations - Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE - LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u>			
Tim McGrath, COLTS Director	X		

TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE - LUZERNE COUNTY

Robert Fiume, LCTA Director, Committee Chair X

AVIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Carl Beardsley, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport Director X

***PA NORTHEAST REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY**

Larry Malski, President X

***FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

Gene Porochniak, Community Planner X

***FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)**

Timothy Lidiak, Project Manager X

***DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Chris Chapman, Local Government Policy Specialist X

LLTS Technical Committee Members Present:

Dean Roberts,

PennDOT Central Office, Transportation Planning Manager

Susan Hazelton,

PennDOT District 4-0 Assistant District Executive for Design, Committee Vice-Chair

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, Greenman-Pederson, Inc.

Jonathan Shaw,

Luzerne County, Transportation Planner

Mary Liz Donato,

Lackawanna County Planning Department Manager

Tom Reilly, Jr.,

Proxy for Scranton City Mayor, Paige Cognetti, Engineering Consultant, Reilly Associates

Mark Barry,

Proxy for Wilkes Barre Mayor, George Brown, Director of Operations

Kathy Bednarek,

Luzerne County Transportation Authority, (LCTA) Grants Coordinator

Stephen Mykulyn,

Lackawanna County Aviation Representative

Alan Baranski,

Permanent Proxy for Jeffrey Box, NEPA Alliance President/CEO

Matt Jones,

Executive Director, Luzerne County Planning and Zoning

Ralph Sharp,

Proxy for Hazleton Mayor Cusat, Hazleton Public Transit (HPT) Director

Gene Porochniak,

FHWA, Community Planner

LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Members Present:

Aaron Whitney, Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce (AJ Cimahosky)

Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association

Denise Corcoran, ARCIL

Owen Worozbyt, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association

Stephanie Milewski, North Pocono Trails Association

Eileen Cipriani, City of Scranton

Steve Pitoniak, Retired Planner

Non-Members Present:

Emma Pugh, PennDOT District 4-0
Eric Middleton, Lackawanna County Transportation Planning Manager
Jessica Edwards, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Manager
Jessica Ruddy, PennDOT District 4-0
Joe Corcoran, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association
John Petrini, PennDOT District 4-0
Julianne Lawson, PennDOT District 4-0
Kate McMahon, NEPA Alliance
Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0
Robert Kenney, Lackawanna County Planning
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0
Paul Dunay, Lackawanna County Planning
Russell Seese, PennDOT
Casey Bottiger, Michael Baker
Deron Jordan, Michael Baker
Danyel Patrick, Michael Baker
Annie Butkiewicz, Michael Baker