

# Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO

## Transportation Study Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Minutes

At 1:02pm, Chris Chapman opened the meeting.

Mr. Chapman 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. PP, LEP, Title VI Plans Public Comment Meeting (1:00-1:15) – Public comment on the draft PPP, LEP, and Title VI Plans.**

Mr. Chapman asked that Brian Funkhouser present the work Michael Baker had completed to date. Mr. Funkhouser gave a presentation regarding the Public Participation Plan, the Title VI Plan, and the Limited English Proficiency Plan. Mr. Funkhouser stated that there was a forty-five-day public comment period opened for the plans and there were no public comments received. Matt Jones gave comment stating that there would be another amendment proposed to add to the plan that would better accommodate community members and help drive public participation.

#### **2. Public Comment**

Discussion of items not on the agenda. Mr. Chapman noted that one request for comment had been received from the public, but that the person was not in attendance.

#### **3. Action Items**

##### **3a. Approval of the July 11, 2023, Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Roberts requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Sue Hazleton. The motion carried.

Bob Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the minutes from July 11<sup>th</sup>. The motion was made by Tom Reily, seconded by Rich Roman. The motion carried.

[July 11, 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. The Mill Street bridge project will be added and programed; the project will be captured on the 2025 update. The Hannover Industrial Improvement project was also mentioned.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion to approve both projects for addition to the 2023 TIP. Mr. Jones made the motion, seconded by Kathy Bednarek. The motion carried.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion to approve both projects for addition to the 2023 TIP. Mr. Roman made the motion, seconded by Mark Barry. The motion carried.

[MPMS 113272 – Mill St over D&L Railroad/Roaring Brook](#)

[MPMS 113263 – Hanover Industrial Estates Improvements](#)

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

Mr. Roberts stated that a vote can be conducted later due to possible public comments in the future.

### **3d. TIP Reaffirmation**

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the LCTA Paratransit Vehicle purchase and September 2023 flood repairs. A motion was made by Mr. Roman, seconded by Mr. Jones. The motion carried.

[MPMS 111252 – LCTA Paratransit Vehicle Purchase](#)

[September 2023 Flood Repairs](#)

### **3e. 2022-2024 UPWP Amendment Reaffirmation**

Mr. Chapman explained the amendment that was made to the 2022-2024 UPWP.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the UPWP reaffirmation. A motion was made by Mr. Barry, seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion carried.

[2022-2024 UPWP](#)

### **3f. 2020 Census Urbanized Boundary Smoothing Reaffirmation**

Mr. Chapman spoke about the changes that were made to the urbanized boundary smoothing.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to reaffirm the Urbanized boundary. A motion was made by Brenda Sacco, seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion carried.

## **4. Discussion Items**

### **4a. Fall Project Commencement**

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

- MPMS 119689 – Stormwater Control Measures
- MPMS 67304 – SR 115 over Reading Blue Mt and Northern Railroad
- MPMS 79532 – SR 2041 over Bear Creek
- MPMS 79521 – SR 2013 over Meadow Brook
- MPMS 114323 – SR 4026 over Norfolk Southern Railroad
- MPMS 115716 – SR 81 over Willow Creek Bridge Preservation
- MPMS 118518 – I-80 over Oley Creek

- MPMS 118519 – I-80 over Trib to Oley Creek
- MPMS 118520 – I-80 over Trib to Linesville Creek
- MPMS 115720 – SR 3020 over Lacka Co Rail Bridge Preservation
- MPMS 106314 – Elm Street Bridge over Lackawanna River
- MPMS 118777 – SR 590 over I-84 EB/WB
- MPMS 119201 – I-81 SB over NS R/R & Black Creek

## Fall Project Commencement

### **4b. Fall Planning Partners**

Mr. Roberts stated that there are surveys available regarding the Fall Planning Partners conference. Mr. Chapman gave a brief description of what was covered during the conference.

### **4c. Federal Certification Review**

Gene Porochniak stated that late June or early July would likely be the time for the site visit. He also stated that there should be a meeting set in the future to further discuss the federal certification review process.

### **4d. Funding/Grant Opportunities**

Mr. Chapman explained that the PennDOT multi-modal fun is open until November 13<sup>th</sup>, and it encompasses funding for any bike facilities and non-motorized travel options. Mr. Chapman also spoke about the TASA grant program. Projects have been submitted and there will be a meeting on how to score projects that will be presented on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the 911 center in Jessup. Mr. Roberts asked how many projects will be presented. Mr. Chapman responded stating that there would be seven projects presented for the TASA program.

[Multimodal Transportation Fund \(MTF\)](#)  
[Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside \(TASA\)](#)

### **4e. Safe Streets and Roads for All [SS4A] Awards**

Mr. Chapman stated that Luzerne County was awarded \$200,00 for an SS4A Action plan grant. He also stated that they will be looking for a consultant on the project and that the county will be releasing an RFP. Mary Liz Donato commented that Lackawanna County will be looking to get an RFP released sometime in January for the SS4A grant Lackawanna County was awarded.

## **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. Mr. Fisher also stated that there would be technical assistance available in the future for any planning or programing projects.

### **5b. Joint County Plans for 2023**

Mr. Chapman reviewed the Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan/Limited-English Proficiency Plan, Congestion Management Process, and Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. The

public comment period is set to close on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October. Mr. Chapman stated that there would be meetings for the upcoming plans for the committees that were created to oversee the process.

### **5c. 2024-2025 UPWP Update**

Mr. Chapman reminded that there would be a one-year cycle and Lackawanna and Luzerne County staff had met to discuss the process moving forward. He also stated that the UPWP would be up for approval during the January meeting.

### **5d. LCTA Micro transit Update**

Ms. Bednarek presented the micro transit update and stated that there had been funding left from FHWA that is currently in an FTA grant application, there is also an effort to work off other successful micro transit programs.

### **5e. Eastern PA Freight Alliance Freight Study**

Mr. Chapman stated that the freight study is still moving forward and will hopefully be completed by mid-next year. There was good feedback at the stakeholder meeting held by NEPA Alliance. LLTS will be holding a stakeholder meeting soon and Mr. Chapman requested that anyone with contacts for possible stakeholders please provide that information.

### **5f. 2023 LLTS MPO Meeting Schedule**

The tentative schedule for MPO meetings in 2023 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:**

- January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **6. Other Business**

Mr. Jones asked if anyone had heard any new information about the Amtrak Rail corridor. Mr. Chapman stated that a decision from the FRA should be made in December.

With no other business, Mr. Roberts asked for a motion to adjourn from the Technical Committee. Ms. Hazleton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Chapman. The motion carried.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion to adjourn from the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Roman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Barry. The motion carried.

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

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

<b><u>COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>MEMBER PRESENT</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT &amp; NO PROXY</u></b>	<b><u>PROXY PRESENT</u></b>
<b><u>PENNDOT</u></b>			
Richard N. Roman, District 4-0 Office, Committee Vice-Chair	X		
Kristin Mulkerin, Central Office (Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office-Proxy)			X
<b><u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u></b>			
<i>Vacant</i> (Board of Commissioners)		X	
Brenda N. Sacco, Director of Planning & Economic Development	X		
<b><u>LUZERNE COUNTY</u></b>			
Romilda Crocamo, esq. - (Matthew Jones, Executive Director of Luzerne County Planning & Zoning – Permanent Proxy)			X
<b><u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u></b>			
Jeffrey L. Cusat, Mayor - (Joshua Esposito, Hazleton City Engineering Technician - Permanent Proxy)			X
<b><u>CITY OF SCRANTON</u></b>			
Paige Cognetti, Mayor - (Tom Reilly Jr., Reilly Associates- Permanent Proxy)			X
<b><u>CITY OF WILKES-BARRE</u></b>			
George Brown, Mayor - (Mark Barry, Director of Operations - Permanent Proxy)		X	
<b><u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE - LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u></b>			

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**

Theodore Ritsick Jr, 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.

**Chris Chapman,**

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

**LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Members Present:**

Janet Sweeney, PA Environmental Council

Owen Worozbyt, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association

**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  
Jonathan Shaw, Luzerne County, Transportation Planner  
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  
Steve Pitoniak, Retired Planner  
Paul Dunay, Lackawanna County Planning  
Russell Seese, PennDOT  
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker  
Casey Bottiger, Michael Baker  
Deron Jordan, Michael Baker  
Danyel Patrick, Michael Baker  
Josh Carlson, PennDOT District 4-0