

Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO

Transportation Study

Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting

October 8th, 2024
Minutes

At 1:03pm, 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. Public Comment – Discussion of the items not listed on the agenda.

Mr. Roberts asked if there was anyone present who would like to make a comment. Mr. Roberts stated that there was one comment made prior to the meeting that was addressed. There were no further comments.

2. Action Items

a. Approval of the July 9, 2024, Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the July 9th meeting. Susan Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kate McMahon. The motion passed.

Rich Roman asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the minutes from the July 9th meeting. The motion was made by Tom Reilly and seconded by Romilda Crocamo. The motion passed.

b. 2025 TIP and Actions [Vote required for amendments only – Actions will not be covered individually. Please reach out to us prior to or after the meeting with any questions.]

Mr. Roberts asked if there were any amendments to the 2025 TIP. Steve Fisher replied that there were no amendments to be made at this time. There was no transit amendments needed at this time. Mr. Roberts stated that there was no need to conduct a vote at this time.

3. Discussion Items

a. Fall Project Commencement

- MPMS 8238 - SR 307 over Interstate 380
- MPMS 7911 - SR North Main Ave over Leggetts creek
- MPMS 8182 - SR 3017 over Lackawanna River

➤ **MPMS 67296 - SR 11 over Hunlock Creek**

Eric Middleton presented the Fall Project Commencement for all projects in Lackawanna County, and Robert Manzella presented the Summer Project Commencement for all projects in Luzerne County.

b. Federal Certification Review 2024 verbal summary of the closeout/discussion of findings on August 28th

Mr. Roberts stated that there were no findings that surprised the MPO. Gene Porochniak stated that the draft review was completed, and the final report would be completed in the coming weeks.

c. Fall Planning Partners

Mr. Roberts stated that the Fall Planning partners Conference was held at the Penn Stater hotel and went well. The next step will be planning the 2025 conference.

d. AMPO Membership

Dan Reese stated that Luzerne and Lackawanna County staff participated in a meeting with AMPO staff regarding the function of AMPO and the resources that they can possibly provide to the LLTS MPO. Kate McMahon Commented that she has experience with AMPO and the experience in having a membership has been valuable.

e. Safe Streets and Roads for All [SS4A] Progress updates

Mary Liz Donato stated that Lackawanna County has already held a steering committee meeting, as well as putting out a survey and hosting a booth at la festa in Scranton. Lackawanna county will also have a booth at the Carbondalien Festival on November 9th.

Rob Manzella stated that Luzerne County's grant agreement has been executed and the RFP has been released with four responses returned.

f. 2025–2027 UPWP update

The UPWP draft has been completed and the final draft will need to be voted on at the next meeting in January. This document will serve as the template for projects that the LLTS MPO will be working on over a two-year span. Mr. Manzella also stated that staff will be working with federal officials to try and implement some of the findings from the federal certification review. Larry Malski commented about the Rail project and thanked the staff for the inclusion in the UPWP.

g. Eastern PA Freight Alliance Freight Study

Ms. Donato stated that there would be a meeting on the 9th for anyone who wishes to attend. Hopefully everything will stay on track with the plan, and it will be available for vote in January.

h. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Brian Funkhouser presented on behalf of Michael Baker regarding the LRTP. There have been multiple meetings already and the plan is on pace to be completed between February-March of 2026. Mr. Funkhouser provided an overview of the plan and what the timetable of the planning process would include. Michael Baker will be incorporating a wide range of data sets into this plan including functional class, road user data, and traffic data. This draft will also focus on safety as the number one priority. Mr. Funkhouser also mentioned that Michael Baker would be providing updates at all MPO meetings until the Plan is completed. Steve Pitoniak asked if the Transportation Advisory Committee would be involved at any point during the planning process. Mr. Funkhouser stated that they would absolutely consider the involvement of the TAC Committee.

i. NEVI Community Charging update

Mr. Manzella stated that PennDOT released a survey regarding the community charging plan. A brochure has also been released and they document the process and what the plan is attempting to achieve. Funding allocation has also been released for the Lackawanna Luzerne region.

j. Funding/Grant Opportunities

Mr. Manzella stated that the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program closes 11/13/2024. This will be to help Public Transportation on Indian Reservations, and Tribal Transit Programs. Low Carbon Transportation Materials Program (LCTM) closes 11/25/2024. This is to fund low carbon materials for construction projects that create less pollution. Lastly, Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program closes 10/16/2024. This is to provide funding to construct, reconstruct, or rehabilitate nationally significant Federal Lands and Tribal transportation projects.

4. Progress Reports

a. PennDOT Connects

Steve Fisher stated that PennDOT is working with LCTA to provide potential safer options for their facility. Gouldsboro Fire department has also reached out and PennDOT has offered technical assistance currently.

b. LCTA Update: Microtransit update

Kathy Bednarek stated that LCTA is still looking to move the Micro transit plan forward. It has been out for public comment, and it is awaiting the next steps.

c. State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Update & STC

Mr. Roberts stated that LLTS is now operating under the 2025 program. There were no questions regarding the STIP update.

d. 2025 LLTS MPO Hybrid Meeting Schedule:

- January 14th, 2025
- April 8th, 2025
- July 8th, 2025
- October 7th, 2025

5. Other Business

Mr. Roberts asked if there was any other business to discuss. No other business was mentioned.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to adjourn, motioned by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion carried.

Mr. Roman asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Ms. Crocamo, seconded by Mr. Reilly. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08pm.

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

April 9th, 2024

<u>COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u>	<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT & NO 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>		
Bill Gaughan (Board of Commissioners)		
Kristin Magnotta, Director of Planning & Economic Development	X	
<u>LUZERNE COUNTY</u>		
Romilda Crocamo, 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 Cognetti, 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

Kristen Magnotta

Lackawanna County Director of Planning and Economic Development

Barbara Idhaw

Lackawanna County, Engineering Consultant, Greenman-Pederson, Inc.

Mary Liz Donato,

Lackawanna County Planning Department Manager

Tom Reilly, Jr.,

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

Kathy Bednarek,

Luzerne County Transportation Authority, (LCTA) Grants Coordinator

Kate McMahon

Permanent Proxy for Jeffrey Box, NEPA Alliance President/CEO

Dan Reese,

Executive Director, Luzerne County Planning and Zoning Authority

LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Members Present:

Owen Worozbyt, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association

Christine Dettore, DCNR

Denise Corcoran, ARCIL

Steve Pitoniak, Retired Planner

Non-Members Present:

Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker

Casey Bottiger, Michael Baker

John Petrini, PennDOT District 4-0

Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0

Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0

Eric Middleton, Lackawanna County Transportation Planning Manager

Jennifer Andes

Jennifer Pecora, Luzerne County Engineer

Jessica Edwards, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Manager

Joe Corcoran, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association

Jonathan Shaw- NEPA Alliance

Robert Manzella, Luzerne County Planning

William Harris

Michelle Adolini

Caitlin Cook

Bill Keyrouze

Koren Clark

Liz Rosencrans

Mike Ritner