

**Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO  
Transportation Study  
Technical and Coordinating  
Committee Meeting  
April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Minutes**

At 1:05pm, 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. There were no comments.

**2. Action Items**

**a. Approval of the January 14, 2025, Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the meeting minutes from the January 14<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting. The motion was made by Susan Hazelton and seconded by Kate McMahon. The motion passed.

Robert Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the meeting minutes from the January 14<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting. The motion was made by Tom Reilly and seconded by Mark Barry. The motion passed.

**b. 2025 TIP and Actions**

**Amendments:**

Steve Fisher and Mr. Roberts covered the amendments that would be made to the following TIP projects. MPMS 73300 - LLTS Highway Reserve revision, MPMS 121532 - Edwardsville Creekside Trail Connection, MPMS 111466 – Keystone College Ped & Trail Connections, MPMS 113623 – Hanover Industrial Estates MTM, MPMS 118849 – Rotary Drive Local Access, and MPMS 119725 – Sweet Valley Road Improvements.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the amendments to the 2025 TIP. The motion was made by Mary Liz Donato and seconded by Barbara Idhaw. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the amendments to the 2025 TIP. The motion was made by Rich Roman and seconded by Tom Reilly. The motion passed.

### **3. Discussion Items**

#### **a. Spring Project Commencement**

- i. MPMS 116761 – SR 347 over Kennedy Creek (Bridge Replacement)
- ii. MPMS 118738 - T-718 over Roaring Brook (Bridge Restoration)
- iii. MPMS 119601 – SR6 over Norfolk Southern RR(Bridge Preservation)
- iv. MPMS 115733 – SR 1013 over Tobys Creek (Bridge Preservation)
- v. MPMS 121030 – SR 2007 over RR (Bridge Preservation)

Eric Middleton presented the Spring Project Commencement for all projects in Lackawanna County, and Robert Manzella presented the Spring Project Commencement for all projects in Luzerne County. There were no further questions regarding the spring project commencement.

#### **b. Gordon Ave Project Update**

Ms. Idhaw provided a presentation update on the Gordon Ave project. The first phase of the project has been awarded for drainage improvement. The contract was awarded in the previous week while the agreement is in the process of being executed. This is scheduled to be completed in October. The paving portion of the project includes widening and utility adjustments. The bid package is currently being completed and will hopefully be ready for early 2026. Mr. Fisher asked if there is a cost estimate available for the paving portion of the project. Frank Summa stated that the estimate had not been completed at this time, but it is on schedule to be within the \$1,000,000 K-route parameter. Mr. Fisher stated that an amendment should be made to add the construction phase of MPMS 121385 drawing down from reserve 70194, and 73359 for \$1,000,000.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to add an amendment for the construction phase of MPMS 121385 for \$1,000,000. Ms. Hazelton made the motion, seconded by Kathy Bednarek. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to add an amendment for the construction phase of MPMS 121385. Tim McGrath made the motion, seconded by Mark Barry. The motion passed.

#### **c. Transit MOU draft Progress for the Federal Certification Review MOU**

Dan Reese stated that the draft MOU was provided as it was added as a corrective action during the Federal Certification Review last year. Mr. Roberts stated that Tim Lidiak had reviewed the draft and stated that it was acceptable. The goal is to have the MOU completed by July.

#### **d. Update for 2025 Planning Partners**

Mr. Roberts stated that the Fall planning Partners would be held in late September, early October. Mr. Roberts stated that there were no further updates at this time.

#### **e. 2025 TYP public outreach campaign for the 2027 12-year program**

Mr. Reese stated that the STC is asking for feedback for the next TYP. On April 10<sup>th</sup> there will be an online forum to listen to as registration for the forum is requested. Mr. Reese stated that MPO staff would answer questions regarding the Forum or survey.

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

Ms. Donato stated that Lackawanna County had completed another steering committee meeting in February where 120 miles of roadway was identified as priority areas. The draft is set to be completed this summer and adopted this September.

Mr. Reese stated that Luzerne County selected Kittelson and associates as the consulting firm to help execute the Luzerne County Action Plan. Public outreach is currently being planned, and the steering committee is in the process of being formed. The kickoff meeting between Kittelson and Luzerne County has already taken place.

**g. LLTS MPO website update (and social media)**

Mr. Reese stated that the MPO has been having issues with the website. Blackout media has been contacted but the MPO will most likely need to reach out to new vendors to obtain proposals in order to update the media outlets for the MPO.

**h. NEVI Community Charging Program MPO's NEVI fact sheet**

Mr. Manzella stated that the NEVI program update included a new fact sheet that needs to be considered. The NEVI program survey for the region is created and allows residents to provide feedback on where they would be interested in seeing the program utilized.

**i. The State Transportation Commission (STC) Survey ends April 30**

Mr. Middleton stated that Mr. Reese had mentioned the survey earlier as it closes on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Middleton stated that the survey had been linked to the agenda that was sent to all meeting participants and encouraged them to share the survey with anyone who might be interested in providing feedback.

**j. Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Brian Funkhouser provided an LRTP update that covered the finalization process for the draft product. The steering committee and MPO staff are currently helping to provide feedback on the draft as it is being finalized. Multiple public outreach sessions were held across the two-county region to garner feedback from the community. Michael Baker is continuing to break down comments and feedback currently. Michael Baker is also planning for the asset management process which will show how much and where the MPO will have the best impact regarding funding.

**k. Funding/Grant Opportunities**

Mr. Manzella spoke about the FAA Aviation Research Grants Program which closes on 9/7/2027. Research Grants Program encourages and supports innovative, advanced research of potential benefit to the long-term growth of civil aviation and commercial space transportation. Mostly for institutions of higher education. The Vehicle Technology Office Program Wide closes 6/18/2025 and supports innovation to reduce the energy and cost needed to move goods and people across the US. Examples include more convenient travel options, decreased cost of driving, increased vehicle and system efficiency. The Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program closes on 4/17/2025. The RTA Program aims to help applicants develop transportation infrastructure projects in rural and tribal communities.

### **Progress Reports**

- a. PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach Sessions – summary from this morning.

Mr. Fisher stated that PennDOT Connects was hosted at the district 4 office this morning. There was a series of listening sessions, bridge inventory was covered, and future outreach avenues were discussed. PennDOT will continue to do these outreach sessions across the state.

- b. 2027 Tip Update Schedule

Mr. Roberts stated that the general procedural guidance and financial guidance are being released this spring, hopefully early May. There are no other major updates concerning the 2027 TIP schedule.

- c. 2025 LLTS MPO Hybrid Meeting Schedule:

- July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **4. Other Business**

Mr. Roberts asked if there was any other business to discuss. There were no comments.

### **5. Adjournment**

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to adjourn. The motion was made by Ms. Hazelton, seconded by Ms. McMahon. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Roman, seconded by Mr. Reilly. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

If you need any further information, please contact me at 570.825.1564

# Attendee List

Tuesday, April 8th, 2025

	MEMBER PRESENT	PROXY PRESENT	ABSENT & NO PROXY
<b><u>COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u></b>			
<b><u>PENNDOT</u></b>			
<b>Richard N. Roman</b> , District 4-0 District Executive ( <b>Committee Vice-Chair</b> )	X		
<b>*Dean Roberts</b> , Transportation Planning Manager, Central Office	X		
<b><u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u></b>			
<b>Bill Gaughan</b> (Board of Commissioners)			X
<b>*Kristen Magnotta</b> , Director of Planning & Economic Development			X
<b><u>LUZERNE COUNTY</u></b>			
<b>Romilda Crocamo, esq.</b> - ( <b>Dan Reese</b> , Executive Director Planning & Zoning - Permanent Proxy)	X	X	
<b><u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u></b>			
<b>Jeffrey L. Cusat</b> , Mayor - ( <b>Joshua Esposito</b> , Barry Isett and Associates - Permanent Proxy)			X
<b><u>CITY OF SCRANTON</u></b>			
<b>*Paige Cognetti</b> , Mayor - ( <b>Tom Reilly Jr</b> , Reilly Associates - Permanent Proxy)		X	
<b><u>CITY OF WILKES-BARRE</u></b>			
<b>*George Brown</b> , Mayor - ( <b>Mark Barry</b> , Director of Operations - Permanent Proxy)		X	
<b><u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE - LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u></b>			
<b>Tim McGrath</b> , COLTS Director	X		
<b><u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE - LUZERNE COUNTY</u></b>			
<b>Robert Fiume</b> , LCTA Director, ( <b>Committee Chair</b> )	X		
<b><u>AVIATION REPRESENTATIVE</u></b>			
<b>*Carl Beardsley</b> , Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport Director ( <b>Stephen Mykulyn</b> - Meeting Proxy)		X	

NON VOTING MEMBERS			
<b><u>PA NORTHEAST REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY</u></b>			
Larry Malski, President			X
<b><u>FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION</u></b>			
*Gene Porochniak, Community Planner			X
<b><u>FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)</u></b>			
*Timothy Lidiak, Project Manager			X
<b><u>DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u></b>			
*Chris Chapman, Local Government Policy Specialist			X

Appears on Coordinating and Technical Committee = \*

MEMBER PRESENT	PROXY PRESENT	ABSENT & NO PROXY
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## Technical Committee Members

### \*Dean Roberts, (Committee Chair)

PennDOT Central Office, Transportation Planning Manager

### Susan Hazelton, (Committee Vice-Chair)

PennDOT District 4-0, Assistant District Executive for Design

### 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-Pedersen, Inc.

### Mary Liz Donato,

Lackawanna County, Planning Department Manager

### \*Tom Reilly Jr,

Proxy for Scranton Mayor Paige Cognito, Engineering Consultant, Reilly Associates

### \*Mark Barry,

Proxy for Wikes-Barre Mayor George Brown, Director of Operations

### Kathy Bednarek,

Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA), Grants Coordinator

### Michael Danchek

County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS)

### Stephen Mykulyn,

Lackawanna County Aviation Representative

### \*Carl Beardsley,

Luzerne County Aviation Representative

### Kate McMahon

Proxy for Jeff Box, Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Alliance Member

### Dan Reese

Luzerne County Planning and Zoning, Executive Director

### Ralph Sharp,

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

### Vacant,

### Larry Malski, Esq.,

Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority, President

## NON VOTING MEMBERS

### \*Gene Porochniak,

FHWA, Community Planner

### \*Timothy Lidiak

FTA, Project Manager

### \*Chris Chapman

DCED, Local Government Policy Specialist

### **LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Members**

Aaron Whitney, Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce	
Alan Stout, Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau	
Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association	X
Christine Dettore, DCNR	
Denise Corcoran, ARCIL	
Janet Sweeney, Pa Environmental Council	
Joyce Morrash Zaykowski, W-B City Hall	
Keith Williams, NEPACIL	
Larry West, Scranton City	
Sierra Club	
Mary Malone, Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce	
Nina Waskevich, AAA North Penn	
Owen Worozbyt Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association	
Patrick Williams, Clarks Summit	
Shane Novak, Luzerne County Planning Commission	
Stephanie Milewski, North Pocono Trails Association	X
Ted Patton, Martz Trailways	
V. Dan Gavin, TMG Health	
Vivian Williams, Scranton Area Foundation	
Eileen Cipriani, City of Scranton	
Steve Pitoniak, Retired Planner	X

### **Non-Members**

Rob Manzella Transportation Planner Luzerne County	X
Emma Pugh, PennDOT District 4-0 Planning and Programming	X
Eric Middleton, Lackawanna County Planning	X
Jessica Edwards, Lackawanna County Planning	X
Frank Summa, GPI	X
John Petrini, PennDOT District 4-0	X
Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0 Planning and Programming	X
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0 Planning and Programming	X
Michele Bannon, Mayor of Carbondale	X
Casey Bottiger, Michael Baker	X
John Shaw, NEPA Alliance	X
William Harris	X
Koren Clark, Scranton Area Foundation	X
Steve Thomas, Michael Baker	X
April Hannon, PennDOT District 4-0	X
Brian Langan,	X
Nick Noss	X



Liz Rosencrans	<u>X</u>
Michele Sparich, Luzerne County	<u>X</u>
Kevin O'Boyle	<u>X</u>