

**Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO
Transportation Study
Technical and Coordinating
Committee Meeting
July 8th, 2025
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. Public Comment – Discussion of the items not listed on the agenda.

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

2. Action Items

- . Approval of the [April 8, 2025, Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the minutes from the April 8th MPO meeting. A motion was made by Susan Hazelton and seconded by Rich Roman. The motion passed.

Robert Fiume asked for a motion from the coordinating committee to approve the minutes from the April 8th MPO meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Roman and seconded by Mr. Fiume. The motion passed.

- . [2025 TIP](#) and [Actions Amendments](#):

- MPMS 122736 - SR 11 & SR 92 Intersection Improvement.
- MPMS 122573 - Dunmore Borough Keystone Industrial Park Transportation Enhancements.

Steve Fisher presented the proposed amendments stating that MPMS 122736 - SR 11 & SR 92 intersection improvement will be added as a construction phase for \$380,000 in years 25' & 26'. MPMS 122573 - Dunmore Borough Keystone Industrial Park this is Appalachian regional funding. This project will be making enhancements in and around the Keystone industrial park. Lastly, there will be an addition of \$1.5 million for the construction phase SR93 and I80 off ramp improvement.

Mr Roberts asked for a motion to approve all listed 2025 TIP amendments. The motion was made by Kate McMahon and seconded by Mary Liz Donato. The motion passed.

Mr Fiume asked for a motion to approve all listed 2025 TIP amendments. The motion was made by Tom Reilly and seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion passed.

3. LCTA Transit Amendments

Kathy Bednarek stated that LCTA will be adding additional funding (\$3.2 Million) to be on schedule for a grant application process.

Mr Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the transit amendment. The motion was made by Ms. Hazelton and seconded by Ms. McMahon. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinatizing committee to approve the transit amendment. The motion was made by Mr. Roman and seconded by Mr. Reilly. the motion passed.

4. Discussion Items

. [Summer Project Commencement](#)

- MPMS 118429 – Dickson City Boro Multimodal Revitalization TASA
- MPMS 85812 – SR 435 over Van Brunt Creek
- MPMS 121083 – CenterPoint South Commerce & Trade Park Impr.

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.

. Scranton to NYC Amtrak line update

Larry Malski presented the Scranton to NYC Amtrak line update stating that things have been quiet. Mr Malski stated that the project has had great support and because some areas of the line have been maintained, it allowed the project to progress ahead of others. Mr. Malski also thanked PennDOT for its support and ongoing relationship with Amtrak. The project will be moving forward with the three-step process, step one has been completed through awarded funding and PennDOT support. Step two will be preliminary engineering and budget drafting. Step three will be final engineering and anything else before the bidding process. The annual economic impact of the line is estimated to be around \$84 million. This line will be composed of three trains on this line per day. The stations will need to be constructed and bridges along the line will need to be improved. Some of the lines already in place will need to be improved to allow the Amtrak trains to travel at the speed of 80mph. The goal for first run is set for 2028.

. Improvement Program for Lackawanna County

Dave Bulzoni stated that Lackawanna County would be undertaking a comprehensive improvement project. Lackawanna County has undertaken a capital improvement project borrowing approximately \$25 million. Four bridges traversing plank road are at the top of the county list for funding. All four bridges are in poor condition. Lackawanna County is currently trying to find funding options so the bridges will not be forced into closure. Mr Bulzoni welcomed everyone to look into the project and to please provide any possible funding solutions. Two of the bridges are applicants for multimodal funding which will be announced in the future.

- . [Transit MOU](#) Signed MOU for the Federal Certification Review

Dan Reese stated that the MOU Between the Transit authorities, PennDOT district 4 and the MPO had been completed. This will close out the corrective action from the previous federal certification review.

- . Update for 2025 Planning Partners

Mr. Roberts stated that more information about the conference would be released in the coming weeks, but the location is at the Penn Stater conference center in State College.

- . Safe Streets and Roads for All [SS4A] Progress updates
[Lackawanna](#) County
[Luzerne](#) County

Ms. Donato stated that the final public outreach session has been completed in Lackawanna County. A preliminary draft is currently being constructed, and the final steering committee meeting will be held in September.

Mr Reese stated that the plan for Luzerne County is ramping up with a survey that is currently available to the public. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to complete the survey. Meetings have already been held to identify high priority areas using data from the high injury network.

- . LLTS MPO website update (and social media)

Mr. Reese stated that the process should be close to being started in efforts to complete the website update.

- . [UPWP 2025-2027 published](#) uploaded
 - FHWA/FTA approval received on April 24, 2025
 - PennDOT approval & [Supplemental funding](#) added on May 5, 2025

Mr. Manzella stated that supplemental funding has been approved. All information can be found on the LLTS website.

- . General Procedural and Financial Guidance 2027
 - [2027 Financial Guidance](#)
 - [2027 Procedural Guidance](#)
 - [2027 Guidance Highlights](#)
 - 2027 Tip Update Schedule

Mr. Roberts stated that the program update was agreed upon by the planning partners. The procedural guidance had to be scrubbed to eliminate DEI and Justice 40 implications to comply with new federal regulations. The updated schedule will begin October 1st 2026. MPOs will look to approve the programs in July or August of 2026.

- . [NEVI Community Charging Program](#) (survey ends July 31)

Mr. Reese stated that the map-based survey is still active. The feedback has been relatively low up until this point. Around half of the respondents have indicated that they currently own an EV. The federal program has been rescinded.

- [Long Range Transportation Plan Update](#)

Brian Funkhouser presented the LRTP update stating that the draft profile is being finalized to be a public facing document. The plans strategic direction is being determined by MPO staff in correspondence with Michael Baker staff. The STC survey will be used to help better determine public preferences. PennDOT program center helped to provide data from the survey. Most respondents stated that they would allocate funding towards maintenance. The goal of the LRTP is to increase safety and mobility across all facets of transportation. The plan will also outline all funding categories set to forecast revenue over the course of the plan. The plan is scheduled to be adopted next January. Listening sessions will be held this fall, locations and times to follow.

- Eastern PA Freight Alliance
 - new [website](#) created
 - draft [MOU](#)

Ms. Donato state that the website for the Eastern PA Freight Alliance is active. The website has all news and information regarding the plan. The draft is completed and the MPO will be looking at the adoption of the plan at the next meeting.

- Funding/Grant Opportunities

Mr. Manzella stated that the [Walkworks](#) Justin R. Lehman Capacity-Building Pre-Planning Assistance Program applications deadline is 7/18/2025. Applicants should have an interest in applying for funding to develop an Active Transportation Plan but lack the knowledge, professional support, or resources needed to assemble an application. Luzerne County is considered a “priority” community. The actual ATP grant application deadline 3/20/2026)

Mr. Manzella stated that the [Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside \(TASA\)](#) program provides funding for projects and activities defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities. It only happens once every other year. Start planning your proposals. The timeline and guidance are linked below for those who have interest.

- [TASA Timeline](#)
- [TASA Guidance](#)

Mr. Manzella stated that the [Transportation Systems Management and Operations \(TSMO\)](#) is a capital funding initiative program. This provides funding to resolve key mobility and safety issues in transportation. Ex: Traffic-signal lights and connections.

5. Progress Reports

- LCTA Update: [BRT Study](#) update

Ms. Bednarek stated that LCTA has secured funding for a BRT feasibility study. The RFP is currently being created with the plan starting in the winter of 2026.

. 2025 LLTS MPO Hybrid Meeting Schedule:

➤ October 7th, 2025

6. Other Business

Mr. Roberts asked if there was any other business. There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Ms. Hazelton. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the coordinating committee to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Fiume and seconded by Mr. Roman. The Meeting was adjourned at 2:18PM.

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

Attendee List

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

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

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

Appears on Coordinating and Technical Committee = *

Technical Committee Members

MEMBER
PRESENT

PROXY
PRESENT

ABSENTEE
N
PR

*Dean Roberts, (Committee Chair) PennDOT Central Office, Transportation Planning Manager	X		
Susan Hazelton, (Committee Vice-Chair) PennDOT District 4-0, Assistant District Executive for Design	X		
Gerard Babinski, PennDOT District 4-0, District Bridge Engineer	X		
*Kristen Magnotta, Lackawanna County, Director of Planning and Economic Development			X
Barbara Idhaw, Lackawanna County, Engineering Consultant, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.	X		
Mary Liz Donato, Lackawanna County, Planning Department Manager	X		
*Tom Reilly Jr, Proxy for Scranton Mayor Paige Cognito, Engineering Consultant, Reilly Associates	X		
*Mark Barry, Proxy for Wikes-Barre Mayor George Brown, Director of Operations	X		
Kathy Bednarek, Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA), Grants Coordinator	X		

Michael Danchek

County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS)

Stephen Mykulyk,

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

X		
X		
X		
X		
X		
		X
		X
X		

NON VOTING MEMBERS***Gene Porochniak,**

FHWA, Community Planner

***Timothy Lidiak**

FTA, Project Manager

***Chris Chapman**

DCED, Local Government Policy Specialist

X		

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	
Christine Dettore, DCNR	
Denise Corcoran, ARCIL	X
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	X
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	

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
Joe Corcoran, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association	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
Kent Jackson	X
Megan Ostroski	X
John Shaw, NEPA Alliance	X
William Harris	X
Michael Granter	X
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker	X
Frank Summa, GPI	X
Dave Bulzoni, Lackawanna County CFO	X
Jon Shaw, NEPA Alliance	X
Madaline Keating	X
Alice Wanamaker	X
Michelle Sparich, Luzerne County	X
Robert Kenney, Lackawanna County	X