

Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO

Transportation Study

Technical and Coordinating

Committee Meeting

January 13th, 2026

Minutes

At 1:04pm, Dean Roberts opened the meeting.

Mr. Roberts noted that, according to 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.

Mr. Roberts asked the room to have a moment of silence in honor of PennDOT district 4 executive and coordinating Committee Vice Chairman Rich Roman.

1. Draft LRTP Public Comment– Public comment on the [draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan \(LRTP\)](#). View the [storymap](#)

Brian Funkhauser stated that the long process of the LRTP update has finally reached the final draft. There have been a few changes made to the draft including additional points of access on the PA Turnpike. The federal review team had recommended that performance measures for transit authorities need to be addressed corresponding to the MPO. The inclusion of the plan states that the MPO will work with the transit authorities to help reach the performance measures.

There were no further comments on the LRTP draft.

2. Public Comment – Discussion of the items not listed on the agenda.

There were no additional public comments.

3. Action Items

a. Approval of the [October 7, 2025, Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the minutes of the October 7th MPO meeting. The motion was made by Kate McMahon and seconded by Dan Reese. The motion passed.

Robert Fiume asked for a motion from the coordinating committee to approve the minutes from the October 7th MPO meeting. The motion was made by Romilda Crocamo and seconded by Tom Reilly. The motion passed.

b. 2025 TIP and Actions
TIP Reaffirmation

➤ MPMS 9128 – [SR 115 over I-81](#)

Steve Fisher stated that this project was bid and obligated on the 2023 program. The advanced construction will be covered in the current program after funds are adjusted. There is no increase in budget, it is just an adjustment that needs to be reaffirmed.

Mike Danchek stated that COLTS would be adding federal funds to cover some operating expenses.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to accept both the reaffirmation and the federal operating assistance for COLTS. The motion was made by Mary Liz Donato and seconded by Mr. Reilly. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to accept both the reaffirmation and the federal operating assistance for COLTS. The Motion was made by Ms. Crocamo and seconded by Tim McGrath. The motion passed.

c. Approval of the 2025-2028 Air Quality Resolution (Dean Roberts)

Mr. Roberts stated that he wanted to note that the Air Quality report should have been posted on the LLTS MPO website and would work to get it listed with MPO staff.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the Air Quality conformity report for the LLTS LRTP. The motion was made by Mrs. McMahon and seconded by Mr. Reese. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the Air Quality conformity report for the LLTS LRTP. The motion was made by Mark Barry and seconded by Mr. McGrath. The motion passed.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the 2025-2028 Air Quality Resolution. The motion was made by Ms. McMahon and seconded by Ms. Donato. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the 2025-2028 Air Quality Resolution. The motion was made by Mr. Reilly and seconded by Mr. Fiume. The motion passed.

d. Approval of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft (LRTP)

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to accept the 2050 LRTP draft. Mr. Danchek made the motion seconded by Ms. McMahon. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to accept the 2050 LRTP draft. The motion was made by Mr. Reilly and seconded by Ms. Crocamo. The motion passed.

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

Rob Manzella stated that the MPO would like to follow the PM1 safety targets as outlined. Mr. Roberts stated that it is most likely the best practice to adopt the statewide measures as outlined.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to accept the PM1 Safety Measures for the current cycle. The motion was made by Ms. McMahon and seconded by Mr. Reese. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the coordinating committee to accept the PM1 Safety Measures for the current cycle. The motion was made by Mr. Barry and seconded by Ms. Crocamo. The motion passed.

f. Approval of the TASA Large MPO award

Mr. Reese stated that the MPO held two sessions to hear presentations from applicants in both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. One project from each county was chosen to receive funding. The scoring of projects was done by the tactical committee. All projects not selected in this round will be eligible to receive funding from the statewide funds.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the TASA projects as voted on. The motion was made by Mr. Danchek and seconded by Ms. Donato. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the TASA projects as voted on. The motion was made by Mr. Reilly and seconded by Ms. Crocamo. The motion passed.

4. Discussion Items

a. Spring Project Commencement

- MPMS 67170 - Goers Hill Bridge No. 3 over White Oak Run
- MPMS 121385 - Gordon Ave K-194
- MPMS 67199 – SR 3023 over Roaring Brook
- MPMS 92435 – I-81 Preservation Pavement Replacement
- MPMS 118432 – Hanover Township Transportation Enhancements
- MPMS 117042 - SR 3016 Slope Repair

Eric Middleton presented the Spring project commencement for all projects in Lackawanna County and Robert Manzella presented all projects in Luzerne County. There were no further comments or questions.

b. Annual Obligations

Mr. Middleton stated that the LLTS MPO is required to post the listing of obligated and de-obligated projects along with the funding amounts associated. This listing is available on the LLTS website for anyone who wishes to view it.

Gene Porochniak stated that the report should include a few items that are missing. MPO staff stated that they would make the adjustments. There were no further comments.

c. [LLTS MPO TIP development timeline 2027-2030](#)

Mr. Manzella stated that the MPO staff are beginning to work on the new TIP cycle. The development is underway and will need to be available for public comment once completed. Any concerns or questions should be directed at MPO staff.

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

Ms. Donato stated that Lackawanna County has completed the draft plan that will be out for a 30-day comment period.

Mr. Reese stated that Luzerne County will be holding a comment period in late spring if everything goes accordingly.

e. LLTS MPO website update (and social media)

Mr. Reese stated that the MPO will be updating the website along with the social media platforms. Staff is working with the vendors to complete this update.

f. NEVI Community Charging Program [update](#)

Mr. Manzella stated that the public survey results are in and the MPO staff is currently trying to compile the results. The results will be compiled in accordance with the state's requirements. The remainder of focus will be determining the locations of the charging stations.

g. Funding/Grant Opportunities

- [Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development \(BUILD\)](#) (closes 2/24/2026)

Mr. Manzella stated that selected projects will plan for or construct surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility, community connectivity, economic competitiveness, tourism, state of good repair, partnership, collaboration, and innovation.

5. Progress Reports

a. LCTA BRT Feasibility Study update (Kathy Bednareck)

Kathy Bednareck stated that LCTA met with the Director of COLTS to interview the top-ranking consultants. The announcement should be made later this month. The project is expected to last around 12 months with a focus on stakeholder engagement and community inclusion.

b. 2026 LLTS MPO Hybrid Meeting Schedule:

- April 7th, 2026
- July 7th, 2026
- October 6th, 2026

6. Other Business

Koren Clark state that the Scranton Area Community foundation has sent out a survey about how the foundation can help with transportation.

There were no further statements.

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 Mr. Reese. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mr. Fiume. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 PM

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

Attendee List

Tuesday, January 13th, 2025

	MEMBER PRESENT	PROXY PRESENT	ABSENT & NO PROXY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
PENNDOT			
District 4-0 District Executive (Committee Vice-Chair)			
* Dean Roberts , Transportation Planning Manager, Central Office	X		
LACKAWANNA COUNTY			
Bill Gaughan (Board of Commissioners)			X
*Kristen Magnotta, Director of Planning & Economic Development			X
LUZERNE COUNTY			
Romilda Crocamo, esq. - (Dan Reese, Executive Director Planning & Zoning - Permanent Proxy)	X	X	
CITY OF HAZLETON			
Jeffrey L. Cusat, Mayor - (Joshua Esposito, Barry Isett and Associates - Permanent Proxy)			X
CITY OF SCRANTON			
*Paige Cognetti, Mayor - (Tom Reilly Jr, Reilly Associates - Permanent Proxy)		X	
CITY OF WILKES-BARRE			
*George Brown, Mayor - (Mark Barry, Director of Operations - Permanent Proxy)		X	
TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE - LACKAWANNA COUNTY			
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 (Stephen Mykulyn - Meeting Proxy)		X	
NON VOTING MEMBERS			

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

Appears on Coordinating and Technical Committee = *

Technical Committee Members

<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u>	<u>PROXY PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT & NO PROXY</u>
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***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

Robert Bochicchio,
Lackawanna County, Engineering Consultant, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.

Mary Liz Donato,
Lackawanna County, Planning Department Manager

***Tom Reilly Jr.,**
Proxy for Scranton Mayor Paige Cognetti, 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

X		
X		
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X		
X		
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X		
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X		
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		X
X		

NON VOTING MEMBERS

***Gene Porochniak,**
FHWA, Community Planner

***Timothy Lidiak**
FTA, Project Manager

***Chris Chapman**
DCED, Local Government Policy Specialist

X		
		X
X		

LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Members

Aaron Whitney, Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce	X
Alan Stout, Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau	
Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association	
Christine Dettore, DCNR	
Denise Corcoran, ARCL	
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	
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
Jacob Weinberg, City of Scranton	X
Koren Clark, Scranton Area Foundation	X
John Shaw, NEPA Alliance	X
William Harris	X
Michael Granter	X
Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker	X
Joe Roselle	X
Lisa Rohland, Martz Bus	X
Beth Coslett	X



*Lackawanna/Luzerne Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization*