LACKAWANNA LUZERNE MPO *Lackawanna/Luzerne Transportation Study*
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO
Transportation Study
Technical and Coordinating
Committee Meeting
October 6th, 2026
Minutes

At 1:02pm, 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

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

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

2. **Action Items**

   a. Approval of the July 7, 2026, Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

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

   Steve Fisher asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the minutes of the July 7th meeting. The motion was made by Tom Reilly and seconded by Tim McGrath. The motion passed.

   b. TIP and Actions
   TIP amendments MPMS 112906 – Colts Bus Replacement - 30 & 35

   Michael Danchek presented the funding amendment and reasoning for COLTS. There were no further comments.

   Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the grant funding for COLTS bus replacement in FFY 2027 & 2028. The motion was made by Kathy Bednarek and seconded by Kate McMahon. The motion passed.

   Mr. Fisher asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the grant funding for COLTS bus replacement in FFY 2027 & 2028. The motion was made by Mr. Reese and seconded by Mary Liz Donato. The motion passed.

3. **Discussion Items**
   a. Fall Project Commencement
      - MPMS 67170 - Goers Hill Bridge No. 3 Over White Oak Run
      - MPMS 123194 - I-81 over Ramp A Bridge Preservation

- MPMS 112288 - SR 2107 over I-81 NB & SB (Rockwell Avenue)
- MPMS 120813 - SR 6011 Market Street Culvert
- MPMS 121586- SR 11 Resurfacing - Lackawanna
- MPMS 108573 - SR 3012 (Oak St.) Resurfacing
- MPMS 101925 - SR 4035 over Pine Creek
- MPMS 93931 - SR 11 over SR 2037, Susquehanna River and Railroad
- MPMS 67255 - SR 7303 over Susquehanna River and Railroad
- MPMS 67395 - SR 2008 over Espy Run
- MPMS 117838 - I-81/ I-80 Concrete Pave Repairs Luzerne County
- MPMS 107495 - I-80 Eastbound Reconstruction
- MPMS 115734 - SR 1030 over Harveys Creek
- MPMS 67460 - SR 3040 over Tributary Nescopeck Creek
- MPMS 124009 - SR 315 Resurfacing
- MPMS 124022- SR 8017 Resurfacing

Eric Middleton presented the Fall 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. Update for 2026 Planning Partners

Mr. Roberts stated that the annual Planning Partners meeting was held from September 1st to the 3rd. It is expected that the conference will be held around the same time in 2027.

c. NEVI Community Charging Program update

Mr. Manzella stated that the NEVI charging program is underway and asking for survey results as we begin looking for interested parties. Mr. Manzella also stated that the timing of this is important as the program moves into the MPO region.

d. Freight Infrastructure Plan: progress update

Ms. Donato stated that the MPO is currently helping outline priorities with the alliance. It is hoped that a work plan will be created moving forward.

e. Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Manzella presented a draft of the MPO's UPWP. There have been updates to targeted completion dates for all plans included in the UPWP. Mr. Manzella asked for anyone who has comments to please come forward with them before the UPWP is finalized. New maps and plan dates have been upgraded along with the addition of revisions to the title 6, PPP and Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan. Ms. McMahon stated that it has been proposed to complete a joint plan between the LLTS MPO and NEPA Alliance. Due to overlap of coverage and needs it would make sense to make this a joint effort.

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

Mr. Reese stated that Luzerne County completed the SS4A action plan this summer. With leftover funding the county is looking to complete a road safety audit in Kingston on Wyoming Ave. There will also be a model ordinance generated for complete streets sent to all municipalities to adopt if they choose to.

Lackawanna County

Ms. Donato stated that the Lackawanna County SS4A action Plan has been adopted. The county is now asking all municipalities to sign on to the municipal pledge for the SS4A plan. Ms. Donato also stated that she would be conducting a session at the APA conference regarding the safe streets plan along with Randy Waltermyer from Bowman consulting group.

g. Federal Transportation Bill Reauthorization

Mr. Reese stated that congress is now considering the build America 250 Act. This would be the successor to IIJA. The focus of this bill will be shifting from some grant programs while prioritizing bridges and infrastructure improvement funding. This will also aim to cut down on project delivery time. Mr. Roberts stated that IIJA will be extended until December 11th.

h. Funding/Grant Opportunities

Mr. Manzella Presented the following funding opportunity information.

PEC Mini Grant Program (closes December 2026)
This initiative helps strengthen trail organizations by improving organizational capacity, improve trail management practices, enhance trail user experiences, and foster greater community engagement. The program provides one-year grants of $1,000-$12,000

2027-2028 Multimodal Transportation Fund (closes October 30, 2026)
This provides funding for rail freight, aviation investments, and establishes funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

PROTECT Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost- Saving Transportation. (closes October 9, 2026)
This is a grant program to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to current and future weather events, natural disasters, and changing conditions, such as severe storms, flooding, drought, levee and dam failures, wildfire, rockslides, mudslides, extreme weather, and extreme temperatures.

4. Progress Reports

a. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plan update

Mr. Reese stated that the study kicked off this summer with public meetings and one stakeholder meeting. The goal is to evaluate the existing conditions, and proposed routes in previous LRTP documents. The next public meeting will be in the first week of December in both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. The date and time of these in-person public meetings will be announced at a future date.

b. 2027 LLTS MPO Hybrid Meeting Schedule:

Mr. Reese stated that the dates for the 2027 LLTS MPO meetings have been set. The location of the meetings will be announced and advertised as usual before the meeting. The MPO hopes to move the meetings between the two-county region. The Dates that have been set are as follows.

- January 12th, 2027
- April 6th, 2027
- July 6th, 2027
- October 5th, 2027

5. Other Business

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

6. Adjournment

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

Mr. Fisher asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Reese and seconded by Mr. McGrath. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

If you need any further information, please contact us at 570.825.1566

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Attendee List

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS	MEMBER PRESENT	PROXY PRESENT	ABSENT & NO PROXY
PENNDOT **Jonathan Eboli,** District 4-0 District Executive **(Committee Vice-Chair)**	X		
***Dean Roberts**, Transportation Planning Manager, Central Office	X		
LACKAWANNA COUNTY **Bill Gaughan** (Board of Commissioners)			X
Mary Liz Donato, Lackawanna County Director of Planning	X		
LUZERNE COUNTY **Romilda Crocamo, esq. - (Dan Reese,** Executive Director Planning & Zoning - Permanent Proxy)		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 Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport Director (**Stephen Mykulyn** - Meeting Proxy)	X		
NON VOTING MEMBERS			
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		

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Technical Committee Members	MEMBER PRESENT	PROXY PRESENT	ABSENT & NO PROXY
***Dean Roberts, (Committee Chair)** PennDOT Central Office, Transportation Planning Manager	X		
Jennifer Borino, (Committee Vice-Chair) PennDOT District 4-0, Assistant District Executive for Design	X		
Gerard Babinski, PennDOT District 4-0, District Bridge Engineer	X		
***Mary Liz Donato,** Lackawanna County, Director of Planning	X		
Robert Bochicchio, Lackawanna County, Engineering Consultant, Greeman-Pederson, Inc.	X		
Eric Middleton, Lackawanna County, Transportation Planning Manager	X		
***Tom Reilly Jr,** Proxy for Scranton Mayor Paige Cognetti, 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)	X		
Stephen Mykulyn, Lackawanna County Aviation Representative	X		
***Carl Beardsley,** Luzerne County Aviation Representative			X
Kate McMahon Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Alliance Member	X		
Dan Reese Luzerne County Planning and Zoning, Executive Director	X		
Ralph Sharp, Proxy for Hazleton Mayor Cusat, Hazleton Public Transit (HPT) Director			X
Vacant,			X
Larry Malski, Esq., Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority, President	X		

NON VOTING MEMBERS			
***Gene Porochniak,** FHWA, Community Planner			X
***Timothy Lidiak** FTA, Project Manager			X
***Chris Chapman** DCED, Local Government Policy Specialist	X		

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LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Members

Aaron Whitney, Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce (AJ Cimahosky)	
Alan Stout, Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau	
Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association	
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	
Lisa Rohland, Martz Trailways Terminal Director	
V. Dan Gavin, TMG Health	X
Vivian Williams, Scranton Area Foundation	
Eileen Cipriani, City of Scranton	
Steve Pitoniak, Retired Planner	
Non-Members	
Emma Pugh, PennDOT District 4-0 Planning and Programming	X
Jessica Edwards, Lackawanna County Planning	X
Joe Corcoran, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association	X
John Petrini, PennDOT District 4-0	X
Jon Shaw, NEPA Alliance	X
Robert Manzella, Luzerne County Transportation Planner	X
Mark Tobin	X
Robert Kenney, Lackawanna County Planning	X
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0 Planning and Programming	X
Ted Ritsick, Luzerne County Community Planning	X