

Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO
Transportation Study
Technical and Coordinating
Committee Meeting
July 9th, 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. TIP Public Comment

Mr. Roberts asked if there was anyone present who would like to comment on the 2025-2028 TIP. Mr. Roberts stated that there was one comment made prior to the meeting that was addressed. There were no further comments.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Action Items

a. Approval of the April 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 April 9th meeting. Susan Hazelton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kate McMahon. The motion passed.

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

b. The 2025-2028 Conformity Determination

Mr. Roberts provided background knowledge about the attainment process. The LLTS MPO is currently in attainment and this process is considered the system by which the process can be monitored.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the 2025-2028 conformity determination. Mary Liz Donato made the motion, seconded by Ms. McMahon. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the 2025-2028 conformity determination. The motion was made by Mr. Roman, seconded by Mark Barry. The motion passed.

c. The 2025-2028 Air Quality Resolution

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the 2025-2028 Air Quality Resolution. The motion was made by Ms. Hazelton, seconded by Barbara Idhaw. 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 Romilda Crocamo, seconded by Tom Reilly. The motion passed.

d. The MOU for the 2025-2028 TIP

Mr. Roberts stated that this documents the changes that are made to the tip corresponding to the administration of federal funds. It was also stated that if there was a large cost change there would be an amendment needed.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the MOU for the 2025-2028 TIP. The motion was made by Ms. Idhaw, seconded by Ms. Donato. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the MOU for the 2025-2028 TIP. The motion was made by Ms. Crocamo, seconded by Mr. Barry. The motion passed.

e. The Self-Certification Resolution

Mr. Roberts stated that this resolution states that the LLTS MPO is following all regulations set forth in 23450 CFR and the MPO is also following the 3C planning process to the best of our ability.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the Self-Certification Resolution. Ms. Hazelton made the motion, seconded by Ms. McMahon. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the Self-Certification Resolution. The motion was made by Mr. Roman, seconded by Ms. Crocamo. The motion passed.

f. Environmental Justice Analysis

Mr. Roberts stated that Michael Baker completed the EJ analysis for the MPO, and it includes the location of minority groups in conjunction with projects that are being funded.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion to approve the Environmental Justice Analysis. The motion was made by Ms. McMahon, seconded by Ms. Donato. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the Environmental Justice Analysis. Mr. Barry made the motion, seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion passed.

g. The 2025-2028 TIP Package

- The 2025-2028 Highway & Bridge TIP
- The 2025-2028 Interstate TIP
- The 2025-2028 Transit TIP
- The 2025-2028 Statewide TIP
-

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion to approve the 2025-2028 TIP package. The motion was made by Ms. Idhaw, seconded by Ms. Donato. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the 2025-2028 TIP package. The motion was made by Mr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Fiume. The motion passed.

h. 2023 TIP and Actions

- MPMS 9128- SR 115 over I-81 Construction Cost Increase
- MPMS 102030- SR 2002 (San Souci Parkway) Reconstruction- Increase Final Design, Right of Way, and Utility.

Steve Fisher stated that MPMS 9128- SR 115 over I-81 is a construction cost increase of approximately \$8,000,000. Mr. Fisher stated that this is contingent on the approval from the central office.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical committee to approve the construction cost increase for MPMS 9128- SR 115 over I-81. The motion was made by Ms. McMahon, seconded by Ms. Hazelton. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating committee to approve the construction cost increase for MPMS 9128- SR 115 over I-81. The motion was made by Mr. Barry, seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion passed.

Mr. Fisher stated that MPMS 102030- SR 2002 (San Souci Parkway) Reconstruction will require an increase to the program of \$4,700,000 for final design, including \$2,000,000 for right of way, and \$250,000 for utilities. These are preliminary estimates currently.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion to approve the amendment to MPMS 102030- SR 2002 (San Souci Parkway) Reconstruction- Increase Final Design, Right of Way, and Utility. The motion was made by Ms. Donato, seconded by Ms. Idhaw. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion to approve the amendment to MPMS 102030- SR 2002 (San Souci Parkway) Reconstruction- Increase Final Design, Right of Way, and Utility. The motion was made by Mr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion passed.

4. Discussion Items

a. Summer Project Commencement

- MPMS 115720 - Elm Street Bridge over Lackawanna River
- MPMS 113723- North Main Avenue Demolition
- MPMS 9006- SR 3011 Keyser Avenue Wall Replacement
- MPMS 100508- SR 435 over Lackawanna County Railroad Authority

- MPMS 110085- SR 435 over Roaring Brook
- MPMS 79525- SR 348 Intersection Improvement

Eric Middleton presented the Summer 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 Summary

Mr. Porochniak stated that there is still coordination being completed at this time. Mr. Porochniak also stated that there will be a meeting set in the near future to cover some findings from the Certification review completed this past spring.

c. Fall Planning Partners

Mr. Roberts stated that the Fall planning partners meeting will be at the Penn stater in September, this will be a two-and-a-half-day conference again. Mr. Roberts stated that if there were any questions to please reach out to him.

d. Safe Streets and Roads for All Progress Update

Ms. Donato stated that Lackawanna County has set up a kickoff meeting with the consultant for the Safe Streets program in Lackawanna County.

Mr. Manzella stated that Luzerne County has been officially awarded the Safe Streets and Roads for all grants. Luzerne county is in the process of completing and releasing their RFP for the grant program.

e. Complete Streets Meeting Update

Mr. Middleton stated as part of the UPWP the MPO had a Complete streets committee kickoff meeting on June 5th. Hopefully the Complete streets meetings can be run in conjunction with the Safe Streets and roads for all grant program to help generate ideas that can be shared with both county consultants when completing the Action plans. The next Complete streets meeting will be held tentatively in late August, or early September.

f. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update & Timeline

Brian Funkhouser stated that the LRTP update is underway. The MPO is required to have the updated plan completed by March of 2026. Michal Baker will be presenting updates to the MPO as the work continues. Mr. Funkhouser presented the breakdown of staff that will be working on the LLTS MPO LRTP update, as well as presenting the timeline and future meeting plans with the revenue forecast of the plan. The completion of the LRTP is currently set for March of 2026. Mr. Funkhouser stated that there will be a steering committee assembled in the coming weeks.

g. Eastern PA Freight Alliance Freight Study

Ms. Donato stated that the LLTS MPO is working on the freight study with the 5 MPOs in the eastern portion of the state. There was a draft completed but it was found that the draft was data heavy with limited recommendations. There was a follow-up meeting with the consultant to express concerns with the draft. There is an MOU being created to hopefully provide an opportunity to work on implementation in the future.

h. Funding/Grant Opportunities

Mr. Manzella provided an explanation of the Clean Heavy-Duty Grant Program. This program closes July 15th. This program is for transit vehicles primarily.

Mr. Manzella stated that The Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program is open. This is a grant program that will help communities reach the goal of vision zero helping to make all roadways safer for all modes of travel.

Mr. Manzella provided information about the Energy efficiency Block program. This program is designed to plan for conserving energy for transportation related activities.

Mr. Manzella also stated that The Smart Grant is for promoting smart technology traffic signals and implementing those units.

5. Progress Reports

a. PennDOT Connects

Mr. Fisher stated that in coordination with PennDOT central office there was a meeting on May 7th that provided tech support to all municipalities in attendance and made those participants aware of future opportunities.

b. LCTA Update Microtransit and the Transit Development Plan

Mr. Fiume stated that LCTA has a draft plan established and the plan is currently out for public comment. The Microtransit service will be part of the plan moving forward.

c. State Transportation Improvement Plan Update & STC

Mr. Roberts stated that the STC has a goal to meet once a year. This year's meeting is in Scranton. Once the STC approves the Documents they will be sent out of the 45-day federal review.

d. 2024 LLTS MPO Hybrid Meeting Schedule:

➤ **October 8th, 2024**

Mr. Roberts asked if there were any objections to the proposed MPO meeting times on October 8th. There was no objection.

6. Other Business

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

7. Adjournment

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14pm.

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

July 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)		
<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

***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

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

Mark Barry,

Proxy for Wilkes Barre Mayor, George Brown, Director of Operations

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:

Aaron Whitney, Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce

Owen Worozbyt Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association

Non-Members Present:

Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker

Casey Bottiger, Michael Baker

Emma Pugh, 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

Justin Batiuk- PennDOT

Mary Roselle

Michael McGrath- Lackawanna County Planning

Michele Bannon

Michele Sparich

Nick Vough

Paul Dunay, Lackawanna County Planning

Robert Manzella, Luzerne County Planning