

**Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO
Transportation Study
Technical and Coordinating
Committee Meeting
January 14th, 2025
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. Draft UPWP Public Comment – (1:00-1:15) – Public comment on the draft 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Roberts asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the UPWP. There were no comments made.

2. 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. Mr. Roberts stated that there was one comment made prior to the meeting that was addressed. There were no further comments.

3. Action Items

a. Approval of the October 8, 2024, Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the meeting minutes from the October 8th MPO meeting. The motion was made by Kate McMahon and seconded by Mary Liz Donato. The motion passed.

Robert Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the meeting minutes from the October 8th MPO meeting. The motion was made by Rich Roman and seconded by Romilda Crocamo. The motion passed.

b. Approval of the December 18th special informational meeting concerning the Freight Plan meeting minutes

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the December 18th Freight Plan meeting minutes. The motion was made by Ms. McMahon and seconded by Steve Fisher. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the December 18th Freight Plan meeting minutes. The motion was made by Mark Barry and seconded by Ms. Crocamo. The motion passed.

- c. **2025 TIP and Actions [Vote required for amendments only – Actions will not be covered individually. Please reach out to us prior to or after the meeting with any questions.]**

➤ **MPMS 119725 - Sweet Valley Road Improvements, Sweet Valley Road**

Mr. Fisher stated that the Tip packet that has been provided is for informational purposes only. There is one amendment for the Sweet Valley Road Improvements. This includes additional funding for the region. The agreement is in process, and it would include 1.5 million in additional funding.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the technical committee to approve the MPMS 119725 project. The motion was made by Steve Mykulyn and seconded by Barbara Idhaw. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the MPMS 119725 project. The motion was made by Mr. Roman and seconded by Mr. Fiume. The motion passed.

- d. **TIP Reaffirmation – (Coordinating Committee Only)**

- **MPMS 106314 – Elm Street over Lackawanna River Construction**
- **MPMS 102030 – San Souci Final Design**
- **MPMS 8191 and MPMS 109778 SR 435 Construction Cost Increase**

Mr. Fisher stated that the Elm Street project was previously programed, however it was accounted for on the 2025 program. The San Souci received its environmental clearance on the 2023 program. It was accounted for on the 2025 project for the advanced construction portion of the project. The Sr 435 bridge replacement projects had a significant increase in cost due to some inflationary factors.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the TIP Reaffirmations. The motion was made by Mr. Roman and seconded by Mr. Barry. The motion passed.

e. Approval of the 2025-2027 UPWP

Robert Manzella stated that the UPWP will be on a two-year basis again. This document will outline all LLTS MPO work that is planned to be completed over the two-year span. The Amtrak line proposal is included, as well as the addition of an MOU between the transit agencies. The MPO staff has attempted to address all comments following the 2024 Federal Certification Review.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the 2025-2027 UPWP. The motion was made by Ms. McMahon and seconded by Ms. Idhaw. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to approve the 2025-2027 UPWP. The motion was made by Ms. Crocamo, Seconded by Tim McGrath. The motion passed.

f. Approval of the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Infrastructure Plan

Ms. Donato stated that the Eastern PA Freight Alliance has been working on this plan for the past two years. Lehigh valley has adopted the plan at this time. Steve Chiaramonte stated that LLTS MPO would be the third MPO to adopt the plan. The remaining MPOs are slated to adopt the plan in the coming months.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the Eastern PA Freight Infrastructure Plan. The motion was made by Ms. Donato and seconded by Mr. Mykulyn. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the Eastern PA Freight Infrastructure Plan. The motion was made by Mr. Roman, seconded by Ms. Crocamo. The motion passed.

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

Mr. Manzella stated that the LLTS MPO adopted the statewide safety targets that were set by the state of Pennsylvania. Mr Manzella also said it is important that we evaluate the data given and look to support the appropriate safety measures.

Mr. Roberts asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the Statewide Safety Performance Measures- Safety Targets. The motion was made by Ms. McMahon and seconded by Ms. Idhaw. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the Statewide Safety Performance Measures- Safety Targets. The motion was made by Mr. Barry and seconded by Mr. Roman. The motion passed.

4. Discussion Items

- **Spring Project Commencement**
- MPMS 115720 - SR 3020 over Lackawanna Co Railroad
- MPMS 8191 - SR 435 over Lackawanna Co Railroad
- MPMS 109778 - SR 435 over Roaring Creek
- MPMS 113723 - SR 632 Roadway Improvements
- MPMS 121029 - SR 11 over SR 2037 Susquehanna River
- MPMS 118778 - SR 4018 over Pine Creek

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.

Mr. Roman stated that MPMS 121029 - SR 11 over SR 2037 Susquehanna River is currently undergoing a temporary project. This is not the final replacement project, but a temporary fix to the bridge in efforts to allow the bridge to remain open until the replacement work can begin.

a. Annual Obligations

Mr. Middleton stated that the LLTS MPO is required to provide an annual obligations report after every federal fiscal year. The annual obligations report for the 2024 federal fiscal year has been published to the LLTS MPO website for all interested parties to view. Any comments, questions or concerns should be directed at the LLTS MPO staff.

b. Transit MOU draft Progress for the Federal Certification Review

Dan Reese stated that a draft has been completed, and the next step would be to finalize the document and have the agreement signed by the transit authorities, the LLTS MPO, and PennDOT district 4. The goal is to have this MOU adopted at the Next Meeting in April.

c. Main Street Matters Grant Carbondale Roundabout

Todd Pousley provided a presentation discussing the main street matters grant Carbondale roundabout. Mr. Pousley stated that the plan lists the goals and the target areas that the plan focuses on. Through the planning process a four-way intersection was identified as a safety concern. Traffic calming measures are the recommended measures as this connects the downtown area to residential areas. The best measure identified has been to attempt a traffic circle (roundabout) project at the intersection. Michele Bannon stated that the roundabout is at the intersection of SR 171 and SR 6. Measures are being taken to make the area more attractive to the public.

Mr. Roman added that it may be productive to look into multimodal funding opportunities through PennDOT or DCED as it provides additional planning alternatives within the corridor. Mr. Roman also stated that it would be beneficial to reach out to PennDOT district 4 to cover additional options.

Chris Chapman stated that the MAP program with DCED could also be something to consider.

d. **Update for 2025 Planning Partners**

Mr. Roberts stated that there is no update at this time for the fall planning partners meeting other than the scheduled meetings in the near future.

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

Ms. Donato stated that Lackawanna County had a Second steering Committee meeting and there was a booth held to engage stakeholders at the Carbondalieu festival. The third steering committee meeting will be held in February.

Mr. Reese stated that Luzerne County has chosen a consultant to help with the plan. The next step will be to get the contract signed by the council.

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

Mr. Reese stated that there have been internal discussions to update the LLTS MPO website. There have been challenges addressing this issue and having a good source of social media outreach. There will have to be a new social media account created to address this issue. Mr. Reese stated that we will hopefully have more than one administrator on the account.

g. **Organizational/MPO structure discussion**

Mr. Reese stated that the LLTS MPO has joined AMPO to gain knowledge about how to better function. Regionalization discussions have been brought up in conversation. Ms. Donato stated that turnover with employees is an issue, and it is difficult to compete with market salaries. Mr. Fisher stated that there have been discussions in the past about moving MPO employees outside of the County governments as it can be considered a conflict of interest. Something like the NEPA MPO could be used as an example if changes are considered in the future. It was said that local government will not lose any voting power as they will still represent on the committees.

h. **NEVI Community Charging Program survey update**

Mr. Manzella stated that the LLTS MPO has added a survey form for the public to recommend charging stations where they might be interested in utilizing them.

i. **Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Casey Bottiger presented the LRTP Plan update stating that the background profile of the plan has been completed. Comments on the draft are currently being taken into consideration. The next steering committee meeting will be scheduled soon. Action strategies are currently being considered and comments from the public and the steering committee will be addressed. The target to complete the LRTP is 2026, but the draft will be completed long before then.

j. **Funding/Grant Opportunities**

Mr. Manzella provided an update regarding open funding opportunities.

(TTPSF) 2025 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (closes 1/15/2025) (helps Tribes to identify transportation safety needs and determine how those needs will be addressed in Tribal communities)(may be extended)

(PROTECT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Program (closes 2/24/2025) (may be extended) (seeks to strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards)

(FTA-2025-003-TRI) Bus Safety and Accessibility Research Competitive Program (closes 1/17/2025)

(Research funding to make existing and new buses safer for their operators and vulnerable road users, and safer and more accessible for their passengers.)

Progress Reports

2025 LLTS MPO Hybrid Meeting Schedule:

- April 8th, 2025
- July 8th, 2025
- October 7th, 2025

5. Other Business

Gene Porochniak stated that the discussion had about organizational MPO structure is a good conversation to have as it could certainly have a great impact on the MPO.

John Petrini stated that PennDOT district 4 will be holding a municipal outreach meeting on April 8th at 9:30-11am.

6. 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. McMahan. The motion passed.

Mr. Fiume asked for a motion from the Coordinating Committee to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Roman and seconded by Mr. Barry. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 PM.

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

Attendee List

Tuesday, January 14, 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	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	X		
<u>FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)</u>			
*Timothy Lidiak, Project Manager	X		
<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 ABSENT &
NO
PROXY

***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 Cagnetti, 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

Proxy for Jeff Box, 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

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, 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	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
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
Michele Bannon, Mayor of Carbondale	X
Casey Bottiger, Michael Baker	X
John Shaw, NEPA Alliance	X
William Harris	X
Koren Clark	X
Steve Thomas, Michael Baker	X
Steve Chiaramonte	X
Candy Frye	X
Jacob Weinburg	X

Liz Rosencrans

Todd Pousley, Neighbororks

James Brady, STV

X

X

X
