



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
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Vice Chair

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Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 20th, 2024, 10:30 AM
AGENDA

THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED AT <https://tinyurl.com/LVPC2024> OR VIA PHONE 610-477-5793 Conf ID: 928 251 831#.

Roll Call

Courtesy of the Floor

Committee Business:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: County SALDO Review - Northern Lehigh School District Baseball & Softball Field Renovations – Slatington Borough (DK)
2. *ACTION ITEM*: Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan for Transportation Decarbonization (SM, SN, CM, CR)
3. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (SR)
4. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Lehigh Valley Greenways Annual Retreat (CM)

Next Environment Committee Meeting:
March 26, 2024, at 10:30 AM



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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Planning for the Future of Lehigh and Northampton Counties at 961 Marcon Blvd., Ste 310, Allentown, PA 18109 ■ (610) 264-4544 ■ lvpc@lvpc.org ■ www.lvpc.org

February XX, 2024

Mr. Tyler E. Hill, PE
ELA Group, Inc.
743 S. Broad Street
Lititz, PA 17543

**Re: Northern Lehigh School District Baseball & Softball Field Renovations –
Preliminary Plan Review
Slatington Borough
Lehigh County**

Dear Mr. Hill:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) received an application under the Lehigh County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance on January 18, 2024 for the above improvements on the Northern Lehigh School District property in the Borough of Slatington. The LVPC administers the county ordinance for proposals within the Borough of Slatington. Materials submitted included:

- Post Construction Stormwater Management Plans revised December 27, 2023
- Post Construction Stormwater Management Report revised January 15, 2024
- Stormwater Infiltration Summary Report revised January 12, 2024

The intent of the application is to renovate existing natural grass baseball and softball fields by stripping the topsoil, installing a subdrainage system, re-grading, and adding new crushed aggregate warning tracks, dugouts, support buildings and walkways.

The LVPC reviewed the above-referenced application and recommends conditional approval of the preliminary plan, pending compliance with the standards of the Lehigh County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) for items listed herein. The conditions listed identify plan items which do not currently meet required standards. The conditions specified herein must be met within 12 months of the date of this letter as required by Section 251 of the County SALDO, at which time a Final Plan must be submitted to the LVPC. Failure to satisfy the conditions before said date will result in denial of the application.

To affect this approval, the conditions below must be agreed to by returning the attached form on or before 10 days from the date of this letter per Section 241.4 of the County SALDO.

The plans shall be revised as follows:

- The name, address, license number and seal of the registered surveyor responsible for the plan must be provided. The surveyor shall sign a statement attesting to the accuracy of the survey. (Section 314.6)
- Provide a note on the plan if all existing utilities are shown on the plan. (Section 314.14)

- Provide a note on the plan if there are no existing easements or utility rights-of-way within the site. (Section 314.15)
- Revise the owner's statement on the plan to read: "We (I), the owners of this plat of land being duly sworn according to law, depose and say we (I) are (am) the sole owner(s) of this property in peaceful possession of it and there are no suits pending affecting title of same." The owner must sign the statement before a notary public. The seal of the notary must be impressed on the plan. (Section 314.18)
- A signature block must be placed on the plan, signed by the applicant, that reads ""The applicant hereby authorizes the LVPC staff to enter upon and inspect the site for the purposes of conducting a review and determining consistency with the requirements of the Lehigh County SALDO during the pendency of the application before the LVPC." (Section 314.20)
- A statement of intended use must be provided on the plan. (Section 315.6)

Based on review of the plans and calculations relative to the stormwater management requirements in the Lehigh County SALDO, the following deficiencies are noted with reference to the specific section of ordinance:

- The applicant has not demonstrated compliance with the Act 167 Ordinance dated April 2006 (Section 462.2). Provisions of the Act 167 Ordinance not satisfied are as follows:
 - Verification of detention basin by routing - The exfiltration needs to be deducted in the hydrograph routing for the existing and proposed basin. The proposed infiltration basin detail is incorrect for the depth and/or elevation of the topsoil. (Section 307.D)
 - Minimum basin freeboard requirements - The proposed infiltration basin routings indicate the freeboard to the spillway invert is not met. (Section 307.H)
 - Soil-cover-complex runoff curve numbers - Hydrologic Soil Group B should be used for the hydrograph calculations pre- and post-development. All existing and proposed land cover needs to be clearly labeled on the drainage area maps. (Section 307.L)
- Compatibility with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements needs to be demonstrated through approval by the Lehigh County Conservation District. (Appendix B, Section 102.15)

Please call if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey A. Reese
Master Planner and Engineer

Denjam Khadka
Senior Civil/Environmental Engineer

Susan L. Rockwell
Senior Environmental Planner

Corinne Ruggiero
Environmental Planner

Attachment

cc: David Schnaars, President, Slatington Borough Council
Duane Dellecker, Zoning Officer, Slatington Borough



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Lehigh County Subdivision and Land Development Proposal

Agreement to Conditions

**Northern Lehigh School District Baseball & Softball Field Renovations –
Preliminary Plan Review
Slatington Borough
Lehigh County**

I, _____ (owner / agent of owner), the applicant for the Northern Lehigh School District project, agree to the conditions of approval as set forth by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission review letter, entitled 'Northern Lehigh School District Baseball & Softball Field Renovations – Preliminary Plan Review', dated February XX, 2024.

Signature

Printed Name

Date



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 2024
TO: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and Lehigh Valley Transportation Study
FROM: Steve Neratko, Chief Planner
CC: Staff
REGARDING: Draft Priority Climate Action Plan Internal Consistency Review

INTRODUCTION

As part of regular processes when developing organizational plans and/or policies and considering them for adoption, LVPC staff not involved in the development of the plan and/or policy conduct an internal review of consistency against the bi-county comprehensive plan, *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, and other related LVPC and LVTS plans and documents. LVPC staff have conducted a review of the Draft LVPC Priority Climate Action Plan against *FutureLV*, *Walk/Roll-LV: Active Transportation Plan*, *Moving LANTA Forward* and the *LANTA Enhanced BRT Strategy*.

REVIEW

The draft Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) makes several direct connections to other LVPC plans and documents, particularly *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* and the *Walk/Roll-LV: Active Transportation Plan*. Considerations for equity and the impact of measures on low-income and disadvantaged communities are woven throughout the document, which serves to equitably invest transportation resources, improve health outcomes, and increase access to opportunities for low-income communities, communities of color, and communities experiencing the greatest environmental impacts as a result of climate change (of Policy 2.6).

The PCAP outlines six priority greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures specifically intended for transportation decarbonization. Decarbonizing transportation supports a key objective of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and each of the proposed measures serves to improve regional air quality and mitigate impacts of climate change (of Policies 3.2 and 3.4). Each proposed measure also fulfills additional aspects of *FutureLV* and supporting documents:

Measure 1: Implementing priority Bicycle Commuting Corridors and Catalytic Projects and Priority Sidewalk Gaps as proposed in Walk/Roll-LV.

Providing the opportunity for non-automobile travel modes reduces the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles while also establishing mixed-transportation corridors (Policy 1.2, 2.1), improving connections between mass transit and walk/roll infrastructure (of Policy 2.3),

expanding access to education and job training (of Policy 4.1) and improving mixed-transportation access to areas with high or growing employment opportunities (of Policy 4.3).

Prioritizing alternative modes of transportation also strengthens sidewalk, bike route and trail infrastructure (of Policy 5.3), ensures transportation accessibility for all persons (of Policy 5.2) and supports reducing bicycle and pedestrian fatalities towards zero (of Policy 5.1).

Measure 1 also serves to implement the *Walk/Roll-LV: Active Transportation Plan* by directly referencing projects and recommendations outlined within the Plan.

Measure 2: Increasing transit ridership above current levels in the Lehigh Valley.

Land use and public transportation are directly impacted by each other. The LVPC and Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) are in a memorandum of understanding that ensures both are able to work toward meeting the goals of *FutureLV* as well as the goals of the LANTA Regional Public Transportation Development Plan, *Moving LANTA Forward*.

Increasing transit ridership encourages enhanced transit connections to improve mobility and job access (Policy 2.3), improves mixed-transportation access to areas with high or growing employment opportunities (of Policy 4.3), ensures transportation accessibility for all persons, integrates mixed-transportation into public space design and improves connections between bus stops and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure (of Policy 5.2). Additionally, this aligns with the LANTA Enhanced Bus BRT Study, which identifies benefits to current riders and expanding transit ridership as goals of the Enhanced Bus Service in the Lehigh Valley.

Measure 3: Increasing deployment of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) of all types in the region from 2022 baseline figures.

Transitioning to vehicles with clean and sustainable fuel options is imperative to reducing transportation emissions and aligns with the intent of *FutureLV* to advance deployment of alternative fueling infrastructure (of Policy 2.5). While supporting all types of AFV's is a commendable goal, the lack of standardization within the industry causes increasing costs, as a number of different technologies may need to be supported.

Measure 4: Increasing the number and geographic distribution of alternative fueling stations in the region.

Increasing deployment of AFVs requires adequate infrastructure to support transition across the region. A significant transition to AFV's would require a substantial number of new alternative fueling stations, either at home or open to the public, particularly as EV plug standardization is still an ongoing concern. Increasing the opportunity to efficiently refuel AFV's is imperative expanding their adoption. Overall, this measure supports the advancement of autonomous, artificial intelligence, and alternative-fueled vehicle technologies (of Policy 2.5), furthers renewable energy and diversification of sources (of Policy 3.4), incorporates environmentally sensitive transportation technologies (of Policy 3.4), expands equitable access to technology (of Policy 4.3) and coordinates infrastructure investments that support Centers and Corridors (of Policy 4.6).

Measure 5: Reimagining and retrofitting major transportation corridors, including Route 22, Route 33, Interstate 78 (I-78) and Interstate 476 (I-476 Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike) to include additional green spaces, enhanced native and non-

invasive landscaping and tree canopy and nature-based stormwater management practices.

Mitigating the impacts of climate change involves the development of more resilient infrastructure (*FutureLV* Climate Change Special Section) and will require creative solutions to mitigate growing traditional transportation impacts. Retrofitting major transportation corridors with green spaces will serve to incorporate resiliency into planning and design (of Policy 5.1) and improve access to green spaces that improve one’s physical and mental health and wellbeing (of Policy 5.3). This measure would protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater (of Policy 3.2) and utilizing native, climate-adaptive and carbon-sequestering landscaping (of Policy 3.4). Utilizing native plants along heavily visited corridors will help to strengthen the awareness of their use. Additionally, greening transportation corridors supports actions of the Lehigh County and Northampton County *Livable Landscapes* open space plans, including to coordinate the planning and development of greenway networks with transportation.

Measure 6: Implementing Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology to reduce congestion, support uniform traffic control standards and encourage trip planning technology applications for all modes of travel.

The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study is responsible for measuring, monitoring, and revising strategies to mitigate congestion and improve air quality, as outlined in *FutureLV*. Emerging technologies are being used in both the public and private sphere, for transportation and transit purposes, including within regional municipalities. The City of Allentown has an expanded traffic adaptive system, which regulates downtown traffic signals for congestion or emergencies. The further implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) within the region supports the expansion of technology to reduce travel demands, optimize traffic flow, and prepare for the next generation of jobs. This measure aligns with the intent of *FutureLV* to incorporate environmentally sensitive transportation technologies (of Policy 3.4), which will be imperative as the region’s population continues to grow.

CONCLUSION

The draft LVPC Priority Climate Action Plan fulfills several goals and policies outlined in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* as well as the *Walk/Roll-LV: Active Transportation Plan*, the *Livable Landscapes* open space plans for Lehigh and Northampton Counties, and LANTA plans and studies including *Moving LANTA Forward* and the *LANTA Enhanced BRT Strategy*. Within *FutureLV*, the LVPC is tasked with researching, writing and implementing specific plans and the development of the Priority Climate Action Plan fulfills this role.



Goal and Objective Review Worksheet

Community/Organization:	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission	Name and Title:	Susan L. Rockwell Senior Environmental Planner
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Use the comment boxes to provide feedback or to suggest modification of any of the proposed goals or objectives. You may suggest additional objectives below each goal, or new goals and objectives on the last page of this exercise.

Proposed Goals and Objectives		Comments
Goal 1: Minimize the risk to human life associated with natural and non-natural hazards.	1. Create a better understanding among the public and local governments of the benefits and opportunities associated with hazard mitigation planning and actions.	Goal 1 and its objectives support <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> Goal 5 (Safe, Healthy, Inclusive and Livable Communities) policy to “Promote safe and secure community design and emergency management” and actions to “educate the public on hazard impacts and mitigation techniques” and ‘enhance planning and emergency response efforts among emergency management personnel.”
	2. Continuously promote and maintain better early warning and emergency communications.	
	3. Provide added protection for vulnerable populations.	
Goal 2: Promote hazard avoidance, especially in floodplains.	1. Minimize future risk of losses associated with structures, including repetitive loss structures.	Goal 2 and its objectives support <i>FutureLV</i> Goal 3 (Protected and Vibrant Environment) policy to “Minimize environmental impacts of development to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public” and action to “discourage development in hazard-prone areas” and Goal 5 (Safe, Healthy, Inclusive and Livable Communities) policy to “Promote safe and secure community design and emergency management” and action to “incorporate resiliency and hazard mitigation into planning and design, including 100- and 500-year floodplains.”
	2. Reduce flooding potential through planning, training, and outreach.	
	3. Encourage and facilitate the development or revision of comprehensive plans and zoning/land use ordinances to limit development in high-hazard areas.	

Please email completed forms to mitigation@wittobriens.com

Proposed Goals and Objectives		Comments
<p>Goal 3: Reduce the damages and functional loss from natural and non-natural hazards to existing and future public and private assets, including structures, critical facilities, and infrastructure.</p>	1. Identify the current risks of critical facilities and infrastructure from hazards and determine actions to lessen those risks in the future.	Goal 3 and its objectives support <i>FutureLV</i> Goal 1 (Efficient and Coordinated Development Pattern) policy to “Maintain regional character by preserving priority environmental, historic, cultural, scenic and agricultural assets” and actions to “protect assets from potential threats” and “enhance the long-term viability of assets.”
	2. Encourage and/or perform regular maintenance and upgrades of existing drainage systems potentially impacting critical facilities.	
	3. Encourage and/or provide backup power resources (generators) for critical facilities.	
	4. Encourage and/or perform maintenance and updates to reduce long-term vulnerability to high hazard potential dams.	
<p>Goal 4: Preserve and enhance the effectiveness of natural resources, including woodlands, streams, rivers, wetlands, floodplains and riparian buffers to provide resiliency benefits.</p>	1. Encourage and/or provide maintenance and restoration of streams and rivers and associated floodplains to naturally provide flood mitigation.	Goal 4 and its objectives support <i>FutureLV</i> Goal 1 (Efficient and Coordinated Development Pattern) policy to “Preserve natural areas and farmland by managing growth and development to enhance and strengthen cities, boroughs, suburbs and rural communities” and Goal 3 (Protected and Vibrant Environment) policies to “Conserve and manage natural lands and water resources for environmental and recreational benefits” and “Minimize environmental impacts of development to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.”
	2. Encourage regulation of and/or regulate development in priority conservation areas, including floodplains, to minimize flood damage.	
<p>Goal 5: Develop, prioritize, and implement cost-effective, long-term actions that will reduce the impacts of natural and non-natural hazards.</p>	1. Thoroughly assess the community, established capabilities, and identify specific cost-effective actions for improvement, relative to existing and future hazard risks.	Goal 5 and its objectives support <i>FutureLV</i> Goal 4 (Competitive, Creative and Sustainable Region) policy to “Promote the fiscal health and sustainability of municipalities” and Goal 5 (Safe, Healthy, Inclusive and Livable Communities) policy to “Promote safe and secure community design and emergency management” and action to “incorporate resiliency and hazard mitigation into planning and design, including 100- and 500-year floodplains.”
	2. Establish mitigation action priorities, encourage, and track progress.	

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Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2024 Update

Proposed Goals and Objectives		Comments
Goal 6: Improve local regulations to reduce the impacts of natural and non-natural hazards.	1. Better integrate hazard mitigation planning with comprehensive planning and land use regulations.	Goal 6 and its objectives support <i>FutureLV</i> Goal 5 (Safe, Healthy, Inclusive and Livable Communities) policy to “Promote safe and secure community design and emergency management” and action to “incorporate resiliency and hazard mitigation into planning and design, including 100- and 500-year floodplains.”
	2. Identify and promote “best practices” for municipal regulation of land use in zoning and subdivision ordinances and official maps.	
	3. Encourage proactive planning for potential hazard events and potential related property damage.	
	4. Incorporate hazard mitigation planning into existing municipal policy.	
Goal 7: Enhance planning and emergency response efforts among federal, state, county, and local emergency management personnel to protect public health and safety.	1. Continually improve communication capabilities, training, and coordination for hazard events.	Goal 7 and its objectives support <i>FutureLV</i> Goal 5 (Safe, Healthy, Inclusive and Livable Communities) policy to “Promote safe and secure community design and emergency management” and action to “enhance planning and emergency response efforts among emergency management personnel.”
	2. Continually improve the planning for shelters, evacuation routes, and disaster recovery.	
	3. Continue the promotion of disaster resiliency in the business community.	
	4. Maintain and/or upgrade emergency response equipment and resources.	
Goal 8: To promote public awareness on both the potential impacts of natural and non-natural hazards and actions to reduce those impacts.	1. Encourage and/or provide education and outreach to increase awareness of hazards and opportunities for mitigation.	Goal 8 and its objectives support <i>FutureLV</i> Goal 3 (Protected and Vibrant Environment) policy to “Reduce climate change impacts through mitigation and adaptation” and action to “educate elected officials and the public on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation” and Goal 5 (Safe, Healthy, Inclusive and Livable Communities) policy to “Promote safe and secure community design and emergency management” and action to “educate the public on hazard impacts and mitigation techniques.”
	2. Encourage and/or provide public education programs for businesses, households, and individuals on mitigation, safety measures, and preparedness.	

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