



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 7:00 PM
Via Microsoft Teams
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 Floor

Chairman's Report

1. Welcome New LVPC Commissioners:
 - a. Ken Kraft, Northampton County Council
 - b. Jean Versteeg, Hanover (NC) Board of Supervisors
 - c. Grace Crampsie Smith, Bethlehem City Council

Minutes

1. ACTION ITEM: Minutes and Review of Roll Call Actions of the January 25, 2024, Commission Meeting (JD)

Comprehensive Planning Committee:

1. ACTION ITEM: City of Allentown – Land Use of Regional Significance – Muhlenberg College Seegers Union Building Expansion (JD)
2. ACTION ITEM: Hanover Township (LC) – Land Use of Regional Significance – Lehigh Valley International Airport Hotel (SN)
3. ACTION ITEM: Comprehensive Planning Committee Summary Sheet (SM)

Environment Committee:

1. ACTION ITEM: County SALDO Review - Northern Lehigh School District Baseball & Softball Field Renovations – Slatington Borough (DK)

Transportation Committee:

1. ACTION ITEM: Transportation Committee Summary Sheet (PO)

Old Business:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan for Transportation Decarbonization (SM, PO, SN, BB)
2. *INFORMATION ITEMS*: Activity Reports Included in Meeting Packet on Page 30
 - a. Monthly Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinance/Plans Report
 - b. Highway Traffic Monitoring

New Business:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Annual Report (BB, SN, SM, MG)
2. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Local Government Survey Results (HM)

Executive Director's Report:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Annual Trainings – Part 2 – Role of the Commission (BB)

Communications, Education and Grants:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Morning Call Business Cycle Column (MA)
 - a. Published February 4 – “Lehigh Valley diversity puts area growth on right path”
 - <https://www.wdiy.org/show/plan-lehigh-valley>
 - b. Next column: March 10
2. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Monthly, Plan Lehigh Valley Talk Show on WDIY, Lehigh Valley Public Radio, 88.1 (MA)
 - a. Air Date: February 5 – “The path forward is with everyone, with Jill Seitz and Hannah Milagio”
 - www.mcall.com
 - b. Next show – March 4
3. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Local Technical Assistance Program Virtual Classes (HM)
 - a. Stormwater Control Measures: February 26, from 8 am to 11 am
 - b. Introduction to Traffic Studies: February 29, from 8 am to noon
 - c. Municipal Stormwater Facilities: March 6, from 8 am to noon
 - d. Traffic Calming Course: March 12, from 8 am to noon
 - i. March 13: Traffic Calming workshop 8 am to 10 am
 - Register at www.gis.penndot.gov/LTAP/ or by contacting Hannah Milagio at hmilagio@lvpc.org
4. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute Courses (PMPEI) (HM)
 - a. Zoning Administration: May 2, 9, and 16, from 5:30-9:00 PM
 - b. Subdivision and Land Development: September 9, 16, and 23, from 5:30-9:00 PM

- c. Community Planning: October 9, 16, and 23, from 5:30-9:00 PM
- d. Registration and more information at www.lvpc.org/lvga
- 5. *INFORMATION ITEM*: PennDOT Connects 2024 Municipal Outreach Meeting
 - a. PennDOT District 5 Offices / Virtual: May 16, from 1 pm to 3 pm
 - i. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3785757509681925207>
- 6. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Grants (PO)
 - a. Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>
 - b. Bridge Investment Program
 - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bip/index.cfm>
 - c. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

Next Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Meeting:

Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 7:00 pm, Virtual

The LVPC/LVTS website, www.lvpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages.

Publications and other public documents can be made available in non-English languages and alternative formats, if requested.



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LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes from the Thursday January 25, 2024, Meeting

The LVPC held a virtual public meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2024. The meeting was advertised in the Lehigh Valley Press on January 10, 2024.

LVPC Chair Dr. Chris Amato chaired the meeting.

Mr. Joey Dotta took Roll Call.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County

Ron Beitler, Michael Drabenstott, Philip Ginder, Steve Glickman, Jennifer Gomez, Kent Herman, Dennis Klusaritz, Richard Molchany, Christina Morgan, Santo Napoli, Owen O'Neil, Stephen Repasch, and Kevin Schmidt

Northampton County

Christopher Amato, Jessica Cope, Charles Elliott, John Gallagher, Judith Haldeman, Darlene Heller, Ken Kraft, Carl Manges, Steve Melnick, Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Percy Dougherty, Bob Elbich, and Matthew Tuerk

Northampton County

Andrew Elliott, Rachel Leon, Lamont McClure, John McGorry, Scott Minnich, Edward Nelson, Salvatore Panto, Jr., J. William Reynolds, and Tina Smith

Staff Present: Joey Dotta, Steve Neratko, Becky Bradley, Matt Assad, Brian Hite, Susan Myerov, Patrick Osei, Denjam Khadka, Taylor Beasley, Hannah Milagio, and Bambi Griffin Rivera

Public Present: Jeff Ward, Sunny Ghai, John Inglis, Diane Kelly, Kristin Mullen, John (Guest), Jay Bradley, Kurt Bresswein, and SH (Guest)

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

No members of the public spoke during courtesy of the floor.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Amato welcomed four new commissioners of the LVPC Ron Beitler, Sunny Ghai, John Inglis and Diane Kelly. Each expressed that they are excited to join.

Chair Amato then congratulated the nine individuals that earned the LVPC Certified Citizen Planner Distinction by completing three of the four courses offered by the Lehigh Valley Government Academy. Chair Amato said that municipal officials come to gain a greater understanding of their leadership roles and the LVPC is honored to recognize the passion and commitment they've shown.

MINUTES

Chair Amato stated that the minutes of the Thursday, December 21, 2023, LVPC meeting are attached, and Mr. Dotta presented the previously voted on agenda items. Chair Amato then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Glickman seconded the motion.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none. The motion passed. Commissioner Molchany and Commissioner Charles Elliott abstained.

ACTION ITEM: Lower Macungie Township – Land Use of Regional Significance - Krocks Road Mixed Use

Ms. Bambi Griffin Rivera presented a mixed-use land development including 19,800 square-feet of retail, 318 apartment units, and an 88,000-square-foot hotel at 617 North Krocks Road. Ms. Rivera reviewed that the LVPC recommends that the cost of affordable housing for this area be taken into consideration when determining rents. The LVPC commends the pavement marked crosswalks shown throughout this proposal which ‘promotes safe and secure community design’ (Policy 5.1). The LVPC recommends that additional crosswalks be added from the northwest and southwest corners of Building 10 to connect to the sidewalk network and suggests that a crosswalk be added from the southeastern corner of Building 2 to the dog park and recreation area to further meet accessibility needs supporting ‘universal design’ (of Policy 5.2).

Ms. Rivera noted that the primary entrance for the project is also the entrance to Resurrection Cemetery at Krocks Road. The LVPC recommends that the municipality discuss with both the cemetery and local law enforcement any impacts that could occur during peak hours of use with respect to congestion or stopped traffic due to funeral processions. The LVPC also recommends advance coordination around traffic control for these infrequent events to support ‘a safe, well-maintained transportation network’ (Policy 2.2).

Mr. Brian Hite added to the review that it is strongly recommended that, prior to approval, the Traffic Impact Study (TIS) plans be updated for consistency. The TIS will be used as a reference for future land developments in the vicinity and they should be consistent. Mr. Hite noted that there have been over 122 crashes in the past five years (2017-2022) with no Vulnerable Road User crashes which underscores the urgent need for improved safety measures at this intersection in coordination with the municipality and PennDOT. It was also recommended that the pedestrian timed crossing light be time extended and additional safety measures.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Molchany made the motion, and Commissioner Manges seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions.

Mr. Ghai asked where the new commissioners that were introduced stood in the appointment process. Mr. Molchany replied that the official appointment for Lehigh County will be February 15th and urged the new commissioners, except Mr. Beitler who was formally appointed by Geoff Brace, to not vote during the January Full Commission meeting.

Mr. Molchany next asked about the pedestrian bridge option and how it may affect the LVPC’s transportation study. Ms. Bradley noted Mr. Beitler’s expertise in this subject and discussed that at the origin of Hamilton Crossings development there were initial plans for a pedestrian bridge. She noted that PennDOT was waiting for subsequent development, like the one that is the subject of discussion, will open that conversation again. Ms. Bradley said that it seems a grade-separated interchange may eventually be put in place, but it would not be under the role of the LVPC to implement.

Mr. Molchany asked if the recommendation for intersection improvements is appropriate for the LVPC to make and warned other commissioners to believe that because it is included that it will occur. Mr. Beitler added that he was not on the township board during the beginning stages but that the intersection improvements have always been a focus. It was noted that the improvements were submitted to be included on the LVPC Transportation Improvement Program, but it would require large amounts of private

funding. Mr. Beitler expressed that the improvements were necessary then and they are necessary now and hopes that the changes will eventually be made.

Mr. Melnick asked what a grade-separated interchange is. Ms. Bradley answered that it is an intersection like Route 22 and Route 512. Traffic from one roadway would go below or above traffic travelling in a perpendicular direction, enabling a higher capacity of traffic to pass. She thanked the commission and both counties in their willingness to have discussion about orderly growth and solutions like grade-separated interchanges. Mr. Beitler further explained some examples of grade-separated interchanges and different versions.

Mr. Gallagher commented that there is a two-way loop going around a basin while there are deep parking lots to get to the apartments.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: Project Review Summary Sheets

Comprehensive Planning Committee Summary Sheet:

Comprehensive Planning Committee Chair Steve Melnick presented a summary of the Committee meeting that occurred on Tuesday. The meeting included a zoning map amendment in the City of Bethlehem.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Morgan made the motion, and Commissioner Repasch seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed.

Environment Committee Summary Sheet:

Environment Committee Chair Steve Repasch presented a summary of the Committee meeting on Tuesday that saw five Delaware River Basin Commission reviews involving wastewater treatment plant and water withdrawal renewals.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Melnick made the motion, and Commissioner Glickman seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed. Commissioner Morgan abstained from Lynn Township item.

ACTION ITEM: Street Vacation, Portion of Walnut Street, City of Bethlehem Transportation Committee:

Committee meeting attendance was stressed by Transportation Committee Chair Herman. Mr. Hite presented a street vacation petition review for a portion of West Walnut Street in the City of Bethlehem, Northampton County. The petition was from the City of Bethlehem on behalf of James L. Broughal Esquire representing the petitioners which are the City of Bethlehem Parking Authority and West Broad Street Associates LLC. This street vacation is in certain sections adjacent to the 33 Walnut Street Parking Garage, which is slated to be redeveloped into a 590-space public parking garage, portions of the new garage will be built on the rights-of-way that are being petitioned to be vacated.

It was recommended that the City of Bethlehem ensure adequate, safe and efficient pedestrian access along the frontages of the building(s) for pedestrians of all abilities continued access as exists today along West Walnut Street with respect to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and providing access for users of all abilities (of Policy 5.2). The vacating of rights of way by the City of Bethlehem for the described portion of West Walnut Street would not negatively affect current traffic circulation.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Herman made the motion, and Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEM: Transportation Committee Summary

Transportation Committee Chair Kent Herman summarized the Committee meeting that occurred hours before that included updates to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program and the Eastern PA Freight Alliance: Freight Infrastructure Plan.

Old Business:

INFORMATION ITEMS: Activity Reports

2023 Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinance/Plans Summary

Mr. Neratko summarized the plan and review activity for 2023 which included 209 Subdivisions, 386 Development proposals, 190 reviews for Stormwater Management, and 105 Municipal Ordinances and Maps for a total of 890 reviews on 7,183 acres. Of those reviews 405 were in Lehigh County and 485 in Northampton.

In 2023, the LVPC reviewed 4,916 total residential units proposed, consisting of 794 single-family detached, 1,170 twins and 2,472 apartments. On the non-residential side, we saw 17.9 million square feet industrial, 1.7 million square feet commercial, 1.1 million square feet public/quasi-public.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. Chair Amato commented that it was a lot of development and that hopefully the developers listened to the LVPC's comments. Commissioner Gallagher thanked the LVPC staff for the amount of work they were able to accomplish.

Monthly Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinance/Plans Report

Mr. Neratko presented the plan and review activity for December which included 11 Subdivisions, 17 Development proposals, 17 reviews for Stormwater Management, and seven Municipal Ordinances and Maps for a total of 52 reviews on 156.9 acres. Twenty-three of those reviews were in Lehigh County and 29 in Northampton.

In December, the LVPC reviewed 111 total residential units proposed, consisting of nine single-family detached, 18 townhouses and 84 apartments. On the non-residential side, we saw 181,906 square feet commercial, 52,248 square feet public/quasi-public, 101,821 square feet office.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Industrial Market Report

Mr. Dotta presented the quarterly Industrial Market Report that found over the last year the average lease rate across the Counties increased by \$4.83 square-foot per year. An additional 3.1 million square feet of leasable space was added to the region's inventory and the annual market value of all industrial square feet increased over an estimated \$579.5 million dollars equating to an increase of \$4.64 billion for an 8-year lease term.

Mr. Dotta noted that construction slowed while vacancies and average asking rent continued to rise. Overall, construction is expected to slow while vacancy rates are expected to hit their peak in mid-2024. Completed construction has steadily decreased since 2018 for warehouse developments and has generally fluctuated for industrial developments. Although, there are major projects in the development review pipeline, the largest of which in 2023 was River Pointe Logistics in Upper Mount Bethel Township that proposes to add 5.9 million square of warehouse development. 2023 remained a busy year with 17.9 million square feet of industrial, 16.7 million of that being warehousing, that was submitted and reviewed by the LVPC.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. Commissioner Ghai asked if the rent in the Lehigh Valley was comparable to our Eastern neighbors like New Jersey. Mr. Dotta said that the Lehigh Valley has seen a recent increase to rival New Jersey and Ms. Bradley noted that the LVPC would present another report about the industrial market at the next Full Commission meeting.

Highway Traffic Monitoring

Mr. Hite summarized the monthly traffic report which included Route 22 between Airport Road and the Lehigh River Bridge ending November at 94,154 vehicles, Interstate 78 located just east of Route 309 recording 72,648, and Route 309 near Coopersburg showing 32,191 vehicles. Commercial truck traffic included Interstate 78 east of 309 with 17,893 commercial trucks and Route 22 just east of the Lehigh River Bridge seeing 10,933 commercial trucks.

Mr. Hite reviewed traffic counts for the past year. Mr. Hite noted that 2023 had the highest traffic volumes at our counters since March of 2020, the start of the pandemic. 2023 summer was a huge travelling and vacationing season and showed high volumes of traffic, June showed improved freight movement as supply chains helped manufacture more materials and finished goods, we still have supply chain issues, but the trucks roll as the trucks and trailers get loaded for destinations especially in the growing Lehigh Valley. Mr. Hite noted that we saw our highest traffic on Route 22 during the Thanksgiving holiday time period, as more people made the societal shift to visit friends and family by vehicle and those also traveling by air via Lehigh Valley International Airport which may have increased traffic on Route 22.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

New Business:

INFORMATION ITEM: Priority Climate Action Plan Draft

Ms. Myerov presented an overview of what the Priority Climate Action Plan is and why we are creating one. This plan has been made possible through the US Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, or CPRG. This program allocated \$1 million to the largest metropolitan areas in the US to create a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing broad benefits to communities, particularly those that are low income and disadvantaged. EPA guidance states that the PCAP must be focused on a specific sector of importance. We have chosen transportation, due in part to the population and economic growth we have been experiencing in the Lehigh Valley, our historically poor air quality, and the ability of our sister agency, the LVTS, to allocate funding from various other federal programs that also support transportation decarbonization.

Ms. Myerov summarized five themes or measures that are in the plan and how they relate to the goal of the document. Ms. Myerov said the LVPC is creating this plan to reduce transportation emissions because they are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions by sector. The Lehigh Valley is experiencing increased transportation activity due to population and economic growth, and there are a multitude of funding programs that can be leveraged to implement decarbonization projects. She highlighted that the LVPC has no legal authority to enforce this plan. It will provide strategies, set targets, and provide useful data and funding information. Because the plan has a March 1st deadline, the next major step is for it to be reviewed and voted upon in LVPC committee meetings in February. We will be providing commissioners with copies of the draft to review around the beginning of February.

Ms. Myerov invited those interested in hearing more to the final WorkshopLV Environment/Transportation virtual meeting on February 21, 2024 at 11:00 AM.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: LVPC LVTS Website Rebuild

Ms. Beasley presented that the LVPC is in the midst of a several month transition to a new website builder and content management system. Moving to a new website was in our 24-month workplan, but when Adobe kept reducing its support for our old format, we thought that this was the perfect time to make the transition at a time when it fits in with our office relocation and the move to electronic plan filing. We expect it to take up to six months, and in the meantime, we've built a temporary site we'll use until it's ready. I've been working hard to get the most essential plans and documents on the temporary site.

Mr. Assad noted that the reason the LVPC website is functional is because of Taylor' hard work and teaching herself web development skills overnight.

Chair Amato thanked Taylor for her hard work and then asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: Statement of Financial Interests Form Reminder

Ms. Milagio presented a reminder that the PA Ethics Act requires all public officials and employees to file an annual Statement of Financial Interest. LVPC Commissioners are required to file a digital or paper copy with the LVPC by May 1st. Please send your completed to me by physical mail or email at hmilagio@lvpc.org. It's important to note that these files are confidential and will be kept so by the staff.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Executive Director's Report:

INFORMATION ITEM: LVPC Updates and Annual Training Part 1

Ms. Bradley presented the beginning and forming of the Joint Planning Commission of Lehigh and Northampton County, which name changed to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission in February 1997. The first regional comprehensive plan laid out Routes 22 and 33 and Interstate 78, planning for population growth, economic growth and the preservation of natural resources in the name of the public, health, safety and welfare. These men made no little plans and their strength of purpose lives on today through our work.

Ms. Bradley noted that also in 1997 the Commission expanded from 18 members to 37, established attendance requirements, adopted county subdivision and land development ordinances and updated the regional plan. It's of note that both County Council and Commissioners require Commissioners to attend at least 8 meetings a year and in 1994 adopted operating procedures for the Commission that also require people participating in Committees to attend at least 6 of these meetings in addition to the 8 Full Commission meetings.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Communications and Public Engagement:

INFORMATION ITEM: Morning Call Business Cycle Column

Mr. Assad spoke about the most recent Morning Call column called "It's the plenty to see here list." The next column will delve into the LVTS's new Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency Plans, which as you heard earlier, are in their public comment period. That column will run Feb. 5.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: Plan Lehigh Valley radio show on WDIY NPR 88.1FM

Mr. Assad summarized the most recent Plan Lehigh Valley radio show aired January 1 on WDIY FM 88.1, and focused on that same List of Obligated Projects. Ms. Bradley was joined by LVPC Managing Editor Matt Assad and LVPC Transportation Planner Brian Hite. That 30-minute show is now streaming at LVPC.org and WDIY.org.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: Local Technical Assistance Programs

Mr. Hite presented some exciting Local Technical Assistance Program classes starting on February 26th. LTAP will hold the first of two of the same class, Road Safety Audit with the other class scheduled for February 15. January 30th will have Traffic Signal Basics and next Traffic Signs Basics on February 9th. On February 21 we have the Americans with Disabilities Act training in relationship to access for persons of all abilities on the transportation network. On February 1st is a one-hour class for our municipalities involving municipal services and what resources are available to local communities from PennDOT involving Liquid Fuels, the Agility program, Project Development and Delivery as well as COSTAR program for purchasing. All these classes are virtual and are generally from 8 AM to noon, except for that February 1 class, and are free to attend.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Amato stated that the next LVPC meeting is set to be virtual on February 22nd at 7pm. Chair Amato then asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Morgan made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and Joey Dotta, Regional Planner



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

February 09, 2024

Ms. Jennifer Gomez, Director of Planning and Zoning
City of Allentown
435 Hamilton St.
Allentown, PA 18101

**Re: Muhlenberg College Seegers Union Building Expansion – Land Use of Regional Significance
City of Allentown
Lehigh County**

Dear Ms. Gomez:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) will consider the subject application at its Comprehensive Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, under the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Both meetings will be on:

- LVPC Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting:
 - February 20, 2024, at 12:00PM
 - <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting:
 - February 22, 2024, at 7:00PM
 - <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>

The subject application is considered a Land Use of Regional Significance under *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* in the Educational Facility category. The subject applicant proposes a three-story, 35,150-square-foot expansion of Seegers Union student center on the Muhlenberg College campus at 2400 Chew Street. The project proposes new pedestrian and utility/stormwater infrastructure improvements and adds an outdoor seating area.

The LVPC offers the following comments:

Background

According to the General Land Use Plan outlined in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, this property is within a development area which are areas that have most or all the factors needed to support growth. The proposed property contains sufficient sewer and transportation infrastructure capacity to accommodate additional development. The

35,100-square-foot addition to Seegers Union student center is not expected to increase the number of students or visitors to Muhlenberg College.

Pedestrian Accessibility

The LVPC applauds the pedestrian safety measures like crosswalks and bountiful sidewalks from the parking area to the new building expansion. The additional crosswalks 'provide a safe, well-maintained transportation network to move people' (Policy 2.2). The proposed interconnected sidewalks and inclusion of an ADA compliant ramp and parking spaces helps 'ensure transportation accessibility for all persons' (of Policy 5.2).

The proposed expansion is directly adjacent to two Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) bus stops that will continue to operate in their existing locations. The pedestrian network and proposed improvements will 'improve connections between mass transit and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure' (of Policy 2.3).

Sustainable Energy

The proposed green roof is a valued addition to the development and encourages 'sustainable building, site design and community design practices' (of Policy 3.4). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes a green roof as a vegetative layer on top of a structure that helps reduce temperatures of the building and surrounding air. More detail is encouraged on the plan about what the green roof entails and may look like. The LVPC encourages the developer to consider opportunities for incorporating sustainable energy systems that reduce overhead operational costs and 'minimize environmental impacts of development' (Policy 3.1), such as geothermal energy systems, solar panels and greywater reuse for irrigation and plumbing.

Municipalities, when considering subdivision/land developments, should reasonably attempt to be consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) [Article 1§105, Article III§303, §304 & §306(a), Article VI§603(j)]. The LVPC review does not include an in-depth examination of plans relative to subdivision design standards or ordinance requirements since these items are covered in the municipal review.

Sincerely,



Joseph Dotta
Regional Planner

cc:

Richard Waligora, Applicant; Jason Schweyer, Project Engineer/Surveyor; Garrett Cook, City Engineer; Bradon Jones, Associate Planner; Jesse Sadiua, Senior Planner; Priscilla Reyes, Assistant Planner; David Petrik, Deputy Director of Public Works; Denjam Khadka, LVPC Senior Civil/Environmental

Engineer; Steve Neratko, LVPC Chief Community and Regional Planner; Geoffrey A. Reese, PE, LVPC Master Planner and Engineer



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February 6, 2024

Mr. Mark Thomas, Chair
Hanover Township Planning Commission
2202 Grove Road
Allentown, PA 18109

**Re: Lehigh Valley International Airport Hotel – Land Use of Regional Significance
Hanover Township
Lehigh County**

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) will consider the subject application at its Comprehensive Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, under the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Both meetings will be on:

LVPC Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting:

February 20, 2024, at 12:00PM

- <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>

LVPC Full Commission Meeting:

February 22, 2024, at 7:00PM

- <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>

The application is considered a Land Use of Regional Significance under *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* in the Airports category. The proposed land development is for a hotel to be developed in two phases. Phase one will be the construction of 22,356 square feet with 145 rooms and associated parking. Phase two will be a 4,108-square-foot addition to the structure adding 28 additional rooms for a grand total of 26,464 square feet with 173 rooms at 3311 Airport Road (PIN 641819088171).

The LVPC offers the following comments:

The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA)

LANTA currently provides public transportation directly to the project site, with an existing bus stop at the bus terminal platform located approximately 400 feet directly south of the proposed hotel site.

LANTA has no plans to extend bus service to the proposed hotel site, however, LANTA appreciates the efforts to include a pedestrian network from the proposed hotel to the existing pedestrian network on the site for a passenger to navigate safely to the bus terminal.

The LVPC strongly recommends an extension to the existing pavement-marked pedestrian network be added leading from the hotel. This would provide a safe and clear walkway for pedestrians to use when accessing the bus stop, and when accessing the airport from the hotel and would 'promote safe and secure community design' (Policy 5.1).

The LVPC recommends that follow-up be made with LANTA Transportation/Land Use planner Molly Wood at mwood@lantabus-pa.gov.

Transportation

The LVPC recommends that a truck turning template or schematic be developed to show how the largest emergency vehicle can access the site. The LVPC also recommends that the municipality and associated emergency services confirm the access configuration to meet emergency services needs for response to the hotel.

It may be of interest for the airport emergency service to be able to have access to the hotel portion for response by their onsite services as part of a collaborative emergency management strategy. The LVPC recommends collaboration as part of Policy 5.1 'to promote safe and secure design and emergency management'.

The LVPC recommends that one or more oversized parking spaces be provided given the proximity to U.S. Route 22. This would support Policy 2.4 to 'expand truck parking options'. The LVPC suggests that parking requirements for the hotel are met.

Airport Road in this frontage of the airport is listed in the Congestion Management Process document as a 2017 Congested Corridor and a 2040 Congested Corridor. The LVPC recommends that the anticipated vehicle impacts to Airport Road be compiled by the developer to memorialize the vehicle trips associated with the development. Incremental development along this corridor may impact traffic management strategies with traffic signals and vehicle movements and the LVPC recommends coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) which has jurisdiction over Airport Road. This would 'improve transportation performance measures' (Of Policy 2.6).

Coordinate Land Use Decisions

Municipalities in the River Central Multi-Municipal plan are included in this review letter to 'coordinate land use decisions across municipal boundaries' as part of Policy 1.4.

The LVPC encourages the developer to consider opportunities for incorporating sustainable energy systems that reduce overhead operational costs and 'minimize

environmental impacts of development' (Policy 3.1), such as solar panels and greywater reuse for irrigation and plumbing. Incorporating sustainable practices to help to 'reduce climate change impacts' (Policy 3.4)."

Municipalities, when considering subdivision/land developments, should reasonably attempt to be consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) [Article 1§105, Article III§303, §304 & §306(a), Article VI§603(j)].

The LVPC review does not include an in-depth examination of plans relative to subdivision design standards or ordinance requirements since these items are covered in the municipal review.

Sincerely,



Bambi Griffin Rivera
Senior Community and Regional Planner



Brian Hite
Transportation Planner

cc: Tony Peterman – Provident Group – Lehigh Valley Properties, LLC , Applicant;
David Wilson, P.E., CPESC, Project Engineer/Surveyor;
Kevin Chimics, Township/Borough Engineer;
Darren Betters, Lehigh - Northampton Airport Authority;
Brian Bartholomew, Catasauqua Borough Council President;
Robert Mills, Chair, East Allen Township Planning Commission;
Peter Paone, Chair, North Catasauqua Borough Planning Commission;
Leroy Brobst, Manager, Northampton Borough



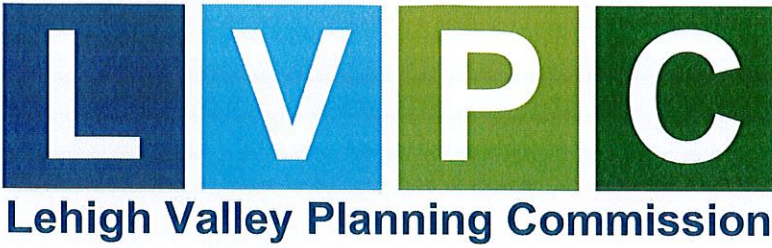
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Project Review Summary Sheet

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Date: February 2024

Project	Municipality	Brief Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Conditional Uses in the Airport Flightpath Highway Business District	Hanover Township (NC)	Zoning Ordinance Amendment – modifies conditional use regulations for warehouse and storage facility uses in the Airport Flightpath Highway Business Zoning District (AFHBD)	The proposed revisions clarify the Township’s intended conditional uses and regulations and support best practices for managing development processes and guiding the location and intensity of development (of <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> Policies 1.4 and 1.1).



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

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



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

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

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

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

Resolution No. 02-22-2024-A

**RESOLUTION OF THE
LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Preliminary Stormwater Management Plan for the Northern Lehigh School District
Baseball and Softball Field Renovations in Slatington Borough, Lehigh County,
Pennsylvania**

WHEREAS, the applicant desires to renovate the existing natural grass baseball and softball fields and install new dugouts, two 1,500 square foot support buildings and new access walkways on the property located at 1 Bulldog Lane in the Borough of Slatington (PIN Numbers 555298760981, 556207748173 and 556207047444), Lehigh County, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Slatington has not adopted a municipal subdivision and land development ordinance and therefore the Lehigh County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance applies per the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code; and

WHEREAS, The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission serves as the official planning body of the County of Lehigh, Pennsylvania and has reviewed the proposed “Baseball and Softball Field Renovations” proposed by the Northern Lehigh School District as a preliminary plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission on behalf of the County of Lehigh and Borough of Slatington that:

1. The preliminary stormwater management proposal as stated herein is approved subject to conditions stated in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission review letter dated February 22, 2024 and the Lehigh County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance including but, not limited to the receipt of a formal applicant agreement to conditions within ten business days; and
2. The receipt of revised plans for formal review and addressing the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission’s conditions and any other regulatory agencies’ requirements pursuant to county, state and/or federal laws.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission:

Dr. Christopher Amato, Chair

Christina Morgan, Vice Chair

Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen,
Treasurer

Attest:

Becky A. Bradley, Executive Director



Project Review Summary Sheet

Transportation Committee

Date: February 2024

Project	Municipality	Brief Statement of Purpose	LVPC Review Comment
Street Vacation Petition for a portion of Type Street.	City of Allentown	Street Vacation Petition to vacate a portion of Type Street from 8 th street to its western terminus	With recommendations would align with <i>FutureLV</i> actions to: Ensure emergency response capabilities (<i>under policies 2.2 and 5.1</i>) and ensure utility connectivity and access to infrastructure (<i>under policy 5.4</i>)



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

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

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.



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

Resolution No. 02-22-24-B
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
PRIORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is organized by the Counties of Lehigh and Northampton to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the two-county region in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act of 1978, among other statutes both state and federal; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (“LVTS”) was created in 1964 to serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lehigh Valley pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code and to implement provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, among other federal statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program to provide \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution; and
- WHEREAS,** CPRG is a two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants to the largest metropolitan areas in the US, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants; and
- WHEREAS,** The LVPC received a \$1 million EPA Planning Grant to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan by March 1, 2024, and a Regional Climate Action Plan by June 2025 for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton PA/NJ Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Warren County, NJ and Carbon County, PA in addition to Lehigh and Northampton Counties, PA; and
- WHEREAS,** LVPC chose to focus Priority Climate Action Plan efforts on the sector with the largest greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, and partnered with the LVTS, as the region’s transportation planning board to complete the effort; and
- WHEREAS,** LVPC along with the LVTS, have prepared a draft regional Priority Climate Action Plan focused on decarbonization of the transportation sector in accordance with EPA’s CPRG program guidance; and
- WHEREAS,** LVPC/LVTS utilized the open, inclusive, public WorkshopLV: Environment and Transportation to discuss, guide and draft priorities. Workshops included residents, businesses, and a variety of partner organizations, agencies, and authorities, who worked create the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan*; and
- WHEREAS,** LVPC/LVTS also, met with Carbon County, PA and Warren County, NJ to engage in the development of the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan*; and

WHEREAS, The intent of the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* is to reduce transportation related emissions, improving air-quality and improving human and environmental health. This broad goal is consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, *Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan*, *Northampton County Livable Landscapes Plan*, *Lehigh County Livable Landscapes Plan*, Lehigh, and Northampton Transportation Authority's (LANTA) *Moving LANTA Forward Regional Transit Plan* and LANTA's *Enhanced Bus/Bus Rapid Transit* planning; and

WHEREAS, *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* is consistent with the LVPC and LVTS adopted resolutions to include Health in All policies (Resolutions 9-19-19-A and 10-2-19-B, respectively) and LVTS Vision Zero policy (Resolution 11-15-23-B).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVPC in a public meeting, directs staff to forward the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* to the EPA by the contract deadline of March 1, 2024; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVPC recommends that the LVTS adopt the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* as its official transportation decarbonization policy plan; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVPC, in partnership with LVTS and its members, including LANTA and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, prepare an application to the EPA for a Carbon Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant to invest in the improvement of the region's environment through transportation decarbonization.

Adopted by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission on the 22nd day of February 2024.

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

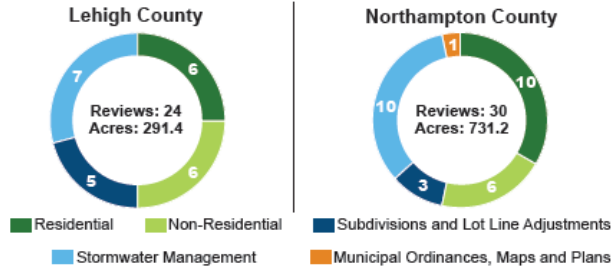
Dr. Christopher R. Amato, Chair
LVPC

Christina V. Morgan Vice Chair
LVPC

ATTEST:

Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director
LVPC

Plan Activity

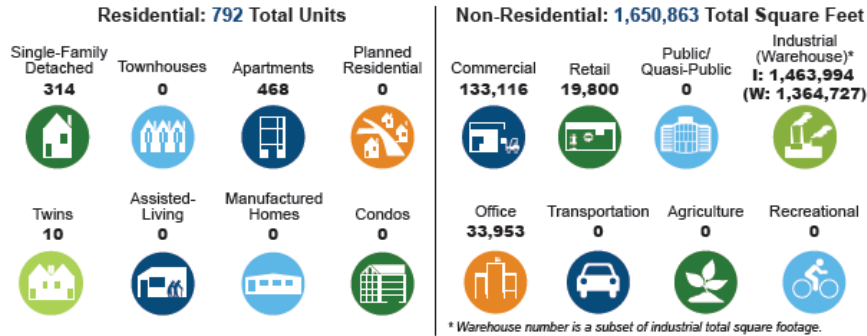


Regional Totals*



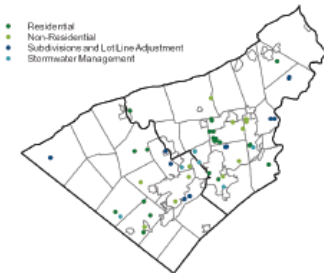
In January, LVPC reviewed 8 Subdivisions, 28 Development Proposals, 17 reviews for Stormwater Management, and 1 Municipal Ordinance and Maps for a total of 54 reviews on 1,033.6 acres. 23 of those reviews were in Lehigh County and 29 in Northampton.

Types of New Development

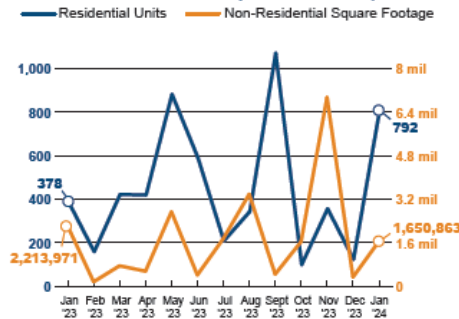


Residential reviews bounced back after a couple of slower months. Those reviews were diverse, and included 792 total residential units proposed, consisting of 314 single-family detached, 10 twins and 468 apartments. On the non-residential side, reviews also varied, and included 1,463,994 SF of Industrial, most of which was warehouse, 133,116 SF of commercial, 33,953 SF of office space and 19,800 SF of retail.

Location of Development

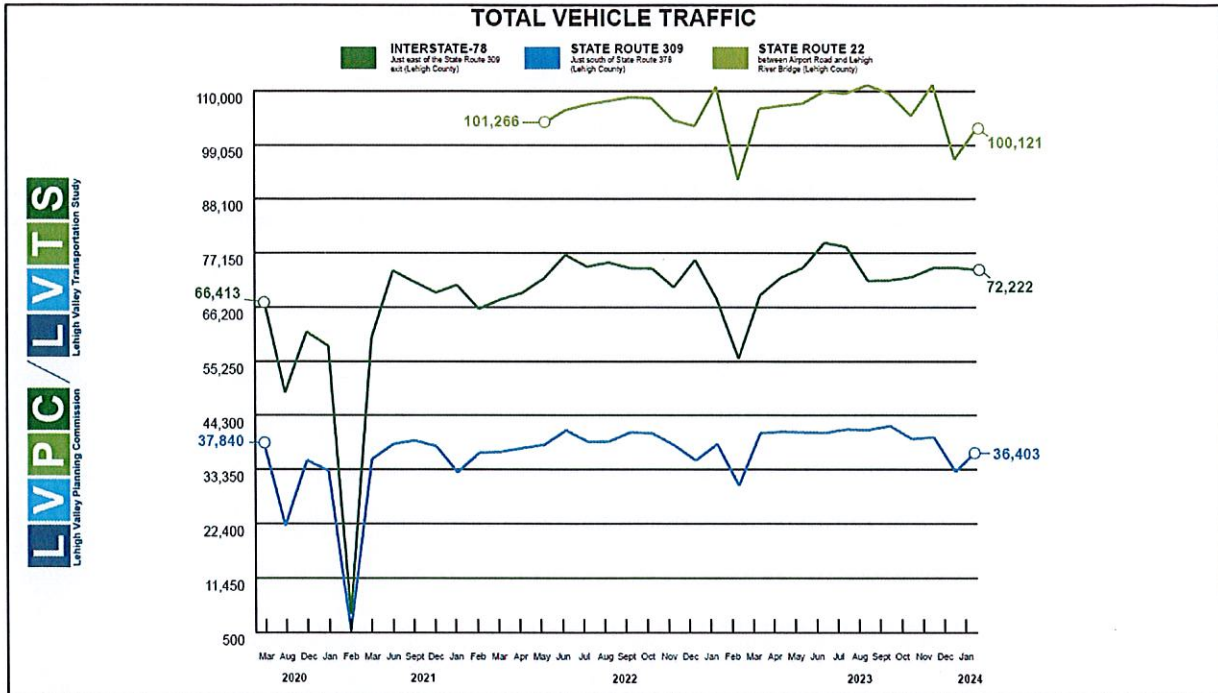


Year to Date (Year to Year)



Previous Reports at lvpc.org/subdivision---development.html

Monthly Traffic Report



The Lehigh Valley has 3 continuous traffic counters that are in operation, those counters record traffic 24 hours a day, 7 days a week all year long

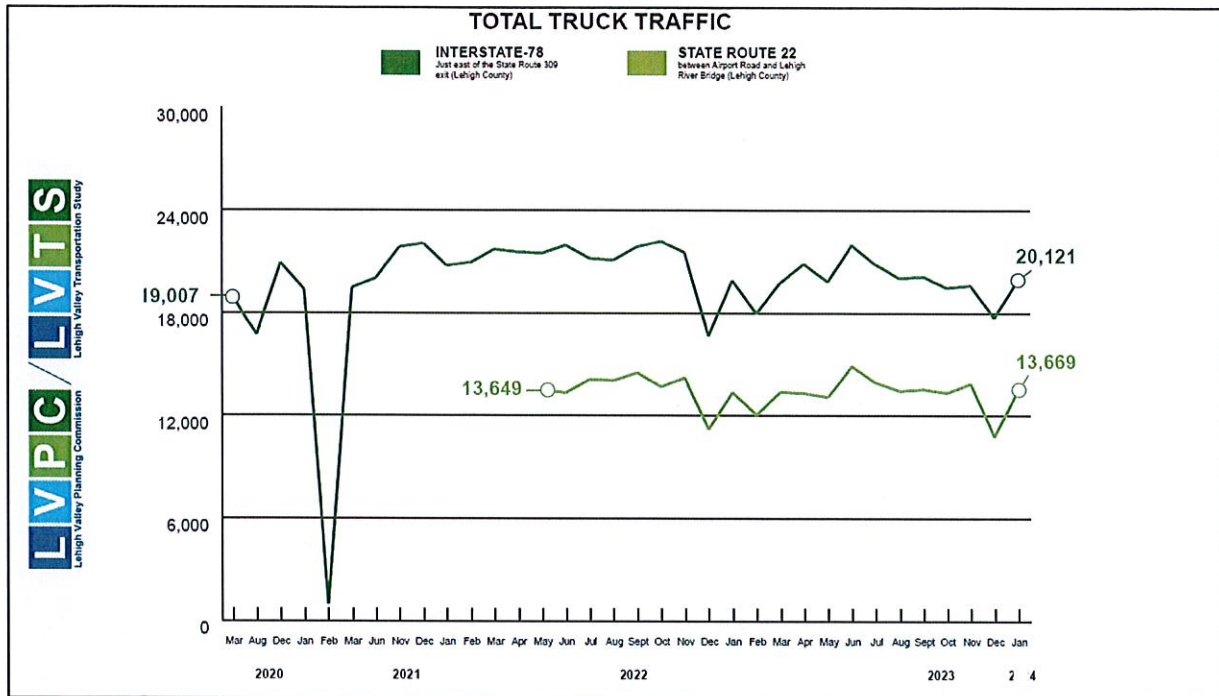
At the top in Light Green is Route 22 between airport road and the Lehigh River Bridge, ended January with 100,121 vehicles

In the middle shown in Dark Green is Interstate 78 located just east of Route 309 which recoded 72,222

Route 309 near Coopersburg, our oldest continuous traffic counter shown in light blue which showed 36,4031 vehicles.

As you can see Route 22 and 309 saw a trend back to “normal levels” of traffic volumes as compared to December while Interstate 78 remained steady

Monthly Traffic Report - Trucks

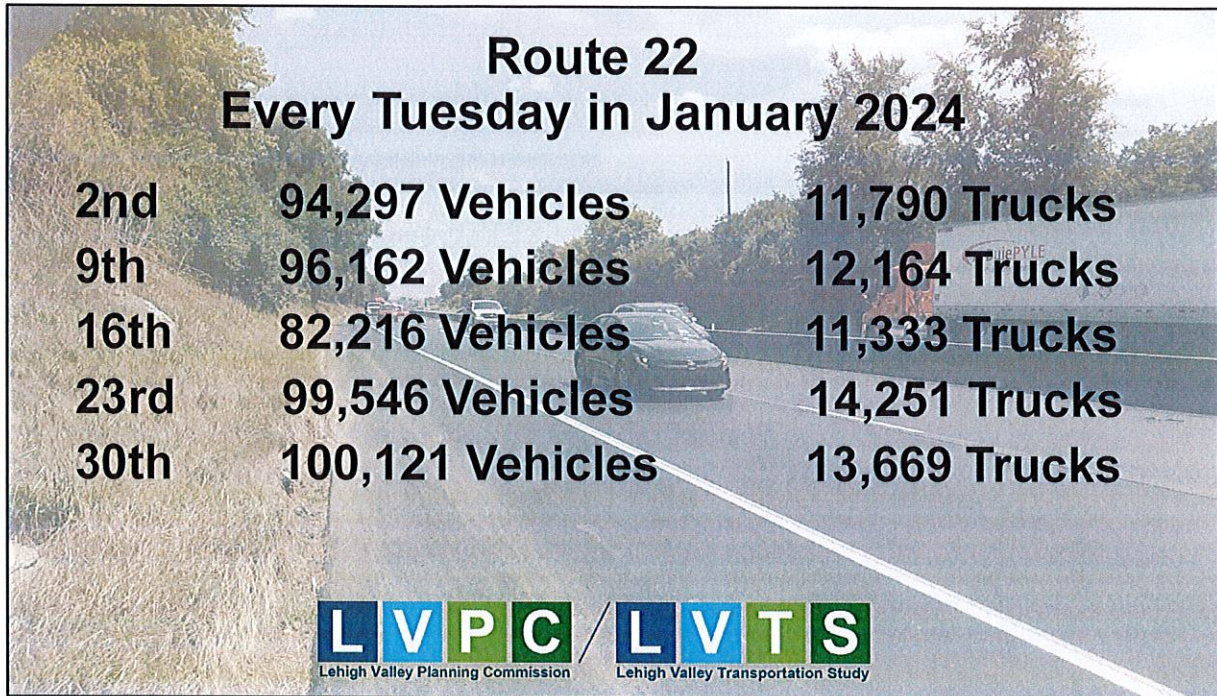


Two of our continuous counters are currently able to record classifications of vehicle, e.g. what types of vehicles are out there, we separate between passenger vehicles and anything over a 1 ton registration is considered to be a commercial vehicle for this brief report.

Interstate 78 east of 309 shown in dark green recorded 20,121 commercial trucks to finish off 2023, an increase of 2200 trucks from December.

On the bottom In Light green on Route 22 just east of the Lehigh River Bridge we saw 13,669 commercial trucks., once again an increase after the end of year holidays with 3100 more trucks than last month

January 2024 Traffic Report



In a review of January we wanted to share each Tuesday's traffic count data to show the variations we experience on our highest traveled road.

We began January with 94,297 Vehicles of which 11,790 were commercial trucks, a historical anticipated drop the day after a holiday to start the year., we got back to our normal numbers on January 9, but on the 16th we saw a considerable drop due to two reasons.

It was the day after Martin Luther King Jr Day as well as the first measurable snow of the year that provided 2-4 inches and some places higher of snow which impacted travel. This weather event also initiated some school closures which effect traffic patterns, the following weeks to close out the month we got back to are typical traffic counts.

THE MORNING CALL

Talking Business With Becky Bradley: Lehigh Valley's diversity enables its growth

By [BECKY BRADLEY](#) | Special to The Morning Call

PUBLISHED: Feb. 4, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.

For many people from outside this region, the Lehigh Valley is viewed as a big homogeneous suburb of Philadelphia and New York. First of all, we're nobody's suburb, but that's a subject for another day. If you live here, you know that's an outdated view from five decades ago, because the fact is, we are a wonderfully diverse mix of 62 municipalities, each with their own unique populations and character.

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and Lehigh Valley Transportation Study recently updated our Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency Plans. These plans are ultra important because they dictate how we make all the data, plans, analysis and information available to an increasingly diverse region. What on its face may seem like a regulatory exercise — it's a federal requirement to update these plans every three years — was fascinating because it reveals just how heterogeneous we really are.

More than 13,500 households in the Lehigh Valley are "linguistically isolated", which is defined as a household in which no one over 14 years old speaks English "very well." While we think of our cities as the places where other languages are most often spoken, 27% of all Lehigh Valley municipalities are designated as "high LEP" communities, which means more than 5% of their population has limited English proficiency. It's probably no surprise that the majority of limited English-speaking residents speak Spanish, but that's just the beginning. The second-leading language spoken by people with limited English proficiency? Arabic, at more than 2,900 including nearly 1,200 living in Allentown, which speaks to the robust Syrian and Lebanese communities we have. In many cases, these are communities who have been in our region for 90 years or more and have retained languages from their native lands.

A multilingual culture has been part of the Lehigh Valley's identity for a long time. My husband's family speaks Pennsylvania German and they have been in the region since 1735. So, it's not a surprise that as people from other countries relocate here, grow their families and transition through the generations that the cultural mindset to support language preservation remains. In many ways this makes it easier for new immigrants to be welcomed by decreasing the challenge of a complete language barrier. [25m](#)

Other facts were surprising even to those of us who work with data daily. Fully 5% of Glendon speaks French Haitian or Cajun.

Hanover Township, Lehigh County has 133 people who speak Chinese, including Mandarin and Cantonese. Palmer Township has 66 people who speak Tagalog, a national language of the Philippines. Keep in mind, these numbers are the people who have self-identified in the U.S. Census that they have limited English proficiency. The total number of Lehigh Valley people who speak these languages, including those who are bilingual or trilingual, is much higher.

The Lehigh Valley's population has become increasingly diverse over the past several decades. In 1970, the census listed the Lehigh Valley as 99% white, and today, 32.2% list themselves as people of color. These population shifts are seen nationwide as well, and our proximity to New York and Philadelphia certainly plays a role in that, but I believe this region's welcoming nature is also key. In respect to those Spanish language numbers, we have certainly become a refuge for people fleeing natural disasters in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and in the case of Arabic, that can also be said for people fleeing conflict in Syria.

Our growing diversity is a good thing that we are smart to embrace. A more diverse and equitable community is key to our future success. And providing equitable access to opportunity — safe and affordable housing, reliable transportation, meaningful education and employment opportunities, and social and cultural experiences — is vital to a productive and sustainable community. Only through equitable access to opportunity can we reach our full potential, and quite frankly, embracing this diversity is key to our economy. Without migration, we'd be like the majority of Pennsylvania counties whose populations shrunk between 2010 and 2020. Instead, we gained 40,000 residents, and more than 90% of that can be attributed to migration — two-thirds of which was international migration. Our latest population and employment forecast shows most of the 100,000 resident population growth expected by 2050 will come through migration. Without it, our economy would contract and our business community would have great difficulty keeping a fully staffed workforce. This diversity makes us a far more competitive region in the national and international scheme of things.

The point of updating our Public Participation and LEP Plans is to evolve with our community. That includes how we make the more than 100 public meetings the LVPC holds each year accessible to everyone, and how we use the internet, technology and media like this — we also have a radio show and podcast through WDIY 88.1 FM — to reach more people. But it also includes how we connect with people and community partners of all kinds across the region, host inclusive and transparent public meetings, and communicate with people who don't speak English.

Those plans remain open for public comment through February 10. In addition to the three public meetings we held in January, the Public Participation Plan can be found at www.tinyurl.com/lvtsppp and the LEP Plan is at www.tinyurl.com/lvtslep. Comments can be made at www.tinyurl.com/P4AComments.

Physical copies of the plan are also at the offices of the LVPC, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in Allentown, the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority in Allentown and at libraries in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. Review and comment can be one made at all of those locations, or by calling the LVPC at 610-264-4544.

Taking full advantage of our diversity isn't just the right thing to do. It's essential to the future of this region.

Becky Bradley is Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission