



2026

BUDGET & WORKPLAN

Adopted: December 11, 2025





01

INTRODUCTION

On October 16, 2025, the LVPC Executive Committee adopted the *Organizational Strategic Plan* to affirm the organization’s core strengths and provide a roadmap for addressing the region’s most pressing challenges. This plan is designed to guide the evolution of the LVPC, ensuring it continues to lead with integrity, vision and impact.

The 2026 Budget and Workplan is grounded in this strategic vision and built upon the foundational responsibilities outlined in the numerous state and federal statutes administered by the LVPC. These statutory obligations shape the core of the organization’s work and ensure compliance with and implementation of critical laws.

The LVPC also recognizes the uncertainty created by the Pennsylvania state budget impasse and the federal government shutdown. This dynamic and evolving situation has implications for fund reimbursements and grant award timelines, and the 2026 Budget and Workplan has been developed with these challenges in mind.

Key planning priorities for 2026 include continuing the update of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, initiating the Lehigh Valley Watersheds Assessment and Global ACT 167 Ordinance, and organizing implementation actions for the Organizational Strategic Plan, including establishment of a non-profit entity to support revenue diversification and advance implementation of plans.

In addition to these major initiatives, the LVPC team will complete projects such as the transition to an online system for plans, ordinances and maps, as well as a full website rebuild. The workplan also emphasizes municipal services and education, climate action implementation, transportation safety and multimodal accessibility, and advancing the housing supply and attainability strategy.

Overall, the 2026 Budget and Workplan reflects the LVPC’s statutory responsibilities, the current funding landscape, and the strategic direction of the organization, all while striving to maintain high levels of service to a growing region.

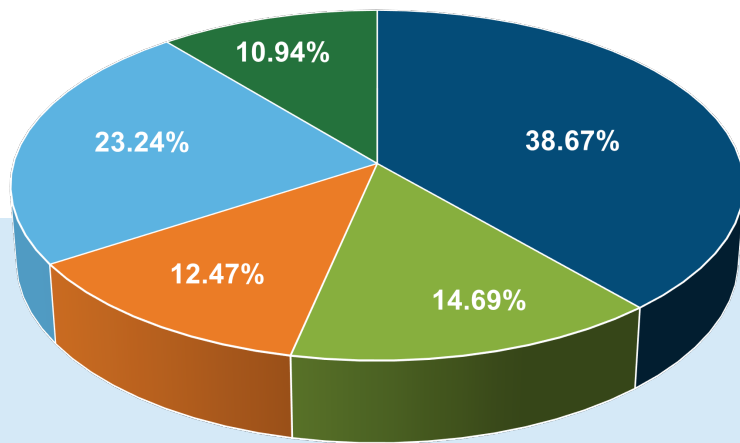
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BUDGET SUMMARY

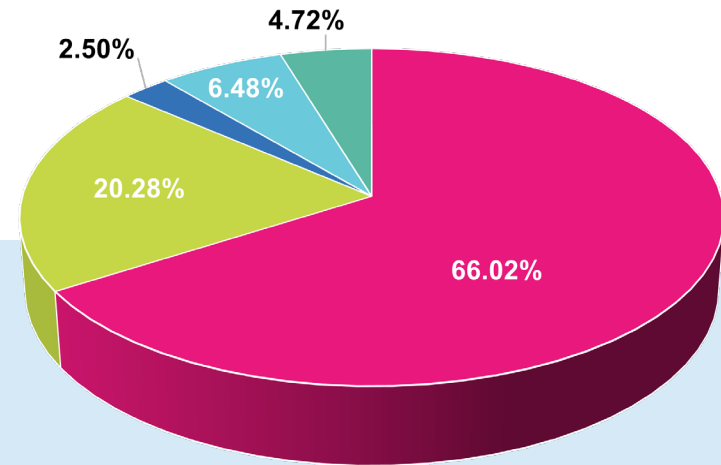
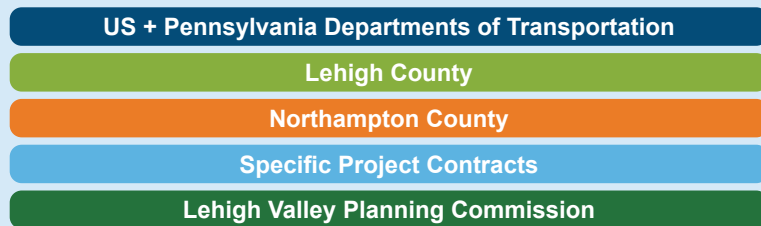


The LVPC's Budget is made of multiple sources of funds including, but not limited to contracts, revenue and grants. The Northampton County, Lehigh County, state and federal government contributions allow the Commission to meet legal obligations under state and federal law and are critical components of the organizational budget.

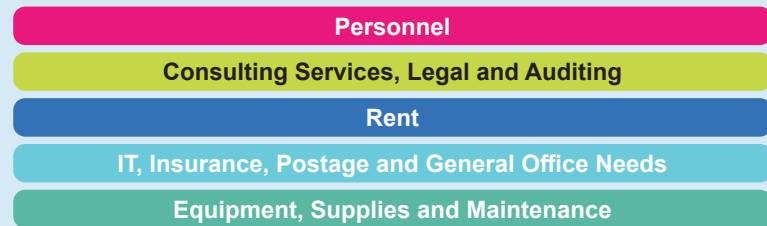
Contributor	Budget			
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Northampton County	\$605,000	\$605,000	\$625,000	\$823,125
Lehigh County	\$650,000	\$605,000	\$700,000	\$969,500
Pennsylvania + US Departments of Transportation	\$1,573,046	\$1,371,008	\$2,226,198	\$2,552,839
Specific Project Contracts	\$468,411	\$749,970	\$1,684,449	\$1,534,314
Office Relocation and Fit-Out	N/A	\$1,326,385	N/A	N/A
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission	\$477,461	\$1,193,649	\$1,342,043	\$721,961
Total	\$3,773,918	\$5,851,012	\$6,577,690	\$6,601,739



**Estimated 2026 Revenue
as Percent of Budget**



**Estimated 2026 Expenses
as Percent of Budget**





03

BUDGET

As the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) enters its 65th year serving the housing, economic, transportation, environmental, infrastructure, and information planning and coordination needs of Northampton and Lehigh counties, its priorities continue to evolve alongside the region's growth.

The LVPC's 2026 Budget and Workplan includes funding for ongoing, mandated planning activities, such as the review of municipal zoning, subdivision and land development ordinance changes. These efforts are supported through annual allocations from Lehigh and Northampton counties, as regulatory restrictions limit the Commission's ability to charge fees for municipal ordinances and plan reviews, curative amendment challenges, and development of model guides, among other critical municipal and regional support activities.

Each county's investment also supports the update to *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* and provides required matching funds for Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) activities and related projects. Specific project contracts requiring county match funding are identified, along with any relevant statutory references.

The LVPC stands at a pivotal moment in its evolution as the region's trusted steward of data-driven long-range planning. With a reputation for credibility, a legacy of leadership and a unique regional mandate, LVPC is well-positioned to guide the Lehigh Valley through a period of dynamic growth and complex challenges.

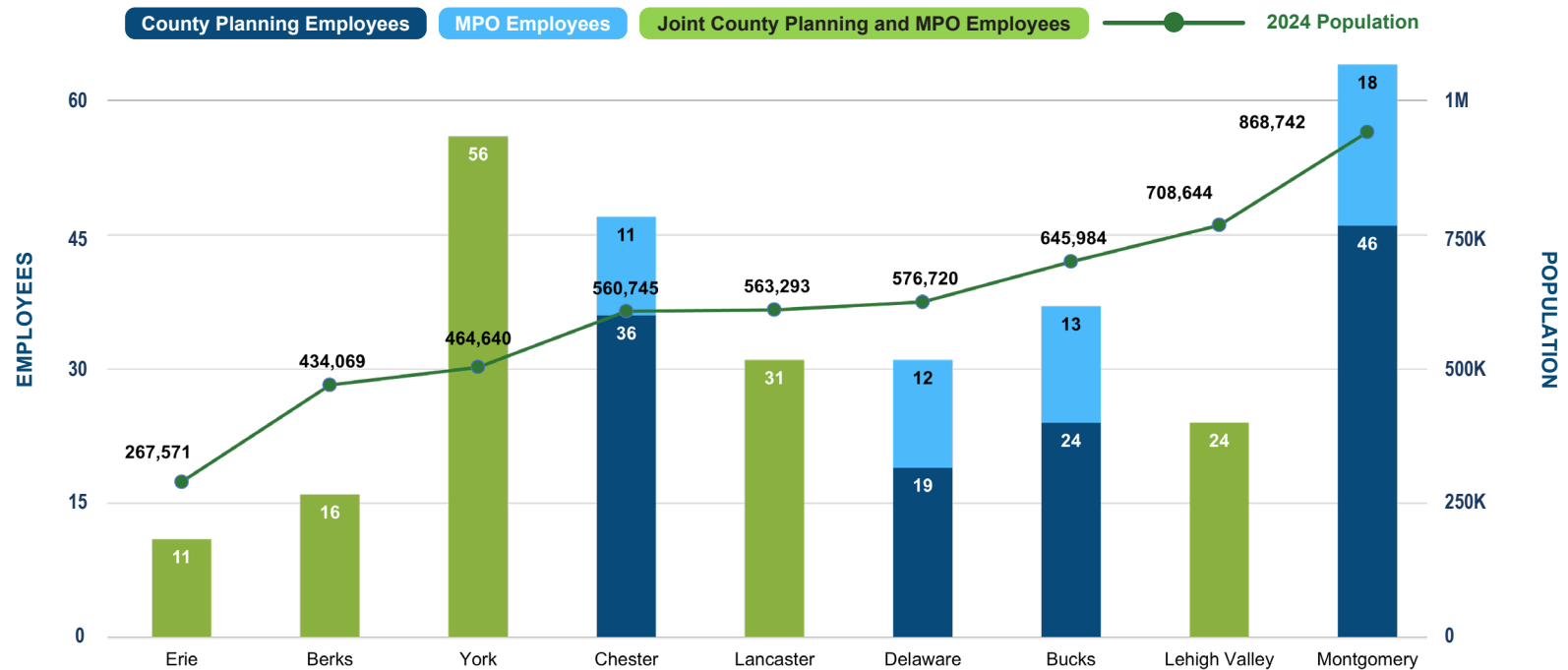
LVPC has earned the respect of stakeholders across sectors for its rigorous analysis, high-quality development reviews and commitment to public service. As the only organization evaluating development from a regional and long-term perspective, LVPC plays an indispensable role in shaping a more sustainable and prosperous future for Northampton and Lehigh counties. Because the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTs), is housed within and functionally supported by LVPC, planning and funding for roads, bridges, transit, trails and rail systems is integrated in the regional comprehensive plan.

At the same time, rising demands, limited staff capacity, and regional disparities highlight the need for stronger engagement, clearer communication, increased and diversified revenue and updated systems. The strategic plan builds on LVPC's strengths while addressing its challenges. It focuses on leveraging data to inform policy, strengthening internal capacity, clarifying its role in advocacy and public engagement and reinforcing its identity as a collaborative, forward-thinking regional leader.

The Strategic Plan outlines five pillars to guide LVPC in meeting the region's evolving needs. The 2026 Budget and Workplan aligns with these pillars by identifying how each initiative supports the broader strategic direction.

The Commission operates with 24 full-time staff and 5 part time staff—barely half the number needed to meet the region's growing needs. The region has grown by 170,000 residents since 1990, while stagnant staffing levels have limited LVPC's ability to respond effectively. A comparative analysis of similarly sized Pennsylvania regions shows that LVPC, as a bi-county planning commission and MPO, should employ approximately 46 staff members.

Summary of Comparable Planning Organizations



In 2026, staffing is expected to increase, with key roles identified in the Strategic Plan being filled, though the total will remain under 30. Despite these constraints, LVPC continues to diversify funding sources and rise to the region's evolving challenges, while maintaining a balanced budget.

As the Lehigh Valley continues to grow and change, the LVPC remains committed to delivering high-quality, forward-thinking planning services that support a more resilient, equitable and prosperous future for all communities across the region.

2026

LVPC BUDGET

1000	REVENUES	2026 BUDGET
1100	COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING	
1111	SLATE BELT MULTI-MUNICIPAL PLAN	\$0
1116.L	HOUSING SUPPLY & ATTAINABILITY STRATEGY - FUTURELV IMPLEMENTATION - 2026 LECO FUNDING	\$75,000
1116.N	HOUSING SUPPLY & ATTAINABILITY STRATEGY - 2026 NORCO FUNDING	\$0
1124.L	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN (EDA) COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - 2025 LECO FUNDING	\$50,000
1124.N	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN (EDA) COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - 2026 NORCO FUNDING	\$50,000
	SUBTOTAL - COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING	\$175,000
1200	ENVIRONMENT PLANNING	
1209	REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ASSESSMENT - PEMA GRANT FUNDS	\$100,000
1209.L	REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ASSESSMENT - LECO PEMA MATCH (RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEAR)	\$16,666*
1209.N	REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ASSESSMENT - NORCO PEMA MATCH (RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEAR)	\$16,666*
1214	REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ASSESSMENT - PA DEP PHASE II GRANT FUNDS	\$561,250
1214.L	REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ASSESSMENT - PA DEP PHASE II GRANT - LECO MATCH - 2025 LECO FUNDING	\$116,875
1214.N	REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ASSESSMENT - PA DEP PHASE II GRANT - NORCO MATCH - 2026 NORCO FUNDING	\$116,875
1215	REGIONAL WATERSHEDS ASSESSMENT - PA DCED GRANT FUNDS (RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEAR)	\$75,000*
1216	TRAIL GAP ANALYSIS - D&L GRANT - LV GREENWAYS	\$13,500
1216.L	TRAIL GAP ANALYSIS - D&L GRANT - LECO MATCH	\$6,750
1216.N	TRAIL GAP ANALYSIS - D&L GRANT - NORCO MATCH	\$0
1211	CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) - US EPA	\$300,000
1219	LEHIGH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL	\$25,000
	SUBTOTAL - ENVIRONMENT PLANNING	\$1,348,582

Revenue lines denoted with * indicate that funds were received in a prior year and are included in the Restricted Fund Balance.

1000	REVENUES	2026 BUDGET
1300	TRANSPORTATION PLANNING	
1318	PENNDOT: 2024 - 2025, BASE CONTRACT - TIME ONLY EXTENSION FOR PROJECT SELECTION	\$110,839
1322	PENNDOT: 2025 - 2027, BASE CONTRACT	\$1,370,000
1322.L	PENNDOT: 2025 - 2027, BASE CONTRACT - LECO MATCH	\$69,500
1322.N	PENNDOT: 2025 - 2027, BASE CONTRACT - NORCO MATCH	\$69,500
1323	PENNDOT: 2025 - 2027, LTAP	\$37,500
1324	PENNDOT: SUPPLEMENTAL: 2025 - 2027, ROUTE 22 STUDY	\$1,000,000
1325	PENNDOT: 2025 - 2027, SAFE & ACCESSIBLE (IIJA) FUNDS	\$34,500
1326.L	EASTERN PA REGIONAL FREIGHT ALLIANCE - LECO	\$10,732
1326.N	EASTERN PA REGIONAL FREIGHT ALLIANCE - NORCO	\$0
1327.L	LEHIGH VALLEY PASSENGER RAIL - PHASE II - LECO	\$0
1327.N	LEHIGH VALLEY PASSENGER RAIL - PHASE II - NORCO	\$0
	SUBTOTAL - TRANSPORTATION PLANNING	\$2,702,571
1400	MISCELLANEOUS	
1402	SALES - PUBLICATIONS, REGISTRATIONS, SPONSORSHIPS (MAPS)	\$20,000
1404	SUBDIVISION REVIEW FEE	\$410,000
1405	INTEREST	\$120,000
1411	WORK FORCE BOARD SHARED STAFF	\$72,019
	SUBTOTAL - MISCELLANEOUS	\$622,019
1500	RESERVE FUNDS & APPROPRIATIONS	
1501.B	OPERATING RESERVES - RESTRICTED AND COMMITTED FUND BALANCE	\$99,942*
1502	COUNTY PLANNING APPROPRIATIONS - LECO	\$900,000
1503	COUNTY PLANNING APPROPRIATIONS - NORCO	\$753,625
	SUBTOTAL - RESERVE FUNDS & APPROPRIATIONS	\$1,753,567
TOTAL REVENUES		\$6,601,739

2000	EXPENSES	2026 BUDGET
2100	PERSONNEL	
2101	PAYROLL: PERMANENT	\$2,966,994
2102	FICA	\$226,975
2103	HEALTH INSURANCE	\$486,937
2104	GROUP LIFE & LTD INSURANCE	\$15,584
2105	PENSION	\$194,827
2106	OPEB	\$32,656
	SUBTOTAL - PERSONNEL	\$3,923,973

2200	CONSULTANTS & SUPPLIES	
2201	SOLICITOR	\$35,000
2202	AUDITOR	\$20,500
2203	PENSION ACTUARY	\$16,695
2205	CONTRACT SERVICES	\$1,153,682
2206	LEHIGH VALLEY GOVERNMENT ACADEMY	\$10,000
	SUBTOTAL - CONSULTANTS & SUPPLIES	\$1,235,877

2400	GENERAL OFFICE	
2401	RENT	\$152,607
2402	OPERATING EXPENSES & UTILITIES (PHONE, INTERNET, IT SOFTWARE AND MAINT, ETC.)	\$363,382
2403	POSTAGE	\$2,100
2404	INSURANCE	\$29,500
2405	FUND BALANCE OBLIGATION	\$506,413
	SUBTOTAL - GENERAL OFFICE	\$1,054,002

2000	EXPENSES	2026 BUDGET
2500	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE & NEW EQUIPMENT	
2501	MAINTENANCE & REPAIR FUND	\$3,000
2502	NEW EQUIPMENT & OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS	\$16,420
	SUBTOTAL - EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE & NEW EQUIPMENT	\$19,420
2600	SUPPLIES & EXPENSES	
2601	PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$39,303
2602	PUBLICATIONS & DUES	\$18,522
2603	TRAVEL & EXPENSES	\$12,050
2604	ADS & LEGAL NOTICES	\$12,000
2605	TRAINING & CONFERENCES	\$100,056
2606	BANKING & PAYROLL PROCESSING	\$3,500
2607	MISCELLANEOUS & CONTINGENCY	\$100
2608	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	\$182,936
	SUBTOTAL - SUPPLIES & EXPENSES	\$368,467
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$6,601,739
GRANTS APPLIED FOR AND MATCHES COMMITTED/CONTRACTS PENDING		2026 BUDGET
1218	LEHIGH LIVABLE LANDSCAPES UPDATE - PA DCNR GRANT	\$75,000
1218.L	LEHIGH LIVABLE LANDSCAPES UPDATE - LECO MATCH	\$90,000
1328	SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL - US DOT GRANT - TOTAL GRANT \$1M	\$200,000
1328.L	SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL - LECO MATCH	\$100,000
1126	LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	\$10,000
TOTAL POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL 2026 REVENUES		\$475,000



STRATEGIC PILLARS

TRUSTED PARTNER

LVPC's success depends on strong relationships with local governments, community stakeholders and regional institutions. By showing up consistently, listening deeply, and providing expert guidance, LVPC builds trust and collaboration to extend its reach and impact across the Lehigh Valley.

ELEVATED BRAND

A strong brand makes LVPC's work visible, usable and relevant. When its champions can clearly articulate how the organization adds value for the region, LVPC's stakeholders are more likely to participate, partner and advocate for its mission.

CLEAR SCOPE

With growing regional needs and limited resources, LVPC must clearly define what it is required to do, what it chooses to do strategically, and what falls outside its capacity. Clarity of scope protects staff time, aligns expectations, and ensures that the most important work gets the focus it deserves.

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

Meaningful impact requires long-term financial stability. By diversifying its funding sources—including public contracts, philanthropic grants and earned income—LVPC can remain responsive, attract top talent and invest in the systems that power its mission.

ALIGNED OPERATIONS

LVPC's internal strength is key to its external effectiveness. A high-performing team, strong governance and modern systems allow the organization to adapt, scale and deliver with excellence—even as demand grows.

The Strategic Plan is built upon five strategic pillars that serve as the foundation for organizational success. These pillars represent the core areas of focus that guide decision-making, resource allocation and organizational priorities.

Together, they form a cohesive strategy that empowers LVPC to meet the evolving needs of the Lehigh Valley with **clarity, purpose and impact**.



2026

WORK PLAN

Major Plans, Projects & Initiatives	STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
<i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> Update (Bi-County Comprehensive Plan & Metropolitan Transportation Plan)	√	√	√	√	√	June 2027	Maintain and refine the region's long-term vision for sustainable growth, coordinated land use, transportation, housing, and environmental planning across Lehigh and Northampton counties.
Integrated Stormwater Management/ Act 167 Plan	√		√			December 2029	Develop a stormwater management plan and global green infrastructure ordinance for the 15 of 16 watersheds that serve the region.
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)	√	√		√		2026–2028	Begin first phase of CEDS as specific plan timed with <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> update. Seek US Economic Development Administration funding support.
US Route 22: Safety, Mobility and Congestion Management Plan	√	√	√			June 30, 2027	Coordinate and manage the phased and prioritized strategy for the improvement of US 22, including pursuit of Interstate designation.
2027 - 2030 Transportation Improvement Program	√		√	√		June 30, 2026	Update of the region's four-year transportation investment portfolio implementing road, bridge, trail and transit elements of <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> .
Lehigh County Environmental Advisory Council Creation	√	√	√			December 2026	Work with Lehigh County to refine and adopt ordinance to establish a countywide Environmental Advisory Council, build board, administer Council and serve as professional planning staff.
<i>Pathways to a Resilient Greater Lehigh Valley Plan</i> Implementation	√	√	√	√		2026–∞	Finalization of tasks supporting and coordinating resiliency efforts through joint economic, environmental, hazard mitigation, public safety, land use and transportation interests.
<i>Lehigh Valley Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy</i> Implementation	√	√	√	√		2026–∞	Implement policies of the regional housing plan to increase residences at appropriate income levels and in locations that support the needs of everyone.

Organizational Strategic Plan Implementation	Strategic Plan Pillars					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Specific Projects Determination	√	√	√	√	√	December 2026	Develop a list, cost, timeline and implementation priorities for Organizational Strategic Plan specific projects not outlined in 2026 Work Plan.
Establish Affiliate Non-Profit	√			√		2026	Create a nonprofit partner organization to expand funding and programming opportunities.
Update Administrative Policy and Procedures					√	2026–2027	Evaluate and update current administrative policies and procedures to ensure team cohesion, accountability and responsiveness.
Internal Project Management Solution					√	2026–2027	Investigate, cost, select and develop implementation process for a cross-organization system.
Electronic Plan System Implementation and Refinement		√			√	2026–∞	Launch and refine Geocivix e-plan system for plan, ordinance and requests platform.
Review and Revise Plan Fee Schedule				√	√	Annually	Assess plan fee schedule and recommend updates to fees where appropriate.
Fee-for-Service Schedule Development	√		√	√		2026–2027	Create list and costs for fee for service work, including data, technical assistance and training.
Website Modernization and DataLV Portal Rebuild	√	√	√	√	√	December 2026	Complete LVPC website rebuild and relaunch, with a comprehensive reassessment and rebuild of the DataLV web portal, including fee for access and service components.
Lehigh Valley Government Academy Revision and Remake	√	√	√	√		2026–2028	Create cohesive and more comprehensive public education and engagement programs, including the Local Technical Assistance Program classroom and onsites, Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute courses and direct municipal technical assistance.
Lehigh Valley General Assembly	√		√			Annually	Convene regional leaders to discuss and align on major planning priorities, trends and emerging issues.

Organizational Strategic Plan Implementation	STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Community Planning Partnerships Assessment	√		√		√	2026	Track and evaluate requests for participation in external meetings and committees across and organization and develop a process and procedures for approval and allocation of resources with the Administration.
Contact Management System Development	√	√	√	√	√	2026	Select and develop an enhanced contact management system to address the growing number of partners, activities and interactions of the organization.
LVPC Commissioner Manual Remake	√	√	√			2026–2027	Revise LVPC Commissioner Manual to include ambassador materials as well as participatory expectations.
LVTs Training System Formalization	√		√	√		2026–2027	Organize and implement an annual LVTs training curriculum.

Administrative Responsibilities	STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Bi-County Planning Program Management and Implementation	√		√	√		∞	Manage planning, zoning, land use and development policy for the two-county region in accordance with counties', state and federal statutes.
Metropolitan Planning Program Implementation	√		√	√		∞	Manage the federally required transportation planning program for the Lehigh Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (LVTs).
Organizational Operations and Compliance					√	∞	Organizational management through ensuring LVPC and LVTs operations meet federal, state, and local reporting and compliance requirements while improving efficiencies through strategic tools and processes.
Human Resources and Staff Management		√			√	∞	Staff recruitment, administration and management to foster a high-performing organization.

Communications and Community Engagement Responsibilities	Strategic Plan Pillars					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Communications Management	√	√	√	√	√	∞	Develop, coordinate and deploy the organization's messaging across in-person, print, digital, video, radio and online communications, both internal and external.
Content Management	√	√	√	√	√	∞	Develop, coordinate and manage the design, editing, production, distribution and communication of all LVPC publications, website, presentations, traditional and digital media.
Community Engagement Management	√	√	√	√	√	∞	Develop, coordinate, organize and manage the organization's engagement strategies.
Annual Organizational Report	√	√	√	√	√	March 1, 2026	Coordinate, prepare and publish and 2025 annual accomplishments, data, and outcomes for the bi-county planning commission and multi-municipal partners in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code.
Annual Meetings and Training Schedule	√	√	√	√	√	2026	Develop, manage and communicate annual LVPC and LVTS meetings calendars, training and event schedules.
Lehigh Valley Government Academy Municipal Planning Program	√		√			2026	Coordinate and implement municipal planning, zoning and development training for appointed, elected officials and the public.
Lehigh Valley Government Academy - Local Technical Assistance Transportation Program	√		√			2026	Coordinate and implement transportation-related technical training and on-site technical assistance for municipalities in partnership with PennDOT.
Annual Lehigh Valley Planning Awards Event	√	√	√	√		2026	Organize and hold event recognizing excellence in planning across the region.

Communications and Community Engagement Responsibilities	STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Annual Lehigh Valley Local Government Officials Appreciation Event	√	√	√			June 2026	Organize and hold event recognizing local government officials across the region.
Host the Eastern Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit	√	√	√			September 2026	Participate in the organization and deployment of Bethlehem conference promoting greenways and trail connectivity.
Host the American Planning Association, Pennsylvania State Annual Conference	√	√	√			October 2026	Participate in the organization deployment of for the American Planning Association Pennsylvania state conference.
Prepare to Host the National Association of Regional Councils Executive Director's Conference and Annual Board Retreat	√	√	√			October 2027	Organize the national conference planned for the Lehigh Valley.

Community and Regional Planning Responsibilities	Strategic Plan Pillars					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
PA Municipalities Planning Code Land Development and Subdivision Reviews	√		√	√		∞	Ensure development proposals comply with state and county planning regulations as well as <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> .
County Subdivision and Land Development Review Program Implementation	√		√	√		∞	Review and management of municipally deferred subdivision and land development applications.
Municipal Ordinances, Maps and Plans Reviews	√		√	√		∞	Review of municipal ordinances, maps and comprehensive plan amendments for consistency adopted regional policies.
Historic Preservation Reviews	√		√	√		∞	Evaluate development projects for impacts on historic and cultural resources.
Multi-Municipal Planning and Technical Assistance	√		√	√		∞	Assist Lehigh Valley communities in their efforts to advance multi-municipal partnerships with neighboring municipalities.
Planning Technical Assistance	√		√	√		∞	Provide on-call and special planning project assistance to local governments.

Data, Economics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Responsibilities	STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Data and Econometric Systems Management	√	√	√	√	√	∞	Develop, coordinate, manage and deploy the organization's data, analytics, and econometric work, including internal and external coordination.
GIS Management	√	√	√	√	√	∞	Develop, coordinate, manage and deploy the organization's GIS system, data layers and methods of display with internal and external coordination
AI System Development and Deployment		√	√	√	√	∞	Build, train, revise and manage the organization's AI framework, including the travel demand and watershed models.
Critical Data Updates	√	√	√	√		2026	Complete list, prioritize, develop schedule, implement data updates for critical regional information.

Environmental Planning Responsibilities	Strategic Plan Pillars					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Stormwater Plans Reviews	√		√	√		∞	Review and approve stormwater plans filed in the region for compliance with PA Act 167.
Sewer, Water, Solid Waste and Energy Facilities Plans Reviews	√		√	√		∞	Review municipal infrastructure plans to ensure consistency with regional goals.
Lehigh County Sterling Raber Farmland Preservation Board	√		√			∞	Provide planning and technical assistance to support Lehigh County farmland preservation efforts.
Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board	√		√			∞	Provide planning and technical assistance to support Northampton County farmland and open space preservation efforts.

Planning Priorities with Outstanding Grant Applications or Fundraising Initiatives	Strategic Plan Pillars					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Lehigh County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update	√		√	√		To Be Determined	Awaiting state funding application response to update the 2017 Livable Landscapes: A Park, Recreation, Open Space, Agricultural and Historic Lands Plan for Lehigh County.
Regional Transportation Safety Plan Update	√		√	√		To Be Determined	Awaiting federal funding application and Northampton County funding request response to update the 2015 Traffic Safety Plan utilizing a Safe Streets for All approach
Lehigh Valley Passenger Rail Project Phase II	√		√	√		To Be Determined	Continue fundraising to advance planning for potential restoration of passenger rail service in the region.
Lower Saucon Township Community Impact Assessment	√		√			To Be Determined	Review and report on Township impacts related to the Bethlehem Landfill, future land uses and planning.

Transportation Planning Responsibilities	STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Planning Partners Participation and Coordination	√		√	√		On-going	Continued collaboration with PennDOT, Federal Highway and Transit Administrations and other PA Metropolitan and Rural Transportation Organizations.
Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum Participation and Coordination	√		√	√		On-going	Continue collaboration with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council and various New York and Connecticut Metropolitan Planning Organizations, including leadership and management of the Freight Committee.
Municipal Street Vacation Petition Reviews	√		√	√		∞	Review of municipal requests to vacate public streets for consistency with adopted regional policies.
Congestion Management Process Plan	√		√			June 2027	Complete the update to the 2016 MoveLV: Congestion Management Process including policy development necessary for Metropolitan Transportation Planning.
Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Plan Implementation	√		√			June 2027	Coordinate the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance to implement policies of the 10-county plan managing the impacts of goods and freight traveling through the mega-region.
Transportation Improvement Program Management System Refinement	√		√		√	June 2026	Improve project evaluation tools for the Transportation Improvement Program.
National Highway System Classification Review	√		√			June 2026	Review classifications of roads on the National Highway System and recommend any changes to the Pennsylvania and US Departments of Transportation.
Safety Performance Measures Revisions	√		√	√		June 2026	Update transportation safety performance targets.
Regional Asset Management Measures Revisions	√		√	√		June 2026	Update transportation infrastructure asset management performance targets.
Transit Performance Measures (LANTA) Revisions	√		√	√		September 2026	Support LANTA's transit planning goals through performance monitoring.

Transportation Planning Responsibilities	Strategic Plan Pillars					Timeline/Estimated Completion	Summary
	Trusted Partner	Elevated Brand	Clear Scope	Sustainable Funding	Aligned Operations		
Congestion Mitigation Air Quality and Freight Performance Measures Revisions	√		√	√		June 2026	Align regional performance measures with federal air quality and freight standards.
Highway Performance Monitoring Program	√		√	√		∞	Collect, analyze and report roadway data through traffic counts and segment inventories.
Safe and Accessible Communities Program	√		√			June 2027	Maintain and advance Walk/Roll LV: Active Transportation Plan, walk audit website and support to planning initiatives that improve mobility, safety, and accessibility.
Enhanced Bus/ Bus Rapid Transit Implementation Prioritization and Project Selection	√		√			June 2027	Advance high-capacity public transit projects in partnership with LANTA and PennDOT, including prioritization and selection of investment locations.
Riverside Drive Implementation	√		√			2029	Advance the complete street and trail in Allentown City and Whitehall Township.
Annual List of Obligated (Transportation) Projects		√	√		√	December 2026	Annual transportation investment accomplishments in accordance with the federal metropolitan planning statutes.

04

REFERENCE MATERIALS



Mission Rooted in Law

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and Lehigh Valley Transportation Study operate under a series of laws that outline roles and responsibilities of the organization supported by the LVPC mission.

Within this framework, the 2026 Budget and Workplan supports the implementation of several federal, state and county laws, many of these with increasing requirements adding to the complexity, depth and breadth of the work program. It is of note, the Inflation Reduction Act adds US Environmental Protection Act responsibilities to bi-county planning in addition to the Metropolitan Planning Organization functions of the LVTS.

The laws that the LVPC and LVTS operate under include:

- Implementing the County Planning Program, as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act of 1968, P.L. 805, No. 247, as enacted and amended), and associated state and county acts and initiatives, as required
- Implementing the County Watershed Management Program, as required by Pennsylvania Storm Water Management Act (Act of 1978, P.L. 864, No. 167, as enacted and amended), and the associated federal Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Program of the Clean Water Act
- Implementing the Sewage Facilities Act (Act of 1966, P.L. 1535, No. 537, as enacted and amended) for the planning and regulation of community sewage systems
- Implementing the Solid Waste Management Act (Act of 1980, P.L. 380, No. 97, as enacted and amended) for municipal, residential and hazardous waste permits
- Implementing the Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Planning and Investment Program requirements per United States Code, Title 23, as enacted and amended in conjunction with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act
- Implementing the Climate Pollution Reduction Program requirements per the United States Code, Title 2 and 40, as enacted and amended in conjunction with the Inflation Reduction Act
- Implementing the Public Utility Code (Act of 1978, P.L. 598, N. 116 as enacted and amended) cooperation provisions for regulated utility distribution systems
- Implementing the Delaware River Basin Compact (U.S. Public Law 87-328 of 1961 and Act of 1961, P.L. 518, No. 268) for water supply protection, pollution control, flood protection, watershed management, recreation, hydroelectric power and regulation of withdrawal and diversion



Mission

The 2026 budget and accompanying workplan has been prepared by the Administration on behalf of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, in accordance with US Department of Transportation and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regulations and agreements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

In addition, the US Department of Environmental Protection Agency, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Counties of Lehigh and Northampton, Pennsylvania regulations and associated agreement requirements are incorporated herein.



The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission is proudly represented by elected and appointed officials from each county.

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Cathy Fletcher (Alt.)*

**These individuals represent the City of Bethlehem, which resides within Lehigh and Northampton counties.*



MEMBERS

The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, the federally designated metropolitan planning organization, is proudly represented by elected and appointed officials from municipal, county, regional and state governmental entities.

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