



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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, January 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Via Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED AT <http://www.tinyurl.com/LVPC2025> OR VIA PHONE
610-477-5793 Conf ID: 651 626 091#.

AGENDA

Roll Call

Courtesy of Floor

Chairman's Report

1. Staff Introduction
 - a. Subham Kharel, PhD, Senior Data and Analytics Planner
 - b. Faria Urmy, AICP, CNU-A, LEED AP, Regional Plan Program Manager
2. Lehigh Valley Government Academy Certified Citizen Planner Ceremony
3. Honoring Darlene Heller, Planning Director, City of Bethlehem

Minutes

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Minutes and Review of Roll Call Actions of the December 19, 2024, Commission Meeting (JD)

Comprehensive Planning Committee:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy (JS/JD)
2. *ACTION ITEM*: Summary Sheet (SM)

Environment Committee:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Plan Overview and Proposed Targets (SM)
2. *ACTION ITEM*: Summary Sheet (SR)

Transportation Committee:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Summary (KH)

Old Business:

1. *PRESENTATION ITEM*: Monthly Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinances/Plans Report (JS)
2. *PRESENTATION ITEM*: 4th Quarter Traffic Monitoring Report (BH)
3. *PACKET ITEM*: Monthly Traffic Monitoring Report

New Business:

1. *PRESENTATION ITEM*: Training - The Role of LVPC Commissioners

Executive Director and Managing Editor's Report:

1. *PRESENTATION ITEM*: Morning Call Business Cycle Column (MA)
 - a. Published January 19: "Busy 2025 looks exciting – and daunting"
 - b. lvpc.org; mcall.com
 - c. Next column: March 2

Communications and Engagement

1. *PACKET ITEM*: Monthly, Plan Lehigh Valley Talk Show on WDIY, Lehigh Valley Public Radio, 88.1 (MA)
 - d. Air Date: January 6 - "A grateful look back at 2024", with LVPC Director of Regional Planning Scott Greenly"
 - e. Lvpc.org; wdiy.org/show/plan-lehigh-valley
 - f. Next show – February 3
2. *PACKET ITEM*: Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program (MA)
 - a. Deadline: February 24, 2025
 - b. <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/356840>
3. *PACKET ITEM*: Lehigh Valley Government Academy
 - a. Local Technical Assistance Program Classes
 1. February 6, 2025: Streamlined Approach to Stormwater Management, 11 am to Noon
 - o Register at www.gis.penndot.gov/LTAP/ or by contacting Hannah Milagio at hmilagio@lvpc.org 610-264-4544

Next Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Meeting:

Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 7:00 pm

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, December 19, 2024, In-Person Meeting

The LVPC held a public meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2024. The meeting was advertised in the Lehigh Valley Press on Wednesday, July 10th, 2024.

LVPC Chair Dr. Chris Amato chaired the meeting.

Mr. Joey Dotta took Roll Call.

Members in Attendance:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Ron Beitler, Michael Drabenstott, Bob Elbich, Sunny Ghai, Philip Ginder, Steve Glickman, Kent Herman, Christina Morgan, Stephen Repasch and Kevin Schmidt

Northampton County

Christopher Amato, John Gallagher, Judith Haldeman, John McGorry, Scott Minnich, Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen and Jean Versteeg.

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Percy Dougherty, Jennifer Gomez, John Inglis, Diane Kelly, Dennis Klusaritz, Richard Molchany, Santo Napoli, Owen O'Neil, and Matthew Tuerk.

Northampton County

Jessica Cope, Andrew Elliott, Charles Elliott, Darlene Heller, Ken Kraft, Rachel Leon, Carl Manges, Lamont McClure, Steve Melnick, Edward Nelson, Salvatore Panto, Jr., J. William Reynolds, Grace Crampsie Smith and Tina Smith

Staff Present: Joey Dotta, Jill Seitz, Scott Greenly, Becky Bradley, Corinne Ruggiero, Christian Martinez, Susan Myerov, Humaira Nabeela and Brian Hite

Public Present: Steve Althouse (WFMZ), Glynis Daniels, Anna Mikulska and Monica Beaky

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Ms. Monica Beaky spoke about a memo that was authored by the LVPC and provided by request to Hanover Township, Northampton County, pertaining to a potential warehouse development near the Lehigh Valley International Airport. The report detailed the industrial market conditions and researched the current zoning to offer recommendations of the potential of the site. There was a discussion of the nature of the memo and the intent behind the recommendations. Ms. Bradley urged that the final determination of what is an allowable use on the site is ultimately decided by the municipality. Ms. Glynis Daniels also spoke about the Hanover Township warehouse memo and voiced concerns of potential traffic increasing on the nearby roads. Ms. Bradley explained the land development process and the various regulations in place that encourage developments to be sustainable and additive to the community.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Amato thanked the Commission for their service throughout the past year.

MINUTES

Chair Amato stated that the minutes of the Thursday, November 21, 2024, LVPC meeting are attached. Chair Amato asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Repasch made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion.

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

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: Williams Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – 840 Line Street and 40 Hilton Street Warehouse

Mr. Dotta presented a proposal to construct a 272,700-square-foot warehouse at 40 Hilton Street. There are two existing two-story buildings that are proposed to be demolished that contain active businesses. Proximate uses are primarily industrial with single-family properties to the northeast. The site's location near I-78 and the Chrin Brother's Sanitary Landfill makes it more appropriate for industrial uses rather than more community-oriented developments.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Gallagher made the motion, and Commissioner Elbich 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.

ACTION ITEM: Comprehensive Planning Committee Summary Sheet

Commissioner Gallagher briefed the Commission on the Comprehensive Committee Summary Sheet that featured a zoning ordinance amendment in the City of Bethlehem. Also, the updated zoning ordinance, zoning map and new official map for both Bushkill and Lynn Township.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the summary sheet. Commissioner Ginder made the motion, and Commissioner McGorry 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.

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE AND ENVIRONMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: Upper Macungie Township – Land Development – Ocean Spray Wastewater Treatment Center Upgrade

Ms. Ruggiero presented a proposal to upgrade the existing Ocean Spray Wastewater Treatment with additional accessways and a stone bed for three shipping containers, inside of which is a system that will provide pre-treatment of wastewater prior to its discharge to the existing Lehigh County Authority wastewater sewer system. Pre-treatment of wastewater is a requirement for discharge to the Lehigh County Authority wastewater sewer system. The applicant should ensure resources are in place for proper long-term maintenance and monitoring of the additional equipment associated with its wastewater treatment upgrade system.

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

Commissioner Glickman asked if the system would be permanent, and Ms. Ruggiero noted that it is intended to be a fixture of permanence for Ocean Spray. There was discussion regarding sewer treatment packages and their use now that Lehigh County Authority Wastewater Treatment Center is nearing capacity. Ms. Anna Miskulska represented the applicant, Ocean Spray, and clarified that the packaged treatment containers are intended to be permanent.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed. Commissioners Ghai, Herman and Morgan abstained.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Repasch briefed the Commission on Environment Committee's 2025 meeting calendar and the vote for Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Repasch will continue to serve as Chair and Commissioner Morgan will continue to serve as Vice Chair.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

INFORMATION ITEM: Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Dinkel presented the *Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan*, which identifies all human-service transportation providers within the region and if any duplicate or missing service exists in the region. The plan also seeks to address the transportation needs for seniors and people with disabilities by prioritizing projects that address their needs concluding aligns strongly with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. This plan will help plan the next several years of fulfilling the societal need to provide life sustaining transportation services to those individuals with the greatest need across the entire Lehigh Valley.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions.

INFORMATION ITEM: Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Mr. Hite presented the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. The annual listing of obligated projects is a federal requirement that reports on money that the federal government has promised to contribute, or obligate, to various transportation projects as programmed by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In one year, this totals \$179,035,864 in federal investment into the Lehigh Valley Transportation System not including deobligations.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions.

Commissioner Armstrong thanked the staff and the Commission for their work to secure the funding to meet the region's needs. Commissioner Moritz-Chapelliquen asked about funding when a project goes over budget. Mr. Hite explained that all the partners do accounting to ensure that all available funding is optimized across all the eligible projects.

INFORMATION ITEM: Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance (EPFA) Freight Infrastructure Plan

Mr. Gardi presented that LVTS had recently adopted the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance - Freight Infrastructure Plan, Regional Freight Profile, and Appendices. The Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance is a 10-County, five Metropolitan Planning Organization region that is collectively among the fastest growing freight areas in the country. The Freight Infrastructure Plan (FIP) was developed for Eastern Pennsylvania to identify areas of need for infrastructure improvements to handle the rapid growth. The FIP details what the EPFA region is, current freight planning efforts throughout the region/state/country that this plan builds upon, the current freight trends we are seeing in the region/state/country, and the Regional Action Plan.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions.

There was a brief discussion about the schedule and timing of LVPC Transportation Committee. Commissioner Drabenstott asked if there is conversations within this plan with the ports of New York or New Jersey.

OLD BUSINESS:

PACKET ITEM: Monthly Reports

Chair Amato notified the Commission that monthly reports are featured in each Commissioner's packet. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION ITEM: 2025 Election of LVPC Officers

Commissioner Glickman highlighted the positions of the officers for the LVPC. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Executive Committee on December 12, 2024, the Executive Committee voted to forward Dr. Chris Amato as Chair, Tori Morgan as Vice Chair, and Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen as Treasurer for 2025.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the officer nominations. Commissioner Armstrong made the motion, and Commissioner Beitler seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes and the motion passed. Chair Amato, Vice Chair Morgan and Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen abstained.

PRESENTATION ITEM: 2025 LVPC Budget and Workplan

Ms. Bradley presented the 2025 LVPC Budget and Workplan. The Commissioners were briefed on each line item of the budget and funding sources for the operations of the LVPC. The contributions by both counties were explained and there was brief discussion on the allotment from Lehigh County and Northampton County.

Each project, its cost and revenues were highlighted by Ms. Bradley. The workplan schedule was gone over and next steps were discussed. There was a broader discussion related to the difference in funding between Lehigh and Northampton County.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: 2025 Meeting Calendar

Chair Amato

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the 2025 meeting calendar. Commissioner Armstrong made the motion, and Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Chair Amato called for affirmative votes and the motion passed.

PRESENTATION ITEM: Now + Next Open House Report

Ms. Pearson recapped the recent Now + Next Open House event at the LVPC office on December 10, 2024. Participants were thanked for their support.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Chair Amato notified the Commission that items for communications and public engagement are featured in the meeting packet.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Amato stated that the next LVPC meeting will be on Thursday, January 23 at 7 pm. Chair Amato then asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

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



Project Review Summary Sheet

Comprehensive Planning Committee

January 2025

Project	Municipality	Brief Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Zoning Map Amendment	Bethlehem Township	<i>Green Pond Road</i> - The application proposes to amend the Township Zoning Map by applying the Institutional Overlay (IO) Zoning District to a 43-acre parcel located on Green Pond Road.	This proposal facilitates opportunities for Northampton County Community College to expand operations and aligns with <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> by expanding access to education and job training (of Policy 4.1).
Zoning Ordinance Amendment	Whitehall Township	<i>Temporary Sign Regulations</i> – The application proposes to amend Article XIII regarding updated restrictions of temporary signs.	The regulations provide more clarity to the ordinance and ‘promote context-specific design solutions’ (Policy 5.4) for the use and structure of temporary signs.
Zoning Ordinance and Map Update	Alburtis Borough	<i>Light Industrial to Medium-Density Residential</i> - The application proposes to amend the Borough Zoning Map by rezoning three parcels from Light Industrial-Office Research Zoning District (L-1) to Medium-Density Residential Zoning District (R-2).	Industrial development would be incompatible with adjacent existing land uses, and therefore the proposal is generally supported by the intent of <i>FutureLV</i> to match development intensity with sustainable locations (of <i>FutureLV</i> Policies 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.6 and 5.3). Residential development on the site has the potential to align with <i>FutureLV</i> if housing development is sited to avoid floodplain areas (of <i>FutureLV</i> Policy 3.2).
Zoning Map Amendment	Hanover Township (LC)	<i>1520 North Irving Street Rezoning</i> - The application proposes to rezone parcels at 1520 North Irving Street from Medium Residential (MR) and Planned Unit Development (PUD) to Planned Industrial Office (PIO) district.	The proposal will rezone seven parcels that are existing single-family detached homes. Surrounding properties are primarily a variety of scales of industrial properties, residential properties to the north and the City of Allentown directly to the south of 1520 North Irving Street. This application notes an expected end-user that will be an industrial-supportive business.



Project Review Summary Sheet

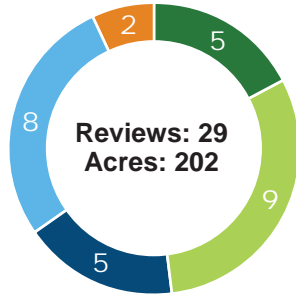
Environment Committee

Date: January 2025

Project	Municipality	Brief Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Application to Renew Approval of Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and Discharge (DRBC Review)	Lehigh Township	Application by Lehigh Township Municipal Authority to renew approval of existing 60,000 gallons per day (gpd) Pennsville wastewater treatment plant and discharge. The current average flow to the plant is approximately 12,500 gallons per day. No modifications to the plant are proposed.	Aligns with <i>FutureLV</i> action to 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2).
Application to Renew Approval of Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and Discharge (DRBC Review)	North Whitehall Township	Application by Lehigh Carbon Community College to renew approval of existing 36,225 gallons per day wastewater treatment plant and discharge. The current average flow to the plant is approximately 10,624 gallons per day. No modifications to the plant are proposed.	Aligns with <i>FutureLV</i> action to 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2).
Proposed Additions to Lower Nazareth Township's Agricultural Security Area	Lower Nazareth Township	Two applications by landowners to each add 3 parcels to the Township's Agricultural Security Area. The 6 total parcels are contiguous and are approximately 287 acres.	Parcels are located in high priority farmland preservation area and applications align with <i>FutureLV</i> action to 'expand municipal agricultural security areas' (of Policy 4.4).

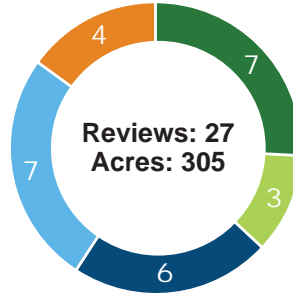
Plan Activity

Lehigh County



■ Residential ■ Non-Residential ■ Subdivisions and Lot Line Adjustments
■ Stormwater Management ■ Municipal Ordinances, Maps and Plans

Northampton County



Regional Totals*

11
 Subdivision/Lot Line
 Adjustments

24
 Development

15
 Stormwater Management

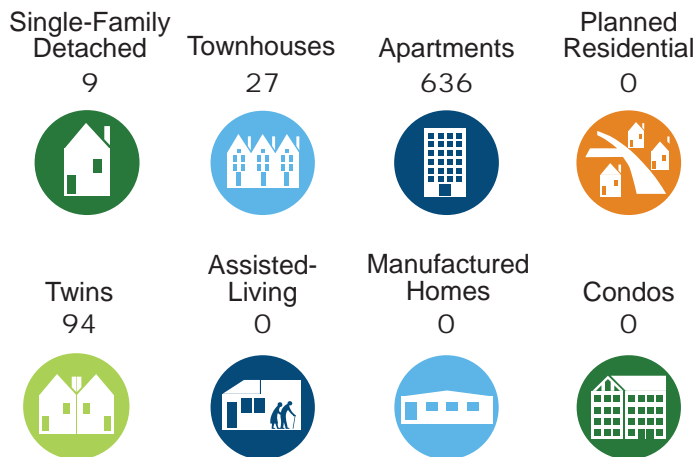
6
 Municipal Ordinances,
 Maps and Plans

507
 Acres

*Includes preliminary and final plans

Types of New Development

Residential: 766 Total Units

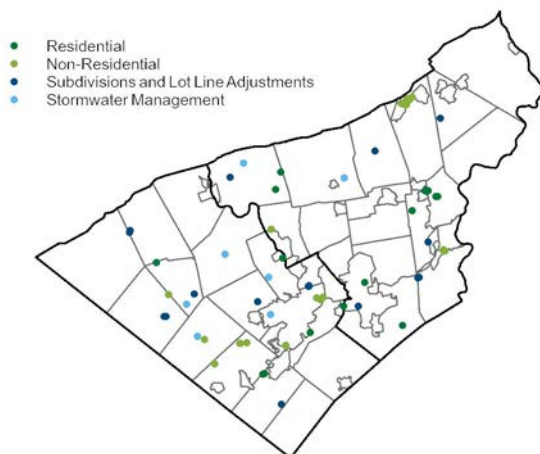


Non-Residential: 1,214,357 Total Square Feet

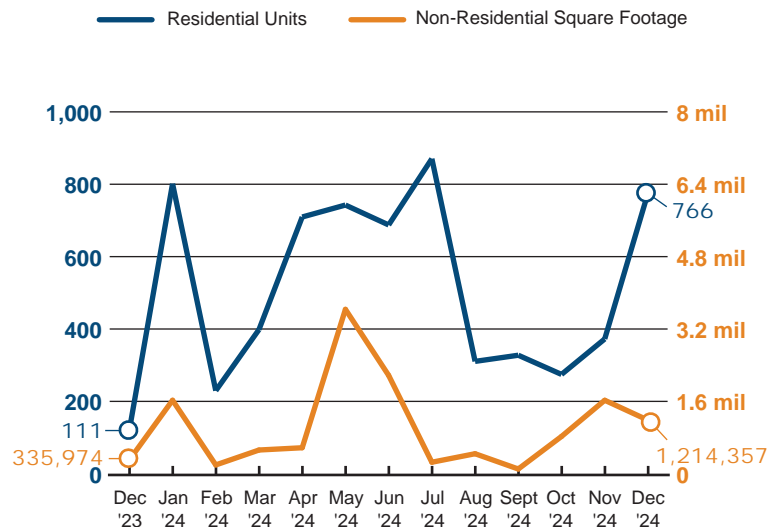


* Warehouse number is a subset of industrial total square footage.

Location of Development



Year to Date (Year to Year)



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 15, 2025
TO: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
FROM: Brian Hite, AICP, Transportation Planner

REGARDING: 4th Quarter of 2024 Traffic Monitoring Report

This memo highlights some aspects of the attached Monthly Traffic Monitoring Report data charts. This report covers traffic volumes and types of commercial trucks on roadways with active continuous traffic counters in operation in the Lehigh Valley during the 4th quarter of 2024 which comprises the months of October, November and December.

This data is a critical component of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) activities conducted by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC). Traffic data provides the basis for many transportation planning and programming purposes.

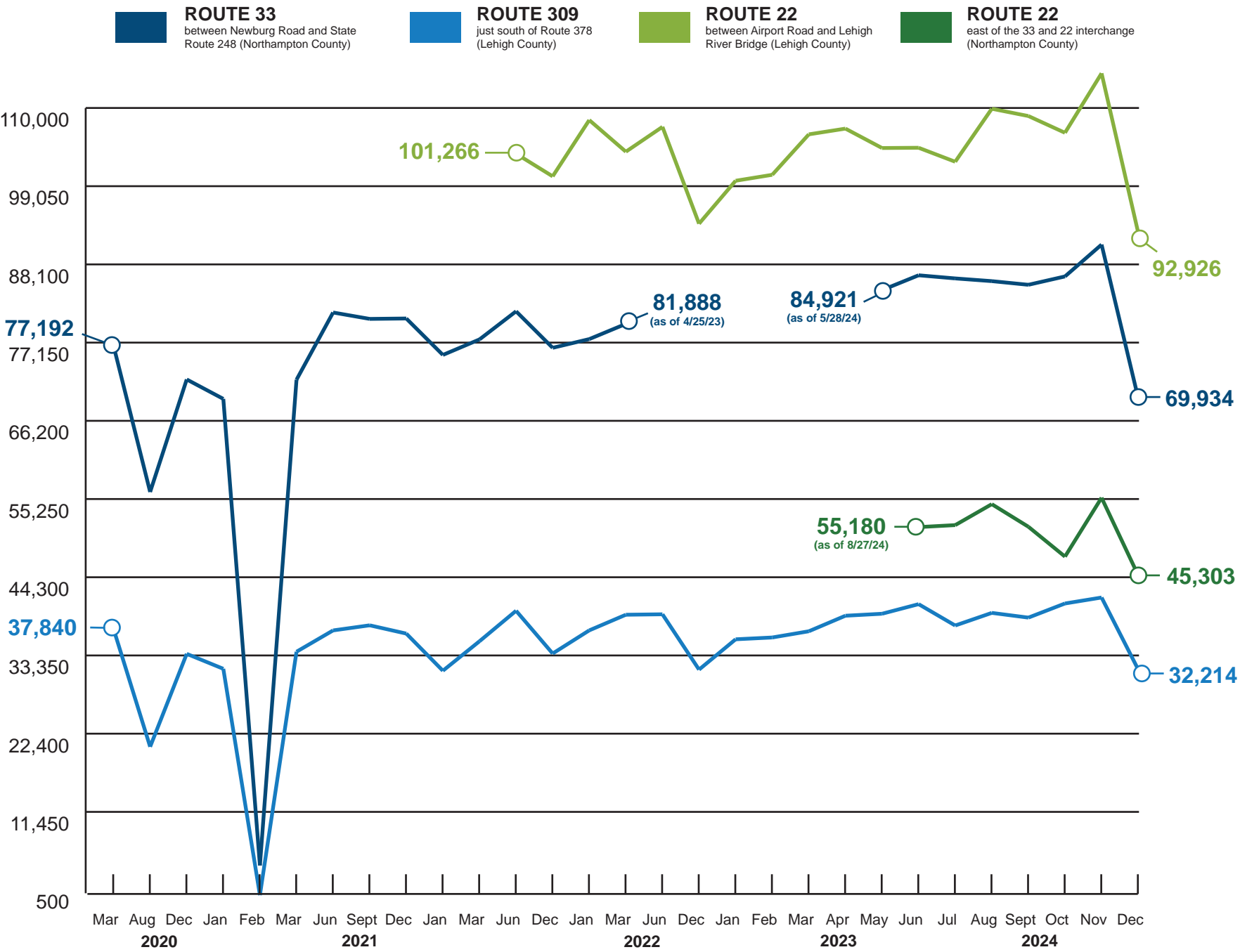
These are the continuous counters in operation and the associated data collected during the 4th quarter of 2024 with associated last Tuesday of the month data and any unusual variances provided.

- **Route 22 in Hanover Township** between Airport Road and Fullerton Avenue Exits:
 - October 106,787 vehicles including 10,351 commercial trucks
 - November 115,050 vehicles including 10,556 commercial trucks
 - December 92,926 vehicles including 7,121 commercial trucks
- **Route 33 in Lower Nazareth Township** between Newburg Road and Route 248 Exits:
 - October 86,824 vehicles including 10,611 commercial trucks
 - November 91,250 vehicles including 10,943 commercial trucks
 - December 69,934 vehicles including 6,083 commercial trucks
- **Route 22 in Palmer Township** between Route 33 and the 25th Street Exits.
 - October 47,893 vehicles including 2,627 commercial trucks
 - November 56,071 vehicles including 2,711 commercial trucks
 - December 45,303 vehicles including 1,721 commercial trucks
- **Route 309 in Upper Saucon Township** between Fairmount Street and Passer Road
 - October 41,379 vehicles
 - November 42,207 vehicles
 - December 32,214 vehicles

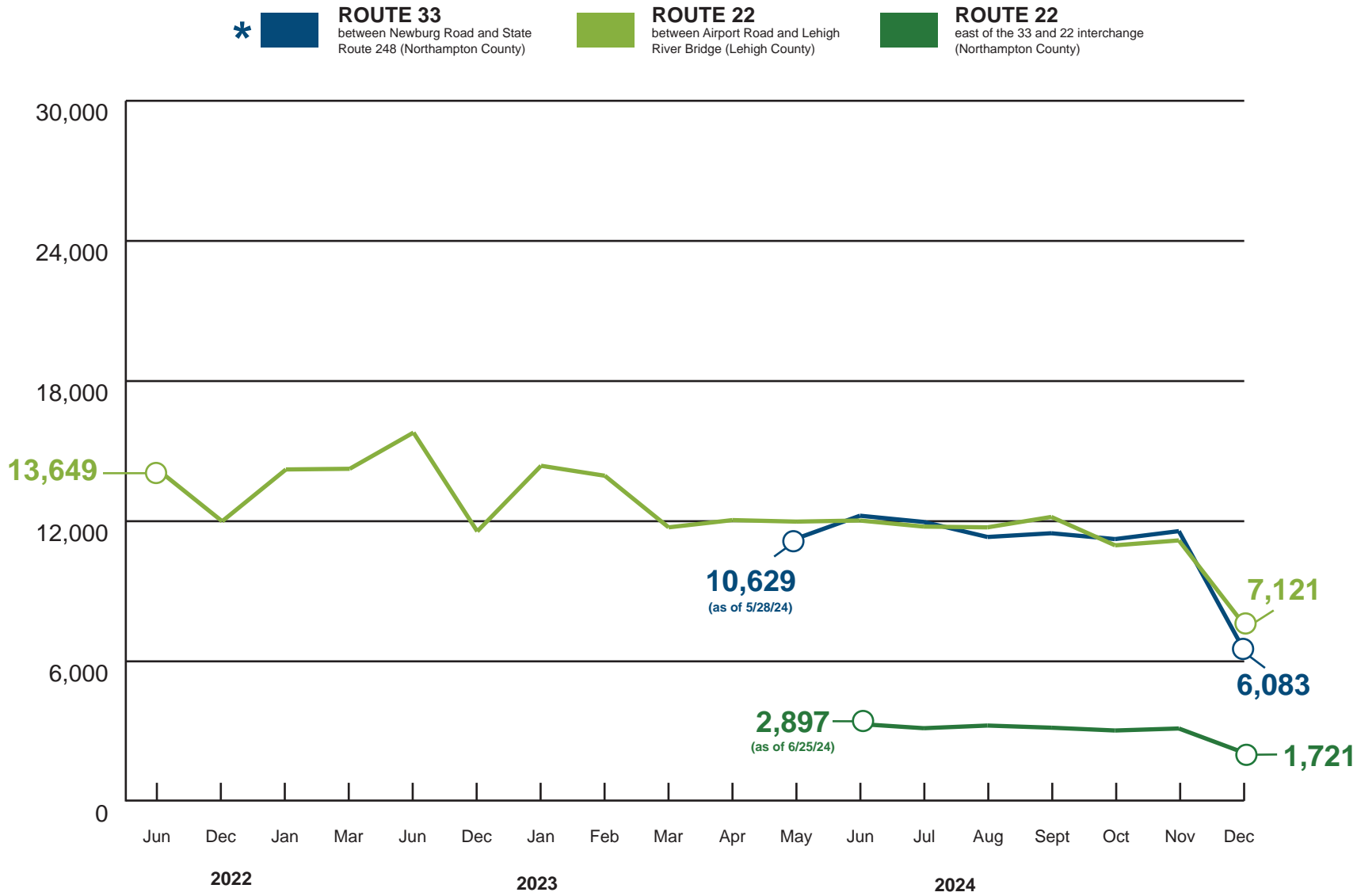
§ Note: the 309-traffic counter is unable to determine types of vehicles such as commercial trucks

November 2024 had significant increase in vehicle volumes due primarily to travelling associated with the Thanksgiving Holiday as well as retail and e-commerce making significant parcel deliveries and freight movements to handle the demand. This is a normal trend we notice on a yearly basis. Subsequently, the end of December is a typical end of year drop in travel between the spiritual holiday time frames and New Years Day as many people take holiday time off and some businesses slow production or operations during those end of year work week.

TOTAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC



TOTAL TRUCK TRAFFIC



THE MORNING CALL

Talking Business with Becky Bradley: Area housing, transportation, climate change plan in progress

By Becky Bradley

For The Morning Call

January 19, 2025 at 8:45 AM

With 2024 in the rearview, 2025 looks exciting — and daunting

Every new year brings new ideas, new opportunities and new challenges, and as I look at what the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has scheduled for 2025, I'm filled with excitement. I'm also anxious because our region's needs are great and growing and this underscores the need to work efficiently together.

We'll be tackling, along with our many partners, including you, more than a dozen major projects including creating a new transportation safety plan, analyzing where the gaps are in our trail network, installing a new electronic plan-filing system, upgrading the LVPC website, devising a new regional population and employment forecast and helping 19 municipalities work together in multi-municipal plans that will enable them to better manage development.

All exciting. All important. But I'm especially excited about these five projects that will have majors impacts on the transportation network, environment and housing market in our communities:

- Route 22 Mobility, Safety and Congestion Plan – Thanks to a \$1 million grant secured through state Sen. Nick Miller, D-Lehigh, and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Michael Carroll, this plan will provide a phased and prioritized strategy for the 23-mile stretch of Route 22 from the Interstate 78 split in Upper Macungie Township to the New Jersey/Easton border. The recommendations will address safety, capacity and congestion issues, while providing alternatives for line-painting designed to handle autonomous vehicles, where to place alternative fuels stations and truck parking, high occupancy vehicle lanes and other techniques to make the road more efficient. It will also include significant green infrastructure priorities to help improve air quality and reduce stormwater runoff. The plan should be underway this summer and completed by the summer of 2026.

- **Bus Rapid Transit** – We will soon commit more resources than ever into advancing the enhanced bus service offered by the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority. It already has an express bus service that comes as frequently as every 30 minutes on routes through Whitehall, Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton. These new investments will help increase frequency, as well as bring physical changes along the routes to improve pedestrian safety and amenities, while getting the buses through the region more quickly. Giving people a more efficient way to work, school, shops and recreation is key to providing a truly accessible transportation network. Though these will be gradual changes, they are important steps in a future that could evolve into a light rail system with buses or maybe even train cars.
- **Regional Watershed Management Plan** – Stormwater management is one of those things most people don't think about, until it fails, and you end up with flooding, property damage and polluted waterways. The Lehigh Valley has 15 watersheds, each with separate watershed management plans. The problem is some of them date to the 1980s, and as a rapidly growing region, there has been a lot of development and weather changes in the last three-plus decades. Updating each watershed plan separately could take two decades, so the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is allowing us to take the never-before-done approach of updating them all at once, as a single watershed plan. The two-year process is already underway and will continue in earnest through 2025 and 2026.
- **Climate Action** – The LVPC's been at the forefront of climate action since it produced its ground-breaking Climate + Energy Element in 2014, but a \$1 million federal grant from the Inflation Reduction Act is helping us lean hard into a much more sustainable future. The Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan for Transportation Decarbonization and the Greater Lehigh Valley Greenhouse Gas Inventory Plan, produced into 2024, will serve as a basis for a first-ever Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Plan that will set goals and give practical recommendations of how the region can cut its carbon emissions in the coming decades. The RCAP will be delivered this summer.
- **Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy** – The Lehigh Valley is in the throes of a nearly 9,000-unit housing shortage that is making it difficult to find housing and pricing families out of their own neighborhoods. Developing a strategy to increase supply, determine what type of homes should be built, where they can be built and at what price points may be the single-most important thing we do this year. We're partnering with Lehigh County and the Urban Land Institute to develop a plan based not only on the data we collect, but the feedback we get from homeowners, developers, bankers, community leaders, school districts and municipal officials.

Every one of these plans has a chance to have a tremendous impact on our community and any one of them alone would make for a frenetic coming year. But put

them all into the next 12 to 24 months and it can feel rather daunting. But nothing truly impactful comes easy. Remember if it was easy, it would be done already. Our specialty is building and maintaining collaborations and partnerships to build consensus and progress avoiding and resolving complex issues. That's why we are focusing on the practical, difficult needs of today and what we can predict we will need to do for tomorrow. We'll approach all of these the way we do everything – with fact-based optimism – and we'll find opportunity in every obstacle, purpose for every action and diligence in the pursuit of all solutions. Cheers for a brilliant 2025, when we'll address some of the most pressing issues the region faces, along with you. Together, there is nothing we can't do.

Becky Bradley is executive director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. She can be reached at planning@lvpc.org.



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 8, 2025
TO: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
FROM: Matt Assad, Managing Editor
Brian Hite, AICP, Transportation Planner
Ben Dinkel, Transportation Planner

REGARDING: Public Engagement, Education and Grants

Public Engagement

Our most recent National Public Radio show, which aired at 6:30 pm, January 6, on WDIY radio 88.1 FM took a thankful look back at the impactful projects that were done in 2024. Everyone seemed rather amused when I said I was most thankful for the adoption of the TIP, and in particular Route 22, but with our Guest, LVPC Director of Regional Planning Scott Greenly, we also talked a lot about the Coordinated Transit Plan, the Freight Plan, Bus Rapid Transit, the Greater Lehigh Valley Climate Action Plan, the and all the projects that were completed during the year. The show is available at www.wdiy.org/show/plan-lehigh-valley and www.lvpc.org/newsly. The next Plan Lehigh Valley Radio Show will air February 3, at 6:30 pm.

Educational Opportunities

The Lehigh Valley Government Academy (LVGA) will be providing the following educational opportunities in partnership with the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP).

The following LTAP class will be held **virtually**:

Thursday February 6 Streamlined approach to Stormwater Management – 11 am to Noon

Municipalities across Pennsylvania face the dual challenge of maintaining transportation infrastructure and managing stormwater impacts. The COSTARS-41: Stormwater Management Products and Services program provides a practical, cost-effective solution for streamlining procurement of stormwater management products and services, while enhancing the resilience and safety of roads, bridges, sidewalks, and culverts. At the drop-in, we'll explore how municipalities can use the COSTARS-41 contract to address stormwater needs related to transportation infrastructure. You'll discover how COSTARS-41 can save time, reduce costs, and simplify the procurement process for stormwater goods and services that can help safeguard your community's infrastructure and ensure traveler safety. COSTARS-41 is part of the Pennsylvania Department of General Services (DGS) cooperative purchasing program, which offers municipalities access to pre-negotiated contracts. Specifically, COSTARS-41 focuses on stormwater management products and services, helping municipalities efficiently meet stormwater needs. The focus of this drop-in will be on how the COSTARS-41 program can be

effectively used to meet stormwater management needs within transportation infrastructure projects.

Tuesday February 11

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Basics – 8 am to Noon

This course is for municipalities interested in learning about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and how technology may be able to assist them in increasing efficiency and reducing costs for asset management and transportation planning. Common goals and objectives of municipalities often include improving communication and transparency between staff, elected officials, and the public, effectively transferring institutional knowledge as staff changes, recording maintenance history, and automating inspection processes. This LTAP training provides the attendees with the opportunity to see how to interact with different types of interactive GIS web map applications. Additionally, the class provides an introduction of how applications are created and how data is collected and maintained. Intended Audience: Primarily individuals who are involved in the operation and maintenance of municipal infrastructure and assets, including public works directors and field maintenance personnel. Personnel involved in designing and inspecting municipal assets and infrastructure will also benefit from the knowledge gained in this training.

All LVGA LTAP classes are free and are intended for municipalities, transportation non-profits and organizations with a transportation purpose.

Anyone can register at www.gis.penndot.gov/LTAP or by contacting Hannah Milagio at hmilagio@lvpc.org or 610-264-4544

Grant Opportunities

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program

The PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program is a competitive grant program to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience, evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/protect/discretionary/>