



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, May 22 2025, at 7:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

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. General Assembly

Minutes

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Minutes and Review of Roll Call Actions of the April 24, 2025, Commission Meeting (JD)

Comprehensive Planning Committee:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: City of Allentown – Land Use of Regional Significance – 249 N. Front Street Mixed Use (JS)
2. *ACTION ITEM*: Summary Sheet (SM)
3. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Housing Supply and Attainability Event
 - a. DeSales University Center, June 23, 2025, from 8:00-11:00 AM
 - b. Register Here: <https://lvpc.org/housing>

Environment Committee:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Summary Sheet (SR)

Transportation Committee:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Workshop (EG)

New Business:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning Grant Letter of Support Request

Monthly Reports:

1. *PACKET ITEMS*:

- a. April Monthly Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinances/Plans Report
- b. Traffic Monitoring Report for April 2025

Executive Director's Report:

- 1. Update LVPC Strategic Plan

Communications and Engagement

- 1. *PACKET ITEM*: Morning Call Business Cycle Column (MA)
 - a. lvpc.org; mcall.com
 - b. Next column: May 25 – "How AI will make our roads safer"
- 2. *PACKET ITEM*: Monthly, Plan Lehigh Valley Talk Show on WDIY, Lehigh Valley Public Radio, 88.1 (MA)
 - a. Air Date: May 5 - "AI in the planning sector with Dr. Subham Kharel"
 - b. Lvpc.org; wdiy.org/show/plan-lehigh-valley
 - c. Next show – 6:30 pm, June 2
- 3. *PACKET ITEM*: Lehigh Valley Government Academy
 - a. Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) In Person Classes held at the LVPC Conference Center, 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown PA 18102
 - o June 10: Bridge and Culvert Inspections for Municipalities, 8 am to 3 pm
 - o July 29: Geosynthetics, 8 am to Noon
 - o August 19: Road Surface Management, 8 am to Noon
 - § 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:

In Person, Thursday, June 26, 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, April 24, 2025, Meeting

The LVPC held a public meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025. The meeting was advertised in the Lehigh Valley Press on January 8th, 2025.

LVPC Treasurer Mr. Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen and Vice Chair Tori Morgan 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, Jennifer Gomez, Kent Herman, John Inglis, Diane Kelly, Dennis Klusaritz, Christina Morgan, Santo Napoli, Stephen Repasch and Kevin Schmidt.

Northampton County

Jessica Cope, Andrew Elliott, Charles Elliott, John Gallagher, Judith Haldeman, John McGorry, Steve Melnick, Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen and Basel Yandem

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Percy Dougherty, Richard Molchany, Owen O'Neil and Matthew Tuerk.

Northampton County

Christopher Amato, Ken Kraft, Rachel Leon, Carl Manges, Lamont McClure, Scott Minnich, Edward Nelson, Salvatore Panto, Jr., J. William Reynolds, Grace Crampsie Smith, Tina Smith and Jean Versteeg.

Staff Present: Joey Dotta, Becky A. Bradley, Jillian Seitz, Matt Assad, Susan Myerov, Brian Hite, Christian Martinez, Mackenzie Geisner, Evan Gardi, Samantha Pearson, Subham Kharel and Faria Urmey.

Public Present:

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

CHAIR'S REPORT

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen introduced the latest addition to the LVPC staff, Chris Embert Creative Director. Mr. Embert overviewed his experience and projects he's looking forward to contributing to.

MINUTES

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen stated that the minutes of the Thursday, March 27, 2025, LVPC meeting are attached. Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Repasch made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. Commissioner Elliott noted a correction to the minutes that he was present at the March Full Commission meeting. The motion passed. Commissioners Klusaritz, Cope and Haldeman abstained.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: Bethlehem Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Primrose School Childcare Center

Mr. Dotta reviewed a proposal for a 14,000-square-foot childcare center along with associated parking at 5007 Freemansburg Avenue in Bethlehem Township.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for a motion to accept the review. Commissioner McGorry made the motion, and Commissioner Elbich seconded the motion.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed. Commissioners Gallagher and Drabenstott abstained.

ACTION ITEM: South Whitehall Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Parkland High School Expansion

Mr. Dotta reviewed a proposal for five building expansions to the Parkland High School at 2700 N Cedar Crest Boulevard. Construction includes a: 5,000-square-foot athletic entrance expansion, 2,700-square-foot cafeteria expansion, and 19,000 and 20,000-square-foot classroom expansions. In addition to the multiple building expansions, the project also includes the extension of the existing bus loop to create an additional 11 bus parking spaces.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for a motion to accept the review. Commissioner Ghai made the motion, and Commissioner Repasch seconded the motion.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed. Commissioners Herman, Kelly and Drabenstott abstained.

ACTION ITEM: South Whitehall Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Parkland High School Expansion

Mr. Dotta reviewed a proposal for a 9,000-square-foot, two-story addition to the existing Allentown School District Building 21 for a family engagement and resource center at 265 Lehigh Street. The expansion is on the north side of the property and includes a new 20-space paved parking lot and sidewalks.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for a motion to accept the review. Commissioner Ginder made the motion, and Commissioner Melnick seconded the motion.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed. Commissioner Gomez abstained.

ACTION ITEM: Lowhill Township – Comprehensive Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Update

Ms. Seitz reviewed a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Comprehensive Update in Lowhill Township. The proposed Ordinance aligns with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), which grants powers to municipalities to regulate subdivision and land development and outlines the contents of subdivision and land development ordinances, and support transparency in the process of subdivision and land development application and review.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for a motion to accept the review. Commissioner Elbich made the motion, and Commissioner Ghai seconded the motion.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. Mike Siegel thanked the LVPC for the helpful comments and Commissioner Elbich complimented the efforts coordinating with *Plan Northern Lehigh*. Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen said the progress of the multi-municipal implementation is exciting.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEM: Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy Update

Ms. Seitz gave a brief update on the LVPC Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy. The public engagement process was outlined, and next steps were shared.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: Upper Macungie Township Draft Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan

Mr. Martinez presented the draft Upper Macungie Township Draft Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan. The draft plan is largely consistent with key regional planning documents including *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, *Lehigh County Livable Landscapes*, *Walk/RollLV* and the *Lehigh Valley Trails Inventory*.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for a motion to accept the review. Commissioner Drabenstott made the motion, and Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed. Commissioner Ghai abstained.

ACTION ITEM: Environment Committee Summary Sheet

Commissioner Repasch briefed the Commission on Environment Committee's business that included two Delaware River Basin Commission items involving a groundwater withdrawal renewal in Williams Township and a wastewater treatment plant and discharge renewal in the City of Easton.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for a motion to accept the summary sheet. Commissioner Melnick made the motion, and Commissioner Glickman seconded the motion. Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen called for affirmative votes to accept the staff comments. The motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEM: Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Plan Update

Ms. Myerov presented an update of the Greater Lehigh Valley Regional Climate Action Plan. Staff have been working to consolidate and evaluate the list of proposed goals, policies and actions to include in the Regional Climate Action Plan. As a reminder this climate action plan builds on the priority climate action plan and updated greenhouse gas inventory documents we prepared last year.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

INFORMATION ITEM: Roadway Functional Classification System Update

Ms. Army presented an introduction to the Roadway Functional Classification System Update. Functional road classification is the process by which roads are grouped into classes according to the character of service they are intended to provide. There are seven types of road classifications, starting from interstate, ending into locals within the transportation network. Functional classifications are used in a multitude of manners, ranging from planning to highway design to funding. These classifications of roads

are utilized in the prioritization and programming of projects. These classifications also define road roles, design expectations (speed and capacity), funding eligibility, and benchmarks for performance monitoring. Ms. Urmy noted that it also helps with land use decisions, setting the stage for *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* data updates.

Ms. Geisner presented an internal ArcGIS Online “Muddy Map” overlay tool to visualize all relevant datasets and identify key trip-generating locations across the Lehigh Valley. The first layers incorporated into the map were from *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, including centers, corridors, and regional parks. Dr. Kharel further explained that a geographic information system (GIS) query across all road corridors, based on maximum allowable annual average daily traffic (AADT) for a particular road class, helped assess the need for functional classification upgrades. Some roads were found to have reached the maximum threshold necessary for being upgraded to higher functional classification. These roads, with increased AADT, have been identified as potential candidates for functional classification changes, as their current design can no longer effectively support the existing traffic flow and require updates.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

INFORMATION ITEM: National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Planning

Mr. Gardi presented an update on the NEVI project which is a federal investment aimed at expanding electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure nationwide. The LVPC is working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, to develop a network of EV infrastructure throughout the Lehigh Valley. The goals of the NEVI program include the enhancement of accessibility to EV infrastructure, the supporting of the adoption of electric vehicles nationwide, and to ensure equitable distribution of Charging Infrastructure. There are four remaining programs in the NEVI initiative. Corridor connections, Community Charging, Critical Investments, and EV Workforce.

Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

INFORMATION ITEM: General Assembly

Mr. Assad reminded the Commission that the LVPC General Assembly is coming up on April 30th at 7:00 PM. Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen asked for any comments or questions. Treasurer Moritz-Chapelliquen noted that Vice Chair Morgan arrived and handed over meeting responsibilities.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Ms. Seitz presented the 1st Quarter of 2025 (January to March) Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinances/Plans Report. In the first quarter of 2025, the LVPC reviewed 158 plans, with 33 subdivision or lot line adjustments, 70 development proposals, 39 stormwater reviews, and 16 municipal ordinances, maps and plans. 80 of those reviews were in Lehigh County and 78 were in Northampton County, and those reviews were across 2,755 acres.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Bradley briefed the Commission about the ongoing Strategic Plan to further optimize LVPC's role is assisting the Lehigh Valley region. Vice Chair Morgan asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Vice Chair Morgan notified the Commission that items for communications and public engagement are featured in the meeting packet. Vice Chair Morgan asked for any comments or questions. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chair Morgan stated that the next LVPC meeting will be on Thursday, May 22nd at 7 pm. Vice Chair Morgan then asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Repasch made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

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



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Executive Director

May 13, 2025

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

**Re: 249 North Front Street – Land Development
City of Allentown
Lehigh County**

Dear Ms. Gomez:

The application is considered a Land Use of Regional Significance under the Mixed-Use Developments category in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* (page 147). The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) will consider proposal at the Comprehensive Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Discussion on agenda items largely happens during the Committee meeting, and we encourage any and all participation. The LVPC will issue a follow-up letter after the Commission meeting if Commission members have any additional comments. Meeting participation details are below:

- LVPC Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting
 - May 20, 2025, at 12:00 PM
 - <https://lvpc.org/meetings.html>
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - May 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM
 - <https://lvpc.org/meetings.html>

The application proposes to redevelop the site by demolishing the existing buildings and constructing a mixed-use development including 267 apartment units, 21,351-square-feet of office space and 23,684-square-feet of retail/commercial space. The project is located at 249 North Front Street (parcel number 640743875938).

Background

The project site contains an existing building that was formerly a furniture manufacture and is currently vacant. The site is in an area with existing urban development and within the Development area identified in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. Areas designated for Development have infrastructure to accommodate future growth and redevelopment.

The proposal is in close proximity to the Lehigh River, the expanding Waterfront redevelopment project and several other redevelopments. The site's reuse aligns with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* by encouraging reuse and redevelopment within urban areas (of Policy 1.1), supporting

infill and brownfield redevelopment to enhance the economic vitality of communities (of Policy 4.6) and increasing density of residential and mixed-use development in centers (of Policy 1.2).

The replacement of underutilized or aging structures with a high-density, mixed-use project supports regional sustainability goals and leverages existing infrastructure, helping to preserve farmland and natural resources elsewhere in the region.

Land Use

The integration of office and retail space in the proposal provides potential for job creation and economic revitalization in a traditionally industrial corridor, which promotes a regionally competitive economic environment that creates jobs (of Policy 4.3) and encourages business development and entrepreneurship through mixed-use and walkable communities (of Policy 4.5). The addition of office and retail uses within a residential development also promotes daytime activity, neighborhood vibrancy, and economic diversity (of Policy 5.1).

The residential component of the project supports meeting the City's housing needs, where today the City has nearly a 2,000 unit housing shortage and should add an additional 4,000 units by the year 2050 based on current population growth trends, according to the [Lehigh Valley Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy](#). The LVPC strongly encourages the applicant to diversify the price points and types of units offered in the proposed project to maximize attainable housing opportunities and promote mixed-income neighborhoods (of Policy 4.5). In the Lehigh Valley, the average retail salesperson can reasonably afford housing costs up to \$881 per month, and the average entry-level professional in the region can afford up to \$771 per month ([2025 Lehigh Valley Housing Dashboard](#)). Considering that the project includes a mix of uses, including retail, providing housing that is suitable for the workforce is essential to the long-term viability of the project and future businesses that will locate there.

Transportation

The site's urban location is well-connected to major roadways, public transportation, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, offering multimodal accessibility. The proposal supports 'encouraging development in centers with existing infrastructure, including transit and walkability' (of Policy 5.1).

The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) provides fixed-route public transportation near the project site, with a bus route currently serving on North Front Street (north of Gordon Street) less than 200 feet from the project site. Given the redevelopment growth occurring in the Waterfront vicinity, future service along the property frontage portion of North Front Street is anticipated. The LVPC strongly recommends the applicant coordinate with LANTA on the design of bus stop-supportive infrastructure near the North Front Street and Chew Street intersection. This would include a five-foot concrete pad in between the curb and the sidewalk, at least 40 feet past the driveway entrance. Transit-supportive infrastructure should be planned and constructed at the time of land development to maximize available financial resources (of Policy 2.6). The LVPC recommends continued engagement with LANTA Planner/Land Use Specialist Molly Wood at mwood@lantabus-pa.gov to coordinate the recommended bus stop details and timing of construction to align with future service.

The proposed bicycle room inside the building serves to 'improve connections between bus stops and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure' (of Policy 5.2). The LVPC recommends ensuring that bicycle storage is available to on-site workers in addition to residents. Bicycle

racks could be included near the building entrance to support transportation accessibility for all persons (of Policy 5.2).

Environment

As a redevelopment project near the Lehigh River, environmental considerations are critical. The proposal includes a green roof, which 'minimizes environmental impacts of land development' (of Policy 3.2). The proposed landscaping also helps 'create community spaces that promote physical and mental health' (of Policy 5.3). The LVPC encourages the applicant to consider incorporating sustainable building practices such as greywater reuse, which can increase the cost-effectiveness of building operations while supporting the health and wellbeing of the community (of 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.

Please feel free to reach out if there are any questions about this review.

Sincerely,



Jillian Seitz
Chief Community Planner

cc: Lehigh River Development Corporation II, LLC, Applicant; Minal Amin, Project Engineer; David Petrik, City of Allentown Deputy Director of Public Works; Jesse Sadiua, City of Allentown Chief Planner; Brandon Jones, City of Allentown Planner; Lillian Bernstein, City of Allentown Planner; Melissa Velez, City of Allentown Planner.

Project Review Summary Sheet

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Date: May 2025

Project	Municipality	Brief Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Zoning Map Amendment	City of Allentown	<i>Cedar Crest College</i> – rezone one parcel from Low-Density Residential (R-L) to Institutional and Governmental (I-G) at 2851-2865 College Drive.	While this proposal helps ‘expand access to education and job training’ (of Policy 4.1), consideration is recommended to retain the property’s consistency to the surrounding neighborhood.
Zoning Ordinance Amendment	Upper Nazareth Township	<i>Apartment Density in the Mixed Use (TD-6) District</i> – The application proposes revisions to the apartment density permitted in the Village Mixed Use District (TD-6) by clarifying apartments as a by-right use.	The parking requirement table was mistakenly omitted from the Township’s recent update and revising to include it is a best practice for local governments and aligns with <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> (of Policy 1.4).
Zoning Ordinance Amendment	Upper Mount Bethel Township	Data Centers – Adds definitions and regulations for data center land uses.	Aspects of the proposal align with <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> , and additional recommendations are provided to improve upon the proposal to support public health, safety and welfare including consideration for utilizes and building design.

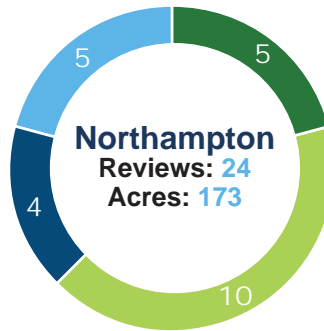
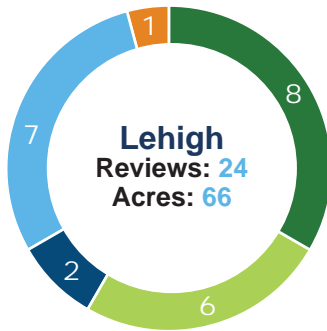
Project Review Summary Sheet

Environment Committee

Date: May 2025

Project	Municipality	Brief Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Proposed Holding Tank Ordinance Review	Upper Mount Bethel Township	The proposed ordinance is intended to include provisions that protect the quality and quantity of the water resources of the Township by requiring permitting, installation and removal standards of holding tanks and administrative provisions to enforce the ordinance.	The Holding Tank Ordinance helps promote sustainable stewardship of water resources (Policy 3.1) of <i>FutureLV: The Regional Plan</i> by ensuring proper wastewater management in areas where conventional systems are not feasible. The proposed ordinance includes wastewater and holding tank management standards that support the <i>FutureLV</i> action to “protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater” (of Policy 3.2).

PLAN ACTIVITY BY COUNTY



REGIONAL TOTALS*

6
Subdivision/Lot Line
Adjustments

29
Development

12
Stormwater
Management

1
Municipal Ordinances,
Maps and Plans

239
Acres

*Includes preliminary and final plans

RESIDENTIAL

NON-RESIDENTIAL

SUBDIVISIONS AND LOT LINE ADJUSTMENTS

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES, MAPS AND PLANS

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

249 Total Units



10
SINGLE-FAMILY
DETACHED



61
TOWNHOUSES



170
APARTMENTS



8
TWINS



0
ASSISTED-
LIVING



0
MANUFACTURED
HOMES



0
CONDOS

NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

536,627 Total Square Feet



151,828
COMMERCIAL



30,712
RETAIL



183,226
PUBLIC/
QUASI-PUBLIC



93,661
INDUSTRIAL



3,661
WAREHOUSE*



67,700
OFFICE



4,500
TRANSPORTATION



0
AGRICULTURE

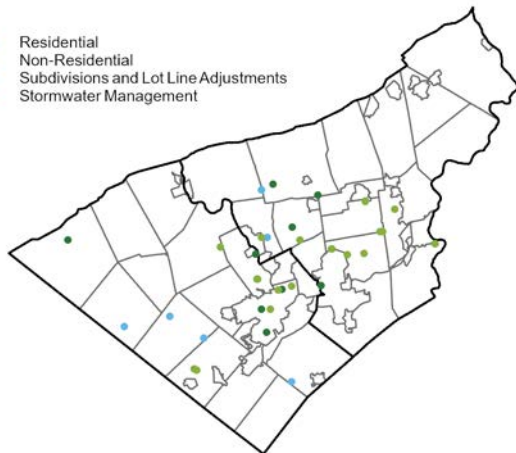


5,000
RECREATIONAL

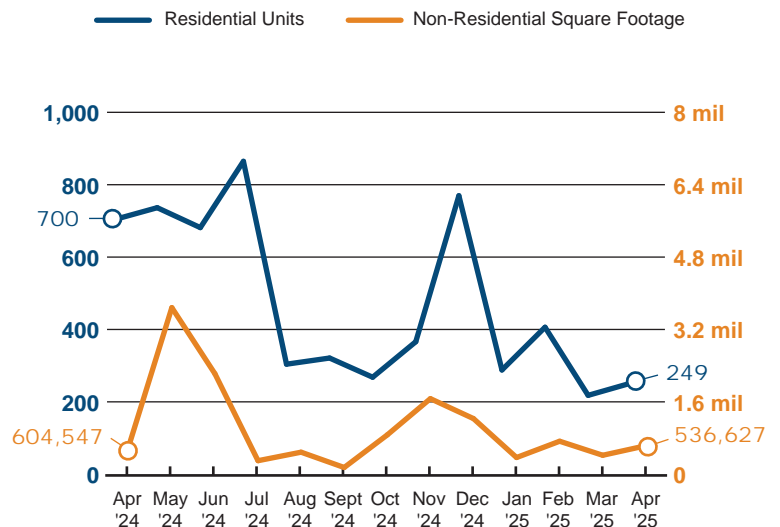
*Warehouse is a subset of Industrial

LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT

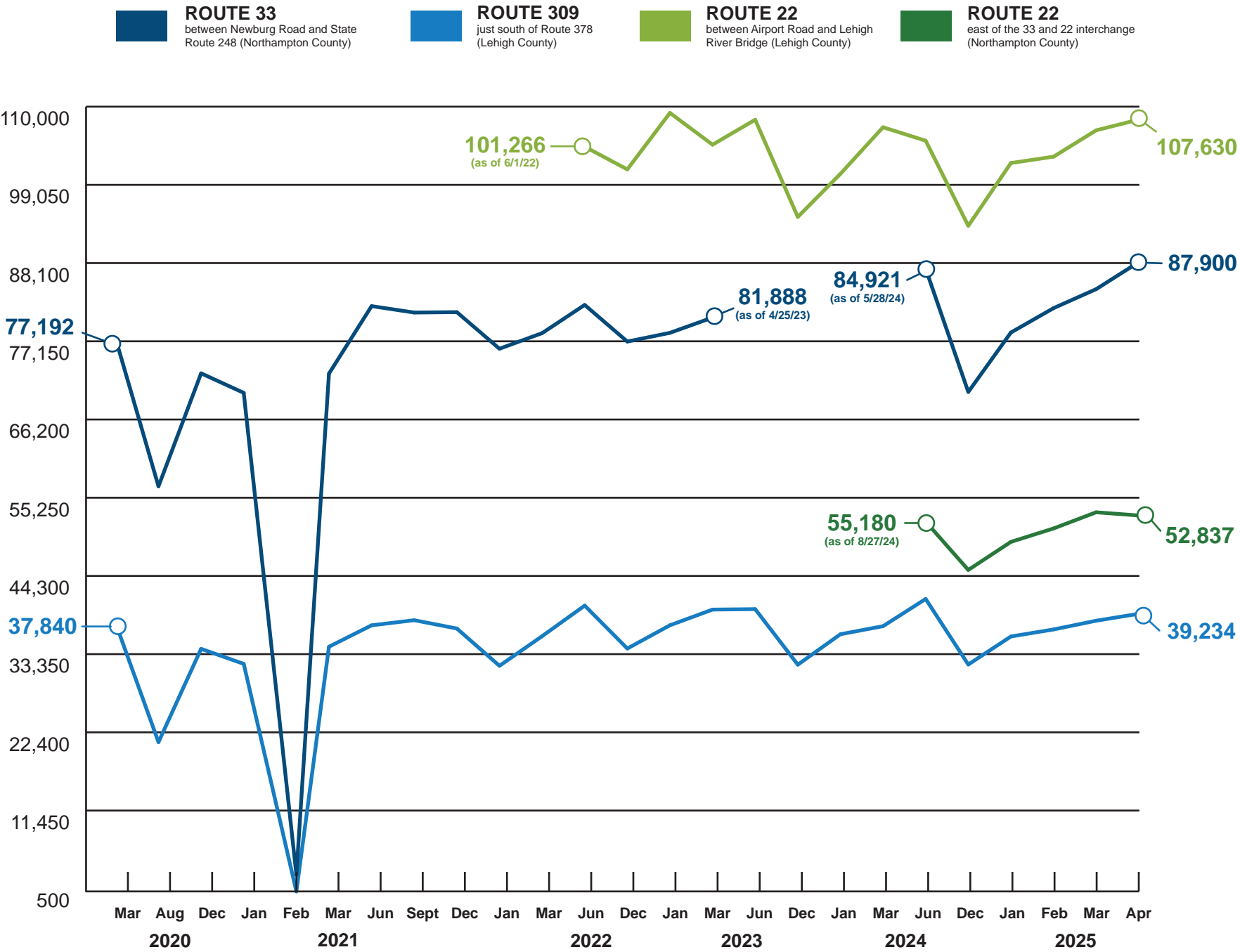
- Residential
- Non-Residential
- Subdivisions and Lot Line Adjustments
- Stormwater Management



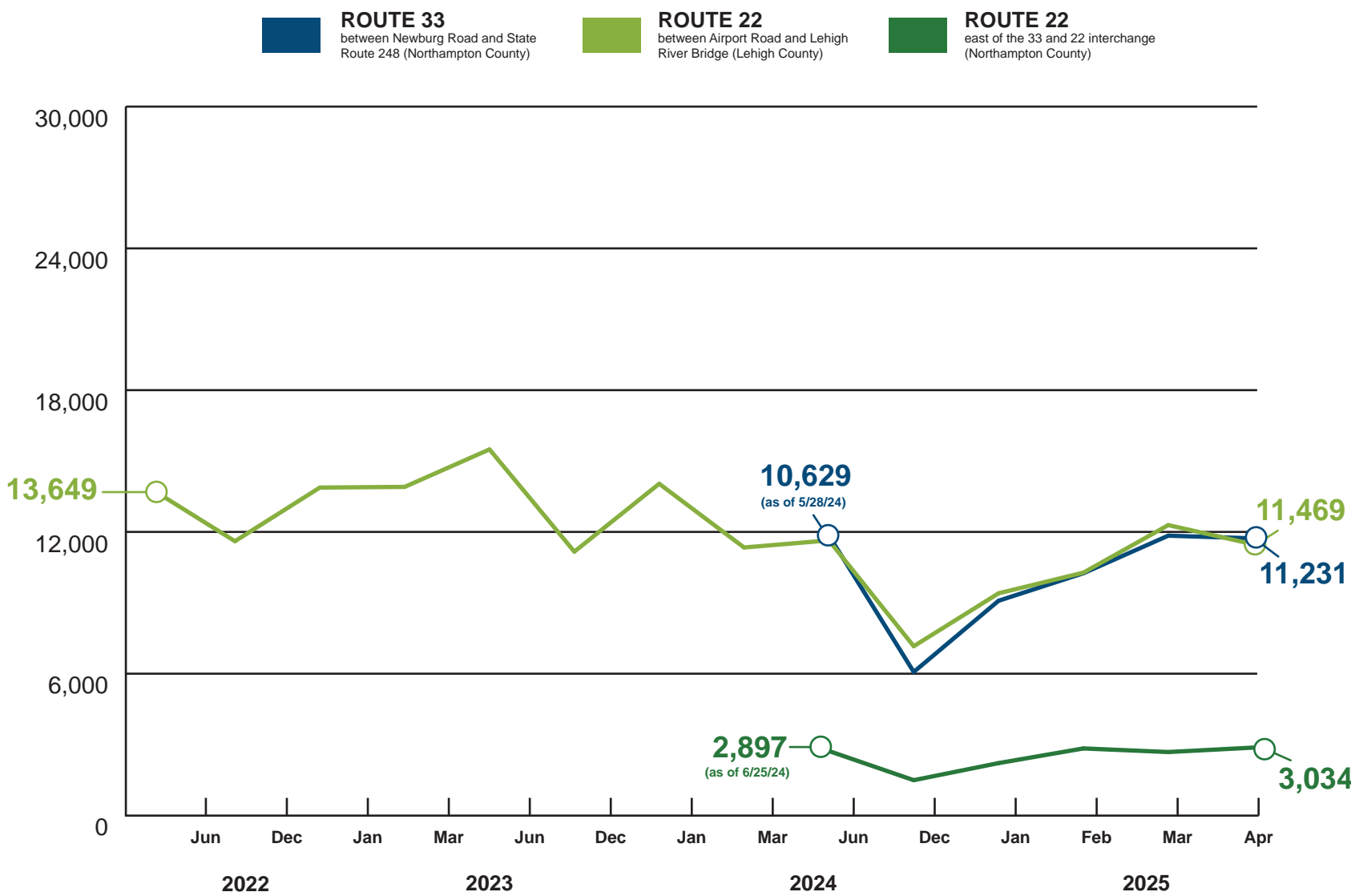
YEAR TO DATE (YEAR TO YEAR)



TOTAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC



TOTAL TRUCK TRAFFIC





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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 13, 2025
TO: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Commissioners
FROM: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Staff

REGARDING: Public Engagement, Education and Grants

Public Engagement

The most recent **Plan Lehigh Valley National Public Radio** show, which aired at 6:30 pm, May April 5 on WDIY radio 88.1 FM, detailed how machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) will make our road network safer and more efficient. Guest LVPC Senior Data and Analytics Planner Subham Kharel explained how AI allows him to analyze millions of pieces of data to build a predictive model of how some of the region's most troublesome corridors and intersections will perform in the future if improvements aren't made, helping the region commit resources where they can do the most good. 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 June 2 at 6:30 pm.

The next **Business Cycle Column** is scheduled to be published Sunday, May 25, and it will also focus on how AI will help save lives on the region's transportation network. In the column, Becky explains how AI, if used properly, has the potential to lower the region's average of 45 deaths a year on its roads, bridges and trails systems.

Educational Opportunities

The following Lehigh Valley Government Academy (LVGA), Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Classes will be held In Person at the LVPC Conference Center, 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown PA 18102

Bridge and Culvert Inspections for Municipalities

Tuesday June 10th – 8 am to 3 pm

The Federal Highway Administration requires the inspection of structures over 20 feet in length. This course discusses why the requirements for inspection were established and ownership responsibilities. As an introductory level course, components and terminology of smaller span structures are discussed to aid in reading bridge inspection reports. Components of different bridges, including the approach roadway, deck, superstructure, and substructure are discussed as well as culverts. The course discusses common (and uncommon) failure mechanisms typically encountered on smaller span structures. Three sample bridge inspection reports are reviewed, to familiarize municipal officials and employees with the importance of understanding these reports. Individuals who are involved in the maintenance of locally owned bridges (particularly spans less than 20 feet) are encouraged to attend.

Geosynthetics

Tuesday July 29 – 8 am to Noon

This course identifies various types of geosynthetic materials used in road maintenance operations. Attendees will gain the knowledge and understanding of the common types of geosynthetic materials as well as their applications and functions. Instructors will review the cost benefits in using geosynthetics in the preventive maintenance of roadway structures. Such uses of geosynthetics as subsurface drainage, subgrade stabilization, soil reinforcement, erosion and sedimentation control, and paving fabric will also be discussed.

Road Surface Management Tuesday August 19th – 8 am to Noon

This course provides the basics for developing a road surface management program to help local governments manage their pavements. It provides an understanding of the concept and importance of road surface inventories and condition surveys. The basic components of flexible and rigid pavements are reviewed as well as pavement condition evaluations and how to recognize common pavement distress. Repair strategies at the system and project level are also discussed. Participants will perform sample pavement ratings.

All LVGA LTAP classes are free and are intended for municipalities, transportation non-profits and organizations with a transportation purpose. LTAP Enables many practitioners who need courses with professional development hours (PDHs) to earn credits for maintaining their licenses and certificates.

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

Grant Opportunities

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF)

The Multimodal Transportation Fund provides grants to encourage economic development and ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available to the residents of the commonwealth. Funds may be used for the development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. Eligible entities include: Municipalities, Councils of Governments, Businesses, Economic Development Organizations, Public Transportation Agencies, and Ports-Rail/Freight. Grants are available for projects with a total cost of \$100,000 or more. Grants shall not exceed \$3,000,000 for any project. Applications will be accepted until May 31st.

<https://dced.pa.gov/programs/multimodal-transportation-fund/>

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP)

The Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects using the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP). The funding is available for projects that involve development, rehabilitation and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails, and river conservation. Eligible entities are: Municipalities, Councils of Governments, Watershed Organization, For-Profit Businesses, Authorized Organization, and Institutions of Higher Education. Grants shall

not exceed \$250,000 for any project. A 15% match of the total project cost is required. Applications will be accepted until May 31st.

<https://dced.pa.gov/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-program-gtrp/>