



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, September 26, 2024, at 7:00 PM
615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown, PA 18102
AGENDA

Roll Call

Courtesy of Floor

Chairman's Report

1. Getting to Know Each Other.
 - a. What's your name?
 - b. Excluding your residence, what's your favorite spot in the Lehigh Valley?

Minutes

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

Comprehensive Planning Committee:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: City of Allentown – Land Use of Regional Significance – Executive Education Academy Charter School Field House Addition (JS)
2. *ACTION ITEM*: Lowhill Township – Land Use of Regional Significance – Kernsville Road Industrial (JD)
3. *ACTION ITEM*: Weisenberg Township – Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and Map Update – (JS)
4. *ACTION ITEM*: Weisenberg Township – Official Map (JD)

Environment Committee:

1. *ACTION ITEM*: Act 537 Special Study Update Review - Bangor Borough Sewer Authority and Washington Township Corrective Action Plan (CR)
2. *ACTION ITEM*: Act 537 Review – Bethlehem Township Sewage Facilities Plan Update (CR)
3. *ACTION ITEM*: Zoning Amendment Well Permitting Ordinance – Upper Mount Bethel Township (CM)
4. *ACTION ITEMS*: Summary Sheet (SR)

Transportation Committee:

1. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Happy 70th Birthday to Route 22, the Lehigh Valley Thruway (MA)
2. *PROJECT UPDATES*:

- a. Human Services Transportation (HST) Plan (BD)
- b. Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance (EPFA) Freight Infrastructure Plan (EG)

Old Business:

- 1. *INFORMATION ITEM:* 2024 Innovation & Collaboration Award - Government Awardee from the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin (WRA) (BB)
- 2. *INFORMATION ITEM:* US Environmental Protection Agency, Climate Pollution Reduction Program Milestone: Greenhouse Gas Inventory (CM, SG, BB)
- 3. *COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ITEM:* Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Update (JD, MK, BB)
- 4. *COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ITEM:* River Central Multi-Municipal Zoning Codes and Official Maps (JS)
- 5. *COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ITEM:* Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Zoning Codes and Official Maps (JS)
- 6. *INFORMATION ITEMS:* Activity Reports:
 - a. Highway Traffic Monitoring
 - b. Monthly Subdivision, Land Development, Stormwater and Municipal Ordinance/Plans Report

New Business:

- 1. *COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ITEM:* U.S. Treasury and Governor's Office of Critical Investment Elective Pay Program (MA)
- 2. *COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ITEM:* LVPC Website Project (TB)
- 3. *COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ITEM:* Lehigh Valley Government Academy Education Opportunities
 - a. Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) (BH)
 - i. October 15: Active Transportation for PA Communities, 8 am to noon
 - ii. October 30: School Transportation Management, 8 am to noon
 - iii. November 12: Trucks on Local Roads, 8 am to noon
 - iv. January 15: Traffic Calming, 8 am to 3 pm
 - v. All classes are at the LVPC Conference Center, 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201, Allentown PA 18102
 - vi. Registration at <https://gis.penndot.gov/LTAP/default.aspx>
 - b. Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) (HM)
 - i. Upcoming Class: Community Planning; October 9, 16, and 23
 - ii. Classes Completed in 2024: Zoning Administration, Subdivision and Land Development
 - iii. Total Attendance in 2024 to-date: 54

Executive Director's Report:

- 1. *INFORMATION ITEM:* Requests for Proposal

Communications, Engagement and Grants:

- 1. *INFORMATION ITEM:* Morning Call Business Cycle Column

- a. Published Sept. 1: “Stormwater Management Plan Vital for Lehigh Valley’s Future.
 - b. Next column: Oct. 6
- 2. *INFORMATION ITEM*: Monthly, Plan Lehigh Valley Talk Show on WDIY, Lehigh Valley Public Radio, 88.1 (MA)
 - a. Air Date: Sept. 2 - “You don’t think about it until it’s a problem” with LVPC Director of Environmental Planning Susan Myerov.
 - b. Next show – October 7
- 3. *INFORMATION ITEM*: US Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (MA)
 - a. Deadline: September 30
 - b. Grants: \$607 million available for disadvantaged communities
 - c. More Info: www.transportation.gov/reconnecting

Next Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Meeting:

Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., Virtual

The LVPC/LVTS website, www.lvpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in non-English languages and alternative formats, if requested.



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LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes from the Thursday, August 22, 2024, Meeting

The LVPC held a virtual public meeting on Thursday, August 22, 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

Ron Beittler, Michael Drabenstott, Bob Elbich, Sunny Ghai, Philip Ginder, Steve Glickman, Kent Herman, John Inglis, Dennis Klusaritz, Richard Molchany, Santo Napoli, Owen O'Neil, Stephen Repasch and Kevin Schmidt

Northampton County

Christopher Amato, Andrew Elliott, John Gallagher, Judith Haldeman, Darlene Heller, Carl Manges, Steve Melnick, Scott Minnich, Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen and Tina Smith.

Members Absent:

Lehigh County

Phillips Armstrong, Percy Dougherty, Jennifer Gomez, Diane Kelly, Christina Morgan, and Matthew Tuerk.

Northampton County

Jessica Cope, Charles Elliott, Ken Kraft, Rachel Leon, Lamont McClure, John McGorry, Edward Nelson, Salvatore Panto, Jr., J. William Reynolds, Grace Crampsie Smith and Jean Versteeg.

Staff Present: Joey Dotta, Jill Seitz, Scott Greenly, Becky Bradley, Susan Myerov, Christian Martinez and Matt Assad.

Public Present: Steve Althouse (WFMZ), Craig Beavers, and Jay Bradley.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Moritz-Chapelliquen spoke as a member of the public to raise awareness of a data tool coming from Pennsylvania Area Youth Survey. One of the data points that was highlighted by Mr. Moritz-Chapelliquen was attachment to community and how it can be used to improve planning outcomes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Innovation and Collaboration Award will be given to the LVPC at Water Resources Association (WRA) of the Delaware River Basin Annual Awards Gala on September 12 from 5 pm to 9 pm at Fairmont Waterworks in Philadelphia. Chair Amato invited members of the Commission to attend and celebrate.

MINUTES

Chair Amato stated that the minutes of the Thursday, July 25, 2024, LVPC meeting are attached, and Mr. Dotta presented the previously voted on agenda items. Chair Amato then asked for a motion to approve

the minutes. Commissioner Melnick made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Andrew Elliott seconded the motion.

Chair Amato asked for any comments or questions. There were none. The motion passed. Commissioners Elbich and Schmidt abstained.

JOINT ENVIRONMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: Slatington Borough – Land Development – Northern Lehigh School District Field Improvements

Ms. Seitz reminded the Commission that the LVPC serves as the official municipal planning commission for Slatington Borough and because Slatington Borough does not have their own adopted Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO), the County SALDO applies. LVPC, as the county planning agency, is responsible for reviewing and administering plans in these cases. Ms. Seitz explained that this review is regulatory and requires a different process than the proposals the LVPC sees on a regular basis, in which we provide advisory comments to the municipality.

Ms. Seitz presented a proposal to renovate existing natural grass baseball and softball fields by stripping the topsoil, installing a subdrainage system, re-grading, and adding new crushed aggregate warning tracks, dugouts, walkways and other improvements on the property located at 1 Bulldog Lane.

The LVPC received this final plan application on June 20, 2024, and the materials submitted included Post Construction Stormwater Management Plans revised June 13, 2024, and Post Construction Stormwater Management Report revised April 24, 2024. This follows a preliminary plan submission that was reviewed by the LVPC Environment Committee and Full Commission earlier this year, with a letter issued on February 22, 2024.

Ms. Myerov noted one outstanding condition of approval, which is to 'Provide documentation that the proposal is compatible with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, demonstrated through approval by the Lehigh County Conservation District.' All other plan and site design requirements have been resolved.

Chair Amato called for a motion to approve the final plan subject to conditions outlined in the staff review letter. Commissioner Minnich made the motion, and Commissioner Molchany 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. Commissioner Schmidt abstained.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: Slatington Borough – Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and Map Update

Mr. Dotta presented the comprehensive update to the Borough's Zoning Ordinance following the recent adoption of the updated Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. The proposed Zoning Ordinance and Map align with numerous goals and policies of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* as well as Plan Northern Lehigh. The influence of these plans in the development of the code are apparent in the close correlation between the documents and serve to "coordinate land use decisions across municipal boundaries." The proposal allows a diverse range of housing types in the Suburban Residential, Town Residential and Town Center Zoning Districts. The Borough is encouraged to consider expanding townhouses as a permitted use in the Suburban Residential District to facilitate increased attainable housing opportunities. The LVPC strongly recommends identifying opportunities to permit a greater mix of residential and neighborhood-supportive businesses downtown. The LVPC encourages the Borough to consider alternatives to locating the Industrial (I) Zoning District Along the Lehigh River to 'minimize

environmental impacts of development.’ The creation of a riverfront overlay district could protect the Lehigh River from impacts of development occurring in the proposed industrial-zoned district.

Mr. Hite recommended that the proposed commercial vehicle parking regulations be updated to better align with Pennsylvania State standards, including parking space dimensions, clearance height, and staging spaces for hours of operation compliance. The LVPC recommended adding definitions for electric vehicle charging infrastructure as well.

Ms. Myerov recommends expanding on environmental regulations and considerations in the ordinance, including logging and forestry management and riparian buffer protection. The LVPC encouraged ordinance language that emphasizes planting native trees and deep-rooted native vegetation, and to avoid introducing invasive or non-natives.

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

Ms. Bradley noted that the LVPC was the consultant for *Plan Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan* and continued to coordinate with the zoning ordinance consultant throughout the process. Ms. Bradley thanked the consultant for their job and clarified that the review letter is primarily revisions and small edits to make the zoning ordinances even stronger. Ms. Bradley thanked Lehigh County officials for their support for community planning efforts and their belief in coordinated planning. The magnitude of simultaneous zoning updates was brought up as a significant accomplishment and Ms. Bradley expressed that she’s excited about future community updates.

Commissioner Schmidt asked if the proposed changes would be done by LVPC staff or the consultant. Ms. Bradley answered that the zoning ordinance changes would be made by the consultant. There was a brief discussion regarding locally undesirable land uses and what it means in the context of coordinated zoning under multi-municipal plans. Commissioner Elbich and Chair Amato congratulated the effort.

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

ACTION ITEM: Slatington Borough – Official Map

Mr. Dotta presented a proposal to establish the first-ever Borough of Slatington Official Map. Official Maps are implementation tools that support the community’s vision outlined in the comprehensive plan by identifying locations of existing and planned public lands and facilities such as transportation infrastructure, parks and trails, and open space. The LVPC recommends the Borough consider symbolizing existing and future trails to expand and connect regional trail systems and to help the Borough with future Trail Town designation. The LVPC encourages the Borough to identify transportation improvement projects that can be submitted to the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study for inclusion in the Long-Range Transportation plan to support use of transportation funds to maximize available financial resources and support the fiscal health and sustainability of the Borough

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Repasch made the motion, and Commissioner Ginder 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: Washington Township (LC) – Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and Map Update

Ms. Seitz presented a comprehensive update to the Washington Township Zoning Ordinance. Washington Township is another one of the six Northern Lehigh communities working with a single consultant to simultaneously update their zoning ordinances. Zoning designations in the Township are congruent with the adjacent zoning designations of Slatington Borough. The proposed Zoning Ordinance and Map align with numerous goals and policies of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* and Plan NL, as well as the *Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code*.

Mr. Hite presented the transportation review which recommended providing a minimum length of parking spaces to right-size transportation infrastructure. The LVPC strongly recommended including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking requirements to comply with federal law and ensure accessibility for all persons.

Ms. Myerov presented the environment review which encouraged the Township to consider expanding environmental terms and definitions, and recommended adding riparian buffer protection criteria within the Environmental Protection Areas Overlay District. It is recommended that environmental protection areas include streams, woodlands and special trees. The LVPC recommended adding language that notes preference for native species over non-native and prohibiting invasive species in all landscaped areas.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Repasch 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: Washington Township (LC) – Official Map

Ms. Seitz presented Washington Township's Draft Official Map which identifies multimodal connectivity. The LVPC encouraged the Township to identify transportation improvement projects for inclusion in the Long-Range Transportation Plan to support use of transportation funds to maximize available financial resources and support the fiscal health and sustainability of the Township.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Manges 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.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEM: South Whitehall Landscapes Plan Review – South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County

Mr. Martinez presented a review of the Draft South Whitehall Township Landscapes Plan, which was influenced by the update of the Township's 2023 Comprehensive Plan. The plan is intended to dig deeper into the preservation priorities introduced in its comprehensive plan. The draft plan highlights the urgency surrounding resource preservation in the Township, as it historically has been, and continues to be under significant development pressure. Given this pressure, the draft plan "proposes different strategies and actions to realistically control the loss of important open space to development." Mr. Martinez noted that the *South Whitehall Landscapes Plan* is a foundational tool to preserve the agricultural, natural, historic and open-space resources in South Whitehall Township and supports the Township's Comprehensive plan in addition to its many consistencies with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* and the *Lehigh County Livable Landscapes Plan*.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Molchany made the motion, and Commissioner Heller 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: North Whitehall 7-Year Agricultural Security Area (ASA) Review – North Whitehall Township, Lehigh County

Mr. Martinez presented a review of proposed changes to parcels in North Whitehall Township's ASA program, as part of its mandatory seven-year review. The Township has identified 31 properties, totaling 169.3 acres, to be reviewed due to evidence that these parcels have been changed to residential or other

non-agricultural uses. This determination was made in consultation with the Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Office. The LVPC staff conducted a GIS-based analysis of the properties utilizing 2023 aerial imagery and agricultural property data information. This information was overlaid using the ASA property boundary data provided by the Township and compared with LVPC data. Staff then requested and received supplemental information to clarify its reasoning for recommending removal of some parcels, which still appeared to be in agriculture use. Mr. Martinez said that it is the LVPC's recommendation that the Township's analysis is accurate, and these properties should no longer qualify for ASA inclusion.

Chair Amato called for a motion to accept the staff comments. Commissioner Repasch made the motion, and Commissioner Glickman 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. Commissioner Klusaritz abstained.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

INFORMATION ITEM: Transportation Committee Summary

Transportation Committee Chair Kent Herman summarized the Committee meeting that occurred hours before including the *Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan*, a presentation on the Hill-to-Hill Bridge Rehabilitation project, and an update on various multimodal transportation fund projects.

ACTION ITEM: East Clay Street from North Wall Street to Club Avenue – Street Vacation Petition Review

Mr. Hite presented a proposed street vacation petition for vacating East Clay Street from North Wall Street to Club Avenue between the parking lot for Union Beverages and the adjacent residential properties to the south. The proposed street vacation application was submitted to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission by the City of Allentown on behalf of Nikhil Oza equitable owner of 906 Club Avenue d/b/a/ Orpat Club LLC. Mr. Hite noted that East Clay Street, the location petitioned to have rights-of-way vacated, is an unimproved previously plotted street that was never constructed. The location is currently maintained by property owners and is essentially landscaping and unimproved rights of way. The petitioner indicates that the area has not been used for more than 50 years and consists of 12 feet of right of way width and approximately 200 feet in length. The petitioner's property is shown in the blue box. The street vacation petition was not co-signed by the adjoining property owners of 832 Club Avenue and 833 North Wall Street. If the petition is granted by the city, the city should consider sidewalk mobility infrastructure in coordination with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There is currently a curb cut access for the rights of way for East Clay Street that is not compliant along Club Avenue at the frontage to the portion of East Clay Street to be vacated.

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

Chair Amato asked if the two property owners that did not sign off did so because this vacation could potentially affect their property values. Commissioner Herman stated that it could be for a variety of reasons and Mr. Hite added that sometimes it is because the property owners are not aware of the petition. The neighbors will be notified since this petition will go to Allentown City Council.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

INFORMATION ITEMS: Activity Reports

Mr. Dinkel presented the Monthly Traffic Report, which featured a counter on Route 22 between Airport Road and the Fullerton Avenue Exit, which recorded 102,763 vehicles. Interstate 78, just east of Route 309, recorded 86,549 and Route 309 near Coopersburg logged 38,319 vehicles.

Next, Mr. Hite presented commercial truck traffic. Route 33 between Newburg Road and State Route 248 recorded 11,326 trucks and Route 22 recorded 11,132 trucks.

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

Ms. Seitz presented the Monthly Subdivision Report that featured 11 Subdivisions, 31 Development proposals, 15 Stormwater Management reviews, and five Municipal Ordinances and Maps for a total of 62 reviews over 473.7 acres. 36 of those reviews were in Lehigh County and 26 were in Northampton County.

Ms. Seitz added that the LVPC reviewed 861 total residential units, consisting of 21 single-family detached, 230 townhouses, 403 apartments, 201 condos and six twins. On the non-residential side, it was presented that the LVPC reviewed a total of 281,843 square-feet, which included 66,000 square-feet of commercial, 30,000 square-feet of transportation from a parking lot in the City of Bethlehem, a 99,000 square-foot agricultural project in Lynn Township, and an 87,000 square-foot expansion of the Ecopax facility in the City of Bethlehem.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

INFORMATION ITEM: September Full Commission Meeting In Person Reminder

Mr. Dotta reminded the Commission that September's Full Commission Meeting will be in person only at LVPC's new office at 615 Waterfront Drive in Allentown. Ms. Bradley briefly discussed parking options for the Commissioners and noted that Transportation Committee chose to hold their meeting that occurs at 5:30 pm hybrid. Ms. Bradley noted that 615 Waterfront Drive sometimes does not show in GPS and that if Commissioners choose to park in the gated area that they will need to get their parking validated so they do not need to pay.

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

INFORMATION ITEM: Request For Proposals (RFP) Update

Mr. Greenly presented an update on the current requests for proposals out for various office projects. The RFPs included electronic plan submission system, organizational strategic plan, copier, open end planning, engineering and landscape architecture services, project selection and prioritization system, and Route 22 improvements plan.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy Kick-Off

Ms. Bradley briefed the Commission on the kick-off of LVPC's Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy that occurred at the LVPC office earlier in the month. A short history was provided to give context of the importance of the strategy. The project overview of the business plan was discussed and a few of the expected next steps were highlighted.

Commissioner Moritz-Chapelliquen asked if a potential outcome would be draft or template ordinances for municipalities. Ms. Bradley answered that is not the intent of the strategy but there will be resources for municipalities to reference. It was discussed that a product of the Valley's population growth makes drafting regional model ordinances difficult because each community has different needs. The strategy's goal is to identify what type of housing can go where and provide an econometric analysis.

Chair Amato asked if the strategy include cost of public services. Ms. Bradley answered that it will be a component of the strategy and will be included in the broader conversation of housing needs.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

INFORMATION ITEM: LVPC Morning Call Column

Mr. Assad presented about the most recent Morning Call Column that ran Sunday, July 28, and focused on the many changes the region has been seeing in recent years, but with a special focus on the effort to develop a Lehigh Valley Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy. Becky wrote about the partnership with Lehigh County to determine not only how much housing is needed, but what types, at what price point and where it should go. The column also focused on how that particular issue has become polarizing and the need to have a civil public discourse through this process. That column is now available at LVPC.org and Mcall.com.

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

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

Mr. Assad summarized the most recent Plan Lehigh Valley radio show about major changes in the development and transportation landscape across the Lehigh Valley, in the form of bigger and taller buildings and the kinds of large developments that challenge our existing transportation infrastructure. The show featured LVPC Chief Community Planner Jill Seitz. That show is now streaming at LVPC.org and WDIY.org.

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

INFORMATION ITEM: GBU Embodied Carbon: Alternatives to Construction Today

Mr. Assad notified the Commission of an upcoming Green Buildings United event on September 6th at the ATAS International Inc. headquarters in Allentown. The hybrid event covers topics such as alternative construction materials and methods to reduce carbon emissions in the built environment.

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

INFORMATION ITEM: Department of Community and Economic Development Multimodal Transportation Fund

Mr. Assad presented the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program which was created to advance community-centered transportation connection projects and help people get better access to daily needs such as work, education, healthcare, food, nature and recreation. It targets disadvantaged communities and is offering more than \$600 million over the next three years for planning, technical assistance and even construction. The deadline is September 30.

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

INFORMATION ITEM: Local Technical Assistance Program Virtual Classes

Mr. Hite summarized the Lehigh Valley Government Academy classes this upcoming month. On August 27 there is Geographic Information System (GIS) Basics, September 4 Curves on Local Roads, September 10 Traffic Signals Basics, and September 11 ADA Transition Plans and Evaluations. All classes are 8 AM to noon.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Amato stated that the next LVPC meeting is to be held IN Person at the LVPC offices at 615 Waterfront Drive, Suite 201 in Allentown on Thursday, September 26th at 7 pm. Chair Amato then asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Molchany made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Elbich seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director and Joey Dotta, Regional Planner



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Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

September 13, 2024

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

**Re: Executive Education Academy Charter School Field House Storage Addition –
Land Use of Regional Significance
City of Allentown
Lehigh County**

Dear Ms. Gomez:

The subject application is considered a Land Use of Regional Significance, as 'All' Education Facilities are considered land uses of regional significance in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* (page 147). The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) will consider the subject application at its Comprehensive Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, under the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Discussion on agenda items primarily takes place during the Committee meeting. Meeting information is available below:

- LVPC Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting:
 - o September 22, 2024, at 12:00PM
 - o <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting:
 - o September 24, 2024, at 7:00PM
 - o <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>

The application proposes to construct a 982-square-foot storage building addition to the existing school building field house, as well as sidewalk and a concrete cross-over. The building addition will be used to store gym equipment for the field house. The site is located at 555 Union Boulevard (parcel number 640757990536) in an area zoned Innovation and Workforce Development Zoning District (B/IWD) according to the City's Zoning Map.

Expanding on the existing school supports a core strategy of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* to increase density within urban areas using infill development (Density Special Section, page 71). Additionally, the area contains existing multimodal infrastructure, and the site is served directly by the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) with bus stops at the intersection of Union Boulevard and Home Run Lane. The proposal serves to 'expand access to education and job training' (of Policy 4.1) and invests in schools located in centers and along corridors (of Policy 4.3).

The LVPC recommends that educational institutions incorporate environmentally sensitive building and landscape design, such as green roofs or solar panels. This would increase the

cost-effectiveness of building operation and further academic endeavors related to these technologies, while enhancing the campus setting, demonstrating environmental leadership within the region, and 'reducing climate change impacts through mitigation and adaption' (of Policy 3.4).

The project site is located within the Catasauqua Creek Watershed. This watershed has a fully implemented Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance. Comments relative to our review of the project's stormwater management plan are included as Attachment 1.

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 I§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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jillian Seitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jillian Seitz
Chief Community Planner

cc: Executive Education Academy Charter School, Applicant; Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc, Project Engineer/Surveyor; David Petrik, City of Allentown Deputy Director of Public Works; Jesse Sadiua, City of Allentown Chief Planner; Brandon Jones, City of Allentown Planner



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September XX, 2024

Ms. Jill Seymour, Secretary
Lowhill Township
7000 Herber Road
New Tripoli, Pennsylvania 18066

**RE: Kernsville Road Industrial – Land Use of Regional Significance
Lowhill Township
Lehigh County**

Dear Ms. Seymour:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) considered the subject application at its Comprehensive Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). The meetings were held on:

- LVPC Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting
 - o September 24, 2024, at 12:00 PM
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - o September 26, 2024, at 7:00 PM

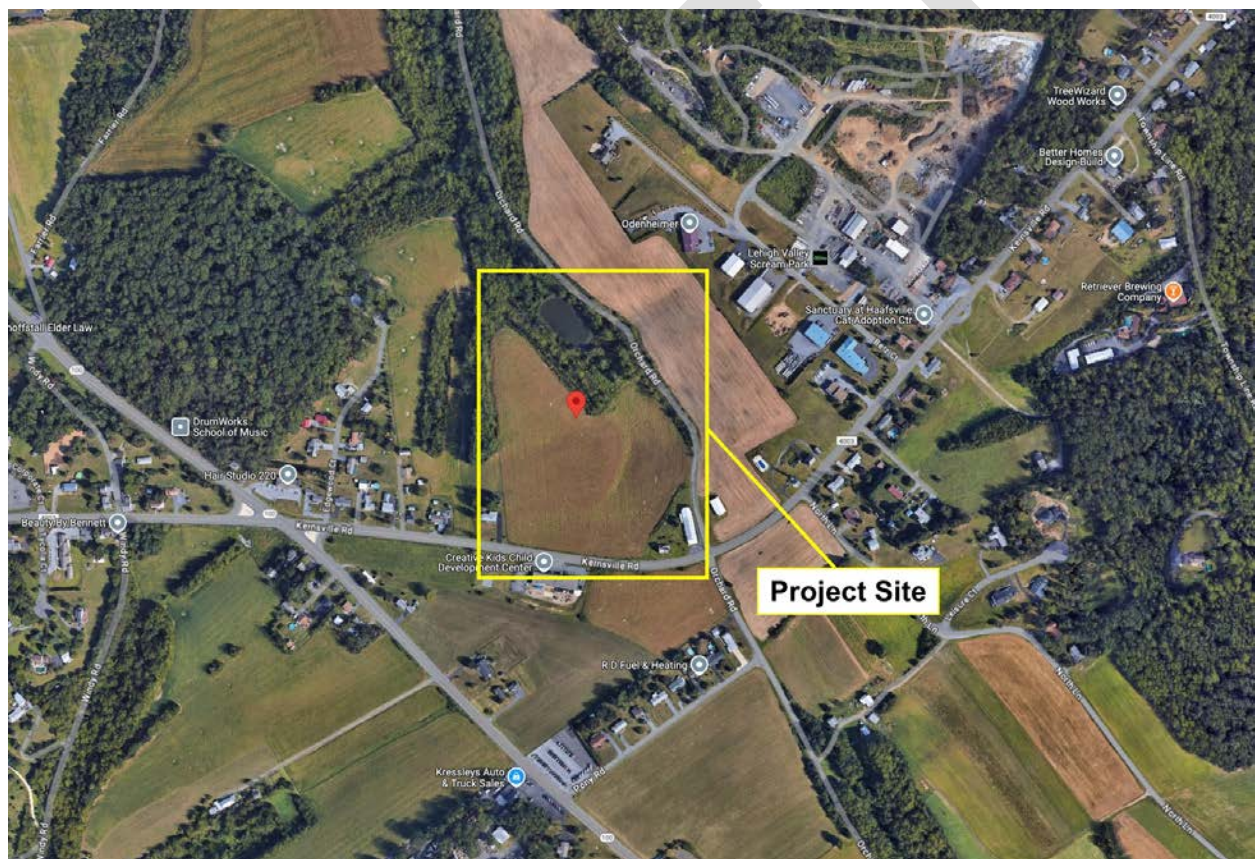
The subject application is considered a Land Use of Regional Significance under *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* in the Warehouse, Logistics and Storage Facility category. The project proposes to construct a 100,569 square-foot warehouse, including a potential 3,400-square-foot office with associated drives and parking areas at 7503 Kernsville Road (parcel numbers 545714601391 and 545713255797). A lot consolidation is also proposed to combine the parcels into a 22.21-acre lot. The property is located on the northwest intersection of Kernsville Road (State Route 4003) and Orchard Road in Lowhill Township.

Background

The project site was previously reviewed by the LVPC in June 2023. The 2023 proposal was for a 190,960 square-foot warehouse/distribution center. The current proposal reduces the original building square footage by 47%, condensing development towards the southwestern-most corner of the lot. According to the Lowhill Township Official Zoning Map, the project parcel is zoned for Rural Village (RV). There are

currently two dwellings and a masonry building on the project site that are proposed to be demolished. All accompanying utilities and driveways are expected to be removed in their entirety.

The site proposed for development is currently undeveloped agricultural land. The area around the project site is identified as a Neighborhood Center in *Plan Northern Lehigh* (Route 100 and Kernsville Road), where a range of small-scale establishments serving the community are clustered. Surrounding land uses include residential dwellings to the west and east, a day care center to the south, and small commercial businesses to the northeast. The general area is exurban/rural in nature with limited existing development, roadway and utility infrastructure.



Site Suitability

The subject property is located within an area identified in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* for Farmland Preservation and Preservation Buffer. Areas within the Preservation Buffer are recommended to remain agriculture, and while there may be factors available to accommodate contextually-appropriate development, additional scrutiny is warranted in determining the appropriateness of growth.

The undeveloped site contains High and Medium Priority Natural Resource Conservation features that would be significantly impacted by the scale of the proposed development, including steep slopes, hydrography, riparian buffers and woodlands.

The scale of the proposed development, over 100,000 square-feet and 45 feet in height, greatly surpasses the scale of surrounding developments. The largest buildings nearby are less than 20,000 square feet, and a building of the proposed scale would disrupt the character of the Neighborhood Center.

Additionally, the proposal is located adjacent to land uses that are incompatible with the current proposal. This includes residential neighborhoods and a daycare across Kernsville Road. Industrial operations generated by a 100,000-square-foot facility would also be at a much higher intensity than the surrounding small commercial operations.

Design limitations of the adjacent and nearby roadway network poses a severe challenge to the successful logistical operations of the facility. Public sewer and water utility systems are also not available in the vicinity, and overall, the site is not served by adequate infrastructure to accommodate the proposal.

While the Township recently updated the *Northern Lehigh Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan* with Weisenberg, Lynn, Heidelberg, and Washington (Lehigh County) Townships and Slatington Borough and is very close to completing the update of it's zoning code and official map this proposal was submitted to the Township prior to changes. The new plan and anticipated zoning code and official map updates should address incompatible proposals, like this, however, at this time the current codes stand.

As previously noted, due to incompatibility with the context of the area and neighboring land uses, lack of transportation and utility infrastructure, and environmental concerns, the development as proposed is found to be inconsistent with the goals and policies outlined in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. Neighborhood Centers in rural areas are intended to accommodate small-scale development providing direct services and benefits to the surrounding community. The LVPC's comments are intended to support development of the site that is contextually sensitive and 'matches development intensity with sustainable infrastructure capacity' (of Policies 1.1 and 5.4).

Transportation

The development was resubmitted to the LVPC without an updated Transportation Impact Study (TIS). As freight centric facilities are proposed it is essential that the LVPC have the most current proposed impacts to the transportation network. It is strongly recommended that the developer update the previously submitted TIS with the current proposed size of the facility and impacts to the transportation network and any

improvements recommended thereof. The previously submitted TIS was submitted in April of 2022 and review with recommendations in May of 2022.

As the frontage of the project is on a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) controlled road, "Kernsville Road" it is also the LVPC's role as the support staff for the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) to monitor the growth of traffic and other modes of transportation impacts that are proposed. Having an updated TIS will accomplish the need for the LVPC and LVTS to be aware and evaluate the entirety of the transportation network in the vicinity.

The intersection of Kernsville Road and Orchard Road does not appear to have any improvements proposed on the submitted plan set. The operation of this intersection at the corner of the proposed development should be clarified by the developer in coordination with PennDOT and the municipality. Improvements will be needed in this location in order for the safe and efficient operation of the development and adjoining roads.

A revised TIS is essential to accurately account for traffic impacts resulting from the proposed development and additional developments proposed nearby (two other warehouses at Route 100 and Betz Court). Because a revised traffic study was not received, the LVPC utilized the Institute of Transportation Engineers Trip Generation Manual to calculate that the proposed warehouse will generate an average of 173 new trips per day, of which 61 would be truck trips.

The nearby intersection at Route 100 and Kernsville Road poses a severe transportation safety concern. Trucks traveling from the south to the site are most likely to follow GPS routing from Interstate 78 to Route 100, travel north for over 3 miles, and have to make a hairpin turn onto Kernsville Road.

The examples of roadway concerns listed above are aspects of development that can be identified for improvements by the developer in relation to the frontage of the property if an updated TIS is submitted. (Policies 2.2, 2.4 and 2.6)



GPS routing from the site towards destinations to the south would also likely direct trucks to make a hazardous hairpin left turn from Kernsville Road onto Route 100 towards the south.



Claussville Road and Orchard Road are not appropriate for truck travel and should not be considered alternate routes for truck traffic. Appropriate signage and communication to drivers should emphasize that truck traffic is prohibited on these roadways.

Kernsville Road connects with State Route 309 in North Whitehall Township approximately 3.9 miles east of the site. State Route 309 also serves as an arterial that connects to an Interstate 78 interchange. Lowhill Township should coordinate with North Whitehall Township in providing signage prohibiting truck traffic on Kernsville Road between Betz Court and Route 309 (of Policy 2.2 and Policy 2.4).

The project should provide onsite truck parking spaces with amenities which are essential for truck drivers to comply with state hours of operation federal requirements. Driver lounges should be planned for within the buildings as well. The applicant should provide electric hookup infrastructure for onsite truck parking spaces and in the passenger car parking areas. Overnight truck parking spaces should also include electrical hookup infrastructure to prevent the need for truck idling to power electrical devices (of Policy 2.5).

It is recommended that the project incorporate snow removal equipment onsite for the removal of snow and ice from the tops of trucks and trailers as required by Pennsylvania State Law. Truck drivers are required to remove snow and ice hazards but need the appropriate equipment in which to remove the hazard in a safe and efficient manner. Snow removal equipment is becoming more commonplace at freight centric facilities. Having this equipment helps ensure a safe transportation network free of snow and ice that may slide off the tops of trucks and trailers and cause disruptions on the roadway and to other vehicles and multimodal users (of Policy 1.4).

The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) does not serve the site and has no immediate plans to extend service. The nearest LANTA fixed-route service is Route 309 at Kernsville Road in North Whitehall Township, approximately 3.9 miles east of the project site. Transit service is key to employment in the Lehigh Valley by playing a critical role in the ability for the workforce to travel to and from work. Transit also affects the marketability and occupancy associated with the development. Incorporating infrastructure that accommodates multiple modes of transportation is essential to the economic success of this development, and to remove barriers to employment (of Policy 4.3). It is imperative that the applicant and Township consider all economic implications this proposal poses to 'the infrastructure system, economy, tax base, environment and community' (of Policy 2.4).

These transportation impacts further emphasize the LVPC's finding that the resulting intensity from the scale of the proposed development greatly surpasses the capacity of the surrounding roadways to facilitate safe travel to and from the development.

Environment

The northern portion of the property contains steep slopes and wooded lands, as well as a riparian buffer identified on the plan. Policy 3.1 of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* recommends the preservation of natural resources in the development process, as well as maximizing preservation of woodlands and critical habitats. The square footage of the building should be reduced to increase buffer distances and avoid encroachment on the existing natural features essential to local habitats and rural character (of Policy 3.2).

Landscape buffers are recommended to be included in the site plan along the frontage on Kernsville Road. Landscaping creates a more attractive development and can significantly reduce the visual impact of large-scale buildings on the community. It also minimizes impacts on the environment by offsetting the development's carbon footprint (Policy 3.2).

The LVPC encourages the developer to consider opportunities for incorporating sustainable energy systems that reduce overhead operational costs and 'minimize environmental impacts of development' (Policy 3.1), such as geothermal energy systems, solar panels and greywater reuse for irrigation and plumbing. Incorporating sustainable practices also helps to 'reduce climate change impacts' (Policy 3.4) by offsetting the air quality impacts generated by freight uses and tractor-trailer idling.

Storm Water

The project site is located within the Jordan Creek Watershed. This watershed has a fully implemented Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance. Comments relative to our review of the project's stormwater management plan are included as Attachment 1.

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 municipal ordinance requirements since these items are covered in the municipal reviews.

The LVPC has copied representatives of the *Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan* as well as other adjacent communities to coordinate land use decisions across municipal boundaries (of Policy 1.4). Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joseph Dotta
Regional Planner



Jill Seitz
Chief Community and Regional Planner



Brian Hite
Transportation Planner

CC: Chris Noll, Lowhill Township Engineer; Adam Williams, BL Companies, Brian Reisinger, Core5 Industrial Partners; Dawn Didra, Heidelberg Township Manager; Wade Marlatt, Washington Township Manager; Brian Carl, Weisenberg Township Administrator; Jeralyn Schoch, Slatington Borough Mayor; Kal Sostarecz, Upper Macungie Township Planning Director; Randy Cope, North Whitehall Township Manager



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

September XX, 2024

Mr. Brian Carl, Manager
Weisenberg Township
2715 Seipstown Road
Fogelsville, PA 18051

**Re: Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and Map Update
Weisenberg Township
Lehigh County**

Dear Mr. Carl:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) considered the draft ordinance at its Comprehensive Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). The meetings were held on:

- LVPC Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting
 - o September 24, 2024 at 12:00 PM
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - o September 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM

The application proposes a comprehensive update to the Township's Zoning Ordinance following the recent adoption of the updated *Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan*. Washington Township is one of six Northern Lehigh communities using a single consultant to simultaneously update their zoning ordinances in a coordinated effort, a strategic way to increase land use regulatory efficiency and ensure all land uses are provided for across the six municipalities. This approach fulfills a strategy of the Northern Lehigh Plan policy to 'continue and expand collaboration between communities and infrastructure partners' (*Plan NL* Policy 6.1).

The Township's proposed Ordinance, as specified in Section 500-3, is intended to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the community by providing for proper population density, safe transportation systems and provisions for community amenities and sanitation while preventing unfavorable conditions such as hazards. Related updates to the Township's Zoning Map are also proposed.

The proposed Zoning Ordinance and Map align with numerous goals and policies of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* as well as the *Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan*. The influence of these plans in the development of the code are apparent in the close correlation between the documents and serve to "coordinate land use decisions across municipal boundaries' (of *FutureLV* Policy 1.4).

The following comments are provided to compliment and strengthen the Township's thorough reworking of its zoning ordinance:

Ordinance Administration

The provisions included in the proposed Ordinance align with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), Article VI that grants powers to municipalities to enact, amend and repeal zoning ordinances to regulate the use of land and structures and to implement comprehensive plans (of *FutureLV* Policy 1.4).

The proposed table of permitted uses summarizes permitted land uses and regulations by zoning district, which increases the usability and ease of navigating the ordinance and is a best practice in regulating land uses (of *FutureLV* Policy 1.4).

Housing Attainability

The LVPC encourages the Township consider allowing flexible residential development types such as cluster developments or conservation subdivisions, which may use a variety of dwelling types or smaller lot sizes than would be permitted in the District in order to retain natural features or farmland on other areas of a parcel. Single Family Detached dwelling types are by nature the most land-consumptive dwelling type, and often lead to sprawling development patterns that may not achieve the Township's desired community character or resource preservation goals (of *FutureLV* Policy 4.5).

Additionally, the LVPC recommends the Township consider allowing a variety of housing types in the Rural Village Zoning District. 'Expanding crossroads villages is a good way to preserve rural character, farmland and open space while accommodating growth and preventing sprawl' (*FutureLV* Crossroads Village Concept).

When considering the scale and density of development, the LVPC strongly recommends the Township ensure that proper utility and emergency services infrastructure is available to promote safe and secure community design (of *FutureLV* Policy 5.1).

To better meet the needs of all current and future Township residents, the LVPC recommends providing separate definitions for "mobile home" and "manufactured home". For reference, the following definitions are provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

- "Manufactured home." A manufactured home as defined in section 603(6) of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383, 42 U.S.C. 5402(6)) or a structure designed and used exclusively for living quarters.
- "Mobile home." A structure manufactured before 1976, designed and used exclusively for living quarters or commercial purposes, but only incidentally operated on a highway.

Economy

The proposed ordinance includes definitions for agriculture-supportive land uses that leverage the Township's proximity to agricultural areas, create economic opportunities for farmers and support agriculture as essential to the regional economy (of *FutureLV* Policy 4.4). These provisions also support objectives of *Plan Northern Lehigh* which direct communities to 'encourage and promote farmers' markets and agri-manufacturers, selling local farm products in a coordinated regional value-added effort' and to strengthen the 'maker' and 'micro-manufacturing economy' (*Plan NL* Policy 1.4).

Freight Land Use Management

Warehouse is a permitted-by-right use within the General Industrial and General Commercial Zoning Districts. While these areas of the Township contain existing warehouse development, the LVPC strongly recommends allowing warehousing as a special exception or conditional use to maximize regulatory tools available to the Township as industry trends evolve. The proposed supplementary regulations for Warehouse/Wholesale Distributors (Section 500-78. AA) are comprehensive and ensure that proposals are developed to meet the best practices in operational needs of freight-based land uses while mitigating the impacts of development on the community (of *FutureLV* Policy 1.4 and 2.4).

Transportation

The LVPC recommends the Township revise the definition of “Commercial Vehicle” to align with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania definition:

A motor vehicle designed or used to transport passengers or property that meets one of the following criteria:

- 1. If the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds*
- 2. If the vehicle is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver*
- 3. If the vehicle is a school bus; OR,*
- 4. If the vehicle is transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded in accordance with PennDOT regulations*

Note; this term does not include antique or classic motor vehicle, an implement of husbandry, or any motor home or recreational trailer operated solely for personal use, or motorized construction equipment, including, but not limited to, motorscrapers, backhoes, motorgraders, compactors, excavators, tractors, trenchers , and bulldozers.

The LVPC recommends enhancing the definition of “clear sight triangle” (Article XII, Section 500-70) to follow the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Guidelines in coordination with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) based on characteristic of the road and posted speed.

The LVPC recommends revising the parking and truck loading requirements (Article XII, Section 500-72) to provide separate definitions and regulations for electric vehicle charging spaces from other specialty vehicle parking regulations.

Environment

The LVPC encourages the Township to require management plans for logging and forestry as recommended in Policy 3.1 of the *Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan*. Additionally, the LVPC recommends the Township create and implement a riparian buffer ordinance (Plan NL Policy 3.2).

The LVPC recommends adding definitions for specific terms that are referenced throughout the ordinance, including high-water table area, invasive species, native species, stormwater, and watercourse. The LVPC recommends clarifying the intended difference between ‘high-water table area’ and ‘high-water table type soils’ (Section 500-57 D).

The proposed buffer yard regulations state that, *“In all buffer yards, the exterior width beyond the fence or planting screen shall be planted with grass seed, sod or ground cover, and shall be maintained and kept clean of all debris, rubbish, weeds and tall grass.”* The LVPC recommends amending this sentence to eliminate reference to “tall grass”. This term may exclude the use of

native grasses, which may be taller than mown grass but can be attractive and provide co-benefits like stormwater management and wildlife habitat. Non-native or unkempt turf grass can still be prohibited with this language. The LVPC recommends including a cross reference to Chapter 201 (Brush, Grass and Weed Ordinance), which clarifies nuisance conditions and exemptions if area is within an Environmental Protection District.

Under the proposed plant materials and screen planting regulations, language should be edited to emphasize planting native trees and deep- rooted native vegetation and avoid introducing invasive or non-native species. References to use of vegetation throughout the ordinance should specify 'native' vegetation.

The LVPC encourages the Township to add language encouraging green parking lot design elements, such as landscaped islands, that could also function as stormwater management features (e.g. rain gardens or bioswales) consistent with low impact development practices recommended in the Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance (Appendix H of Article V Section 405). The Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance should be cross-referenced in any sections referring to the impacts of a proposed use as regulated by applicable laws and ordinances.

Ordinance Text Comments

Pages 24-28 are missing bottom margins, resulting in text being cut off, and should be revised before finalizing the draft for adoption. There are instances where content is cut off and sequences are disrupted throughout the document. It is recommended that the ordinance should ensure that all necessary text is included in a readable manner.

Zoning Map

The proposed zoning map aligns with identified growth and preservation areas of both the *FutureLV* General Land Use Plan and the *Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan*. Zoning Districts permitting more development are targeted to areas with existing infrastructure and development patterns while limiting development in rural areas (of *FutureLV* Policy 1.1).

Overall, the process by which Weisenberg Township and the five other Northern Lehigh Communities have negotiated land uses and coordinated the development of their zoning ordinances is a best practice to encouraging efficient development and land use management practices that are responsive to regional needs. Incorporating the comments included in this letter will further support the achievement of the Township's goals as outlined in the Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. The LVPC continues to be available as a partner and resource to support the community achieving their goals.

Municipalities, when considering ordinances and official maps, should reasonably attempt to be consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) [Article I§105, Article III§303, §304 & §306(a), Article VI§603(j)]. Please send a copy of any final amendments that are adopted, per the requirements of the MPC.

The LVPC has copied representatives of the Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan to further 'coordinate land use decisions across municipal boundaries' (Policy 1.4). If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to call.

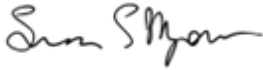
Sincerely,



Jill Seitz
Chief Community and Regional Planner



Joey Dotta
Regional Planner



Susan Myerov
Director of Environmental Planning



Brian Hite
Transportation Planner

cc: Tammy White, Lynn Township Supervisor; Janice Meyers, Heidelberg Township Administrator; Jill Seymour, Lowhill Township Secretary; Dan Stevens, Slatington Borough Manager; Wade Marlatt, Washington Township Manager; Carolyn Yagle, Environmental Planning & Design, Project Consultant



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Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

September XX, 2024

Mr. Brian Carl, Manager
Weisenberg Township
2715 Seipstown Road
Fogelsville, PA 18051

**Re: Official Map
Weisenberg Township
Lehigh County**

Dear Mr. Carl:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) will consider the subject application at its 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. Both meetings will be held in-person at LVPC offices, and we encourage your 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
 - o September 24, 2024 at 12:00 PM
 - o <https://lvpc.org/meetings.html>
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - o September 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM
 - o <https://lvpc.org/meetings.html>

The application proposes to establish the Weisenberg Township Official Map. Official Maps are implementation tools that support the community's vision outlined in the comprehensive plan by identifying locations of existing and planned public lands and facilities such as transportation infrastructure, parks and trails, and open space. An official map expresses a municipality's interest in acquiring lands for public purposes sometime in the future, and the creation of the map serves to notify the public of this interest. The LVPC encourages municipalities to adopt official maps as a way of fulfilling the intent of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* to coordinate efficient development processes (Policy 1.4), and to provide an avenue for a municipality to promote its fiscal

health and sustainability (of Policy 4.6). The creation of an Official Map is also a key recommendation of the Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan (*Plan NL* Policy 2.3).

The Township's Draft Official Map identifies lands owned by the Township, County, Commonwealth and Federal, community amenities including places of worship and schools, and bodies of water, which serves to preserve recreational, cultural, historical and scenic assets (of *FutureLV* Policy 3.1, 4.2 and 5.4 and *Plan NL* Policies 3.4 and 4.1). The Draft Official Map also identifies multimodal connectivity for bike/walking lane/path, which strengthens sidewalk, bike route and trail infrastructure (of *FutureLV* Policy 5.3 and *Plan NL* Policies 2.3, 3.3 and 3.4).

The LVPC recommends the Township consider incorporating the following additional items to build upon the Draft Official Map:

- The LVPC recommends including symbology for a bike/walking lane/path along Bausch Road in the northernmost corner of the Township map. This roadway is identified as a conceptual land trail connecting throughout the Northern Lehigh area (*Plan NL* Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Scenic Plan).
- The LVPC recommends symbolizing public parks and recreation areas and differentiating these areas from other municipal-owned lands to support increasing access to public recreation and creating community spaces that promote physical and mental health (of *FutureLV* Policy 5.3 and *PlanNL* Policy 2.3).
- The LVPC encourages the Township to identify transportation improvement projects that can be submitted to the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study for inclusion in the Long-Range Transportation plan to support use of transportation funds to maximize available financial resources and support the fiscal health and sustainability of the Township (of *FutureLV* Policy 2.6 and 4.6 and *Plan NL* Policy 5.2).
- Identifying preserved farmland areas on the map can help 'maintain rural character and provide open space' (*FutureLV* Policy 3.3).

Incorporation of these features can support the Township further in achieving its desired community vision as identified in the Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan.

Municipalities, when considering ordinances and official maps, 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)]. Please send a copy of any final amendments that are adopted, per the requirements of the MPC.

The LVPC has copied representatives of the Northern Lehigh Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan to further 'coordinate land use decisions across municipal boundaries' (Policy 1.4). If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Jill Seitz
Chief Community and Regional Planner



Joey Dotta
Regional Planner

cc: Tammy White, Lynn Township Supervisor; Janice Meyers, Heidelberg Township Administrator; Jill Seymour, Lowhill Township Secretary; Dan Stevens, Slatington Borough Manager; Brian Carl, Weisenberg Township Administrator; Carolyn Yagle, Environmental Planning & Design, Project Consultant



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Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

September XX, 2024

Mr. Mike Gable, PE
T & M Associates
74 W Broad Street, Suite 300
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Re: Act 537 Special Study Update Review – Bangor Borough and Washington Township – Bangor Borough Sewer Authority Corrective Action Plan – Bangor Borough and Washington Township, Northampton County

Dear Mr. Gable:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), at its regular monthly meeting on September 26, 2024, reviewed the above-referenced application based on the adopted plans and policies of the LVPC. We offer the following comments.

The Bangor Borough Sewer Authority (BBSA) owns and operates a sanitary sewer collection and conveyance system as well as a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that services the Borough of Bangor and Washington Township in Northampton County. BBSA also provides sewage disposal services of waste discharged from Roseto Borough. Roseto Borough Sewer Authority (RBSA) owns and operates its own sewage collection system.

The BBSA has prepared a draft Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address the excessively high flows their WWTP has experienced as well as address the hydraulic overload conditions within its collection system. The flows to the WWTP have exceeded permit limitations for required 85% removal of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), have exceeded bacteria count and the collection system has experienced sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). The collection system has one pump station, a small section of low-pressure sewer servicing a portion of Washington Township and three connection points from RBSA at Dante Street (9th Street in Bangor Borough), Front Street and 1st Avenue.

The Authority developed a CAP in 2019 which was partially implemented and was successful in its short-term goals to eliminate hydraulic overload conditions to the WWTP. However, it was not successful in eliminating SSOs in the collection system. The goal of this new CAP is to identify excessive flows and generate short-, medium- and long-term plans to eliminate excessive flows and establish target infiltration & inflow (I&I) removal goals. According to the BBSA CAP, a number of activities from their 2019 CAP have been completed to date to address and eliminate the hydraulic overload conditions and excess I&I removal. Some of these efforts include but are not limited to the collection and evaluation of data to identify the collection system infrastructure and the total number of connections at various points to determine the expected low flows and high wet weather flows and compared to witnessed flow rates, identify the type and extent of I&I by establishing a monitoring program to review flow at fixed locations throughout the system and compare to the expected flow, provided training to Authority staff for

performance of manhole and lateral connection inspections, provisions to continuously maintain the collection system to avoid future instances of hydraulic overload and provide proper funding for maintenance. BBSA has determined that the capacity related SSOs in the collection system are a direct result of excessive I/I from the RBSA system. Since the BBSA does not own and operate the RBSA sewage collection system, the BBSA has decided to direct funds to collection system repairs and to WWTP improvements to control and treat excessive flows more effectively. The new BBSA CAP is being developed to implement immediate action to reduce flows to the WWTP, establish monitoring protocols of system operations and develop a long-term maintenance program. BBSA will continue to document RBSA SSOs events and have placed the RBSA on a connection moratorium until their flows are less than their purchased capacity of 300,000 gpd. BBSA will continue to compel RBSA to take corrective action until certain actions have been met.

The BBSA will continue to perform inspections for all users in Bangor Borough such as a Certificate of Occupancy Inspections on all transfers of property in the Borough and Rental Inspections every other year to ensure no illegal connections to the BBSA system, provide public education to inform users of detrimental effects of illegal connections to the sewer system, continue with the curb side lateral inspection program to allow for visual identification of roof leader connections to the sewer system every three years and if target flow reductions are not met, mandatory inspections of all interior conditions of users may be required. Other efforts the BBSA address in this CAP include manhole inspections, sewer main video inspections, a fourth point of monitoring which utilizes an open channel meter has been provided to monitor flows from the east side of Bangor and a fifth point of monitoring will be completed once the Walnut Street Pump Station is constructed with a new flow meter and monthly monitoring report which will be shared with PADEP, Bangor Borough, Roseto Borough, RBSA and Washington Township.

As for the WWTP repairs and improvements, the BBSA prepared a Capital Improvements Study to identify aging WWTP equipment and future needs at the WWTP. The repairs and improvements of the WWTP include the installation of an equalization tank to allow for balanced flow maximizing treatment efficiencies so the WWTP can effectively handle highly diluted sewage to meet the required 85% removal of BOD and assist in treating high peak flows, headworks pumps to be replaced due to overuse and aging infrastructure, floats to be replaced with transducer system to provide more efficient pump controls as well as the replacement of the control systems at the WWTP which allow for remote monitoring by the operator.

The provision of environmentally sound and efficient sewage disposal for existing and future development is a goal of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. Actions to remove or reduce excessive infiltration and inflow and providing public education to the users of the Bangor Borough Sewer Authority system on the detrimental effects of illegal connections to the sewer system align with *FutureLV* Policy 3.2, 'to protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' and 'educate elected officials and the public on the importance of sustainable sewer, water and green infrastructure'. The upgrades of the sewer system and WWTP align with the *FutureLV* action to 'improve the utility and mobility infrastructure of the region' (under Policy 1.1). The LVPC recommends continued coordination among the partners to address these issues. Long-term monitoring as proposed in the CAP will help prevent future I/I problems.

Mr. Mike Gable, PE
T & M Associates
September XX, 2024
Page 2

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Corinne Ruggiero
Environmental Planner

cc: Stephen Reider, Manager, Bangor Borough
Robert Smith, Chair, Washington Township
Cathy Martino, Manager, Roseto Borough
Amy Bellanca, PE, PA Department of Environmental Protection



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

September XX, 2024

Mr. William L. Bohner, Jr., PE
ARRO Consulting, Inc.
321 N. Furnace Street, Suite 200
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Re: Act 537 Review – Sewage Facilities Plan Update – Bethlehem Township

Dear Mr. Bohner:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), at its regular monthly meeting on September 26, 2024, reviewed the above-referenced plan according to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537). Our review was based on the goals, policies and actions of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. We offer the following comments.

Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority (BTMA) owns the public sewer collection and conveyance system, and Bethlehem Township operates and maintains the sewer system that serves the residents in the Township. The Authority currently connects and conveys most of its wastewater to the City of Bethlehem's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), with a small portion of flow being conveyed to the City of Easton's WWTP. Bethlehem Township is within the Bushkill, Fry's Run, Monocacy and Nancy Run watersheds.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection requires Act 537 planning to ensure the management of the sewage facilities meets the existing and future sewage needs of residents in the areas served by the facilities. The purpose of the plan is to address requirements to meet sanitary sewer needs of the Township for those areas designated for future development or areas not currently served by the collection and conveyance system. The majority of the Township is served by public sewer facilities and a small portion of the Township is served by on-lot disposal systems (OLDS). However, this draft Act 537 Plan considers the remaining parcels currently served by OLDS as areas to receive public sanitary sewer service extensions. The selected planning alternatives considered to accomplish the Township's Act 537 goals include:

- Proposed sewer main extensions:
 - o Existing parcels near Chipman Road
 - o Existing parcels near the Pond View Court
 - o Existing parcels near Oakland Road
 - o Areas within the Township designated for future development and those areas adjacent to the existing public collection system.
- The relocation and upgrade to the BTMA's pump station 9 to accommodate projected flow from the far northwest portion of the planning area.
- Manage parcels continuing to utilize OLDS through a comprehensive Septage Management ordinance and program.
- Adoption of the Septage Management Ordinance parallel with the review of the Act 537 Plan.

Mr. William Bohner, PE
Bethlehem Township
September XX, 2024
Page 2

The Township currently implements an aggressive system wide maintenance program. Based on the results from flow monitoring, the plant indicates that the flows are not significantly impacted by infiltration and inflow (I&I).

According to the plan, the average daily flow in 2023 per the Chapter 94 report submitted in March 2024, indicates that the Township is currently using approximately 60% of their allocated capacity in the City of Bethlehem's WWTP. Additionally, the Township's unused capacity is approximately 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd), translating to a remaining available capacity of approximately 4,800 EDUs. This provides capacity for significant growth in the Township through 2040 without the need for additional capacity.

A small portion of Bethlehem Township flows through Palmer Township to the City of Easton's wastewater treatment plant. Proposed wastewater flows to be conveyed through Palmer to the City of Easton's WWTP through 2040 are 26,483 gallons per day. This includes 1,750 gpd from the northeastern portion of Bethlehem Township. The Township is currently allocated 42,250 gpd at the Easton Plant.

Ensuring the proper management of the sewage disposal system supports the *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* action to 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2). According to *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, the planned sewer extensions proposed within this plan are in areas designated for Development in the General Land Use Plan and aligns with the *FutureLV* action to 'match development intensity with sustainable infrastructure capacity' (of Policy 1.1).

The Act 537 planning must also address previous sewage facilities planning that has not been implemented. According to the plan update, most planning has been completed in accordance with an approved implementation schedule. The remaining "outstanding" planning issues are represented by this plan update. The LVPC will provide comments on any future Township plan update per Act 537 requirements.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Corinne Ruggiero
Environmental Planner

Susan Myerov
Director of Environmental Planning

cc: Doug Bruce, Manager, Bethlehem Township
Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources, City of Bethlehem
David Hopkins, Public Works Director, City of Easton
Amy Bellanca, PE, PA Department of Environmental Protection



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Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

September 17, 2024

Ms. Cindy Beck, Township Secretary
Upper Mount Bethel Township
387 Ye Olde Highway
PO Box 520
Mount Bethel, PA 18343

**Re: Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Well Permitting Ordinance
Upper Mount Bethel Township
Northampton County**

Dear Ms. Beck:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) will consider the proposed ordinance amendment at its Environment Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). A follow-up letter will be sent if the Commissioners have any additional comments. The meetings are being held on:

- LVPC Environment Committee Meeting
 - o September 24, 2024 at 10:30 AM
 - o <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - o September 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM
 - o <https://lvpc.org/lvpc-meetings>

The Township's Well Permitting Ordinance is intended to include provisions that protect the quality and quantity of the water resources of Upper Mount Bethel Township by requiring the permitting and implementing construction standards of new wells and modifications to existing wells, along with water quantity and water quality provisions and administrative provisions to enforce the ordinance. Adopting local level ordinance standards for well construction, alteration, and abandonment is a water quality regulation recommendation of LVPC's 2002 *Water Supply Assessment Report*.

The township proposes to modify provisions of its current well permitting regulations (Code of the Township of Upper Mount Bethel – Chapter 341-Wells) to create a stand-alone ordinance, clarifying requirements for different classes of applicants proposing to drill a well or withdraw groundwater within the Township, including those whose projected water use is in excess of 2000 gallons of flow per day, and adding provisions for a new Well Enforcement Officer (WEO).

The Well Permitting Ordinance amendment helps promote sustainable stewardship of water resources (Policy 3.1) of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* and helps protect the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater of Policy 3.2.

The following comments are provided to compliment and strengthen the Township's proposed amendments:

Definitions

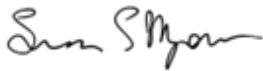
The LVPC recommends adding the term, "Production Well" to the definitions section.

Enforcement (Section H.3)

The LVPC suggests adding a more detailed description of the Well Enforcement Officer's duties and responsibilities.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Myerov".

Susan Myerov, AICP
Director of Environmental Planning

cc: Nick Graziano, Upper Mount Bethel Township Manager

Project Review Summary Sheet

Environment Committee

Date: September 2024

Project	Municipality	Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Lehigh County Authority - Preliminary Capital Plan (2025-2029)	ALLENTOWN DIVISION	<u>Water</u> • City Cloud Based AMI Meter Reading System: Includes evaluation of upgrading the city automated meter reading (AMR) system program to a cloud-based technology advanced metering infrastructure system to have a wireless AMR system to enable real-time monitoring of water use throughout the system. • WFP HVAC Upgrade Project: Replacement of the current aging HVAC system at the Water Filtration Plant (WFP). • WFP Roof Replacement Project: Once HVAC system is upgraded at the Water Filtration Plant (WFP), new roofs will be installed due to previous roofing being aged and leaking. • WFP Raw Water Line and Influent Channel Upgrades: Proposed redundant raw water line to improve plant resiliency and enable maintenance activities. Also includes modifications to the influent channel to the primary clarifiers, which is connected to the raw water line, to help maintain adequate velocity and reduce solids deposition. • City 2024/2025 Water Meter Replacement Project: Project includes replacement of 4,000 Badger water meters with outdated encoder receiver transmitters that monitor water consumption in the City to meters with radio read capability. <u>Wastewater</u> • WWTP Facilities Improvements: Offices, meeting space, locker rooms, lab and break room space at the Kline's Island WWTP are in need of evaluation, space optimization and upgrades/renovations. Modifications to existing and new buildings are being proposed to allow for better utilization of existing spaces as well as create a multi-use space. • WWTP Final Clarifier 1-4 Rehabilitation: Includes upgrades to four aging final settling tanks to replace existing mechanisms, drive units and electrical main controls center. Other upgrades include modifications to final settling tank #3 for leachate receiving. • WWTP Solids Process Improvements: Includes installation of chemically enhanced primary treatment (CEPT), construction of a sludge holding tank and associated pumps/piping, digester mixing improvements and dewatering capacity improvements to handle the additional BOD and TSS load.	Evaluating/providing system improvements to provide safe, reliable and efficient service supports FutureLV actions to 'improve the utility and mobility infrastructure of the region' and 'integrate efficiency measures and emerging technologies' (of Policy 1.1) and 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2).

Project Review Summary Sheet

Environment Committee

Date: September 2024

Project	Municipality	Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Lehigh County Authority - Preliminary Capital Plan (2025-2029)	ALLENTOWN DIVISION	<u>Wastewater Projects Continued</u> • Park Pump Station Force Main Extension – WWTP Improvements: Consists of the construction of a 20 mgd screening facility for the flow from the Park Pump Station Force Main Extension and installation of two additional effluent pumps to enable plant effluent to be discharged during high water levels in the Lehigh River when gravity discharge is not possible. • Park Pump Station Force Main Extension: As part of the original force main design, a capped 30-inch wye was installed for a future connection, which could be potentially used for the proposed main extension. Extending the force main directly to the Kline's Island WWTP will mitigate a hydraulic bottleneck in the 54-inch line and enable approximately 21 mgd of additional flow to be conveyed directly to Kline's Island WWTP. This extension is required to meet the proposed Kline's Island WWTP wet weather improvements for the Act 537 Plan. • WWTP Wet Weather Improvements Project – Phase 2: Wet weather improvements are required to achieve regulatory compliance during peak wet weather events. Improvements will occur in two phases. The first phase will increase the peak wet weather capabilities from 87 to 100 mgd. The second phase will increase the peak wet weather capabilities from 100 to 132 mgd. 112 mgd of the 132 mgd can be achieved via the proposed main pump/auxiliary pump station improvements underway with the 100 mgd project in Phase 1. The remaining 20 mgd will be achieved via the proposed Park Pump Station Force Main Extension. Some other improvements include construction of one additional aerated grit chamber as well as construction of two supplemental primary settling tanks for use during severe storm events. • KISS Relief Interceptor (KRI): The new 54-inch interceptor, which is needed to convey both dry and wet day flows from all of the Signatories to the Kline's Island Sewer System (KISS) is named the KISS Relief Interceptor. It is designed to handle flows through at least the 2050 and will be capable of conveying all the peak wet weather flow during a 5-year design event from the KISS collection system to the Kline's Island WWTP without overflow.	Evaluating/providing system improvements to provide safe, reliable and efficient service supports FutureLV actions to 'improve the utility and mobility infrastructure of the region' and 'integrate efficiency measures and emerging technologies' (of Policy 1.1) and 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2).

Project Review Summary Sheet

Environment Committee

Date: September 2024

Project	Municipality	Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Lehigh County Authority - Preliminary Capital Plan (2025-2029)	SUBURBAN DIVISION	<u>Water</u> • Suburban Cloud Based AMI Meter Reading System: Includes evaluation of upgrading the Suburban automated meter reading (AMR) system program to a cloud-based technology advanced metering infrastructure system to have a wireless AMR system to enable real-time monitoring of water use throughout the system. • Suburban Water Systems Master Planning and Water Quality Studies: In addition to the previous water supply studies for two major Suburban Water Systems (Central Lehigh and North Whitehall Division) to review supply capacity requirements, engineering work will follow to develop and design water supply projects that enhance the region's water system resiliency and redundancy. This project also includes additional studies such as the continuation of pipeline assessment and comprehensive storage assessment as well as the development of a Master Plan for LCA's numerous small water systems that will include water quality studies to comply with evolving state and federal water quality standards. • Central Lehigh System Supply Improvements: A source water assessment study in June 2024 identified vulnerabilities in emergency supply if the largest water source, Schantz Spring, were to be taken out of service. This project consists of re-establishing the Bortz interconnect with South Whitehall Township and re-establishing the Schantz Spring Secondary Booster Station as two alternatives for additional emergency supply that were identified in the study. • Buss Acres Water Quality Upgrade: Water quality analysis of the two wells serving the Buss Acres Water System show some levels of exceedance of PFAS maximum contaminant levels. This project would include a study to identify PFAS treatment options for the two wells as well as an option to connect Buss Acres to the Central Lehigh Division system. This project will also implement the option selected from that study. • Applewood Pump Station Upgrade: Mechanical upgrades to the Applewood Pump Station include replacing pumps and control valves which have reached the end of their useful service life. Other upgrades include hypochlorite system improvements at several well station sites within the Central Lehigh Division.	Evaluating/providing system improvements to provide safe, reliable and efficient service supports FutureLV actions to 'improve the utility and mobility infrastructure of the region' and 'integrate efficiency measures and emerging technologies' (of Policy 1.1) and 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2). The LVPC will provide comments on the draft LCA Western Lehigh Interceptor Parallel Alignment Act 537 Special Study upon completion, per Act 537 requirements.

Project Review Summary Sheet

Environment Committee

Date: September 2024

Project	Municipality	Statement of Purpose	LVPC Comment
Lehigh County Authority - Preliminary Capital Plan (2025-2029)	SUBURBAN DIVISION	<u>Wastewater</u> • Pretreatment Plant Critical Upgrades: Upgrades to four primary process areas that have equipment that has reached the end of its useful service life. These primary process areas include aeration (air deck mixers and instrumentation), final settling (final clarifier mechanical equipment), cryogenic plant (mechanical equipment) and solids processing (solids buildings HVAC systems). • Pretreatment Plant Upgrade and Replacement: This project assumes only 3 major industries are participating in the pretreatment replacement instead of 5 major industries. In addition, the new plant will also treat hauled-in waste. The new treatment facility will include an anaerobic process, moving bed bioreactor and dissolved air flotation. A combined heat and power unit will also be installed to convert biogas to electricity and heat. A new solids handling facilities is also planned and proposed in this project to handle hauled waste. To convey the wastewater to the plant, a new dedicated pump station and force main for each major industry is planned. Domestic and commercial waste will bypass the new facility and receive treatment at the Kline's Island WWTP. • Western Lehigh Interceptor Parallel Alignment (Special Act 537 Study): Consists of an Act 537 Special Study of the proposed Western Lehigh Interceptor parallel in order to finalize the alignment. • Wynnewood Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion: A feasibility study confirmed that the Wynnewood WWTP has limited reserve capacity and must be expanded to accommodate the build out of the proposed Rising Sun Road development. This project includes design, permitting and construction of the capacity expansion of the existing WWTP along with dedicated conveyance facilities to include a proposed pump station and force main. • Arcadia West WWTP Mechanical Screen: Consists of installation of two automatic mechanical screening units at the head of each sequenced batch reactor tank at the WWTP. This project also includes construction of above-grade platforms and enclosures to support the screening systems and protect against weather.	Evaluating/providing system improvements to provide safe, reliable and efficient service supports FutureLV actions to 'improve the utility and mobility infrastructure of the region' and 'integrate efficiency measures and emerging technologies' (of Policy 1.1) and 'protect the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater' (of Policy 3.2). The LVPC will provide comments on the draft LCA Western Lehigh Interceptor Parallel Alignment Act 537 Special Study upon completion, per Act 537 requirements.



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NEWS

By 2050, the Lehigh Valley will be 5.9 degrees hotter, study says in suggesting action

Updated: Sep. 25, 2024, 10:05 a.m. | Published: Sep. 24, 2024, 4:59 p.m.



Warehouse complexes are seen in March 2020 in the Breinigsville section of Upper Macungie Township. Industrial uses like warehousing and manufacturing, along with transportation, account for 64% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the Greater Lehigh Valley, according to an inventory released Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. Saed Hindash File Photo | For lehighvalleylive.com



By **Kurt Bresswein** | **For lehighvalleylive.com**

A [Lehigh Valley Planning Commission](#) study released Tuesday identifies how many millions of tons of greenhouse gas the region generates and where it's coming from.

Building off regional climate action planning over the past decade or more, it's part of a multi-year effort to inventory these emissions that are driving climate change and to develop strategies for a carbon-neutral future across the region.

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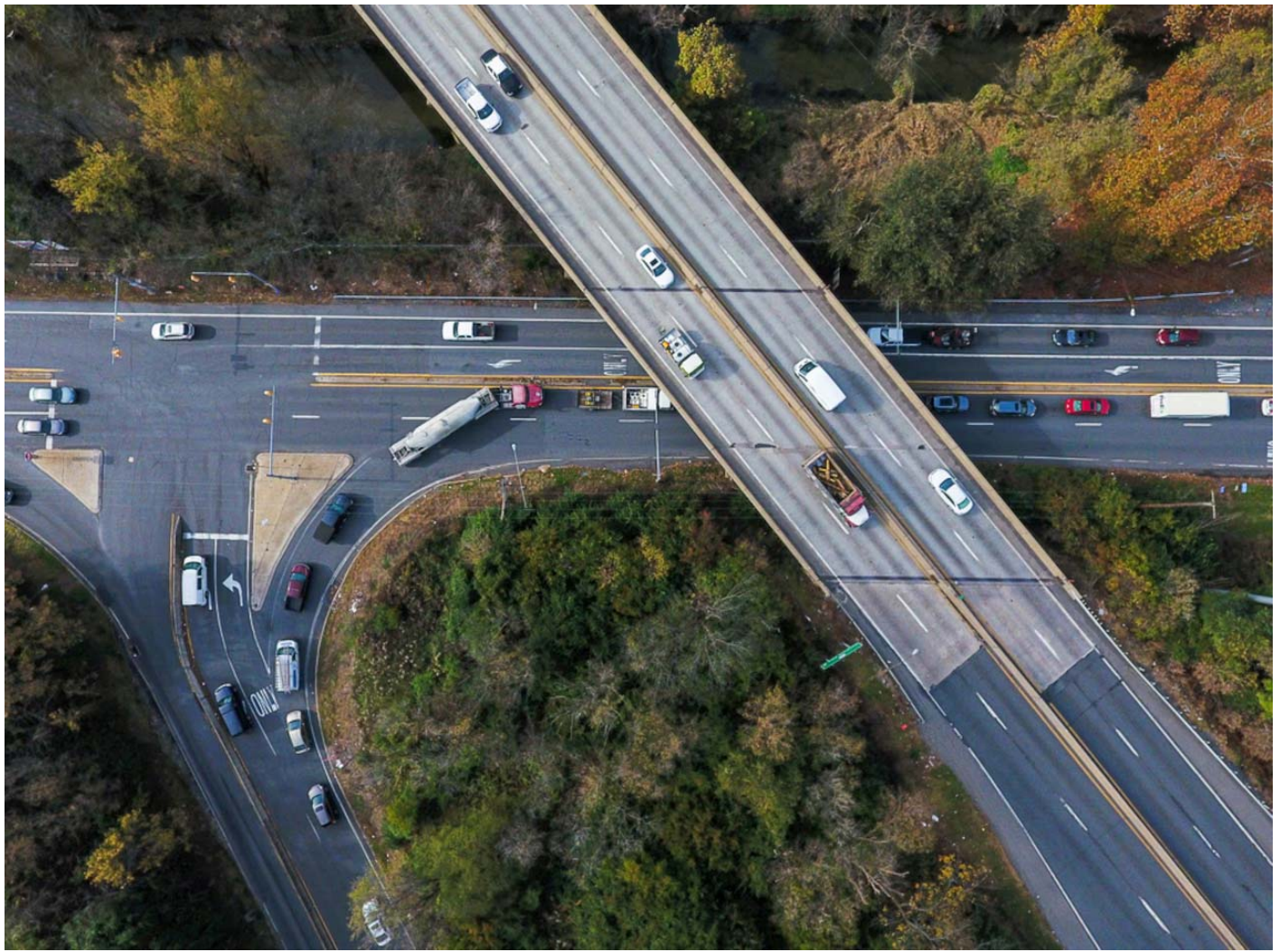
The Lehigh Valley is not alone in the fight. Over 75 of the United States' largest metropolitan areas and 45 state governments are participating in the effort through the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant](#) program, officials said in unveiling the 2024 Greater Lehigh Valley Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

"That means that over 90% of the nation's population is also working on reducing emissions; ensuring safe, healthy and equitable communities; and conserving natural resources," Christian Martinez said during a news conference to roll out the inventory that he authored as the commission's environmental planner.

The planning commission received \$1 million for the work from the federal 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. That money led to the March release of a Priority Climate Action Plan that focuses on transportation-related carbon emissions, along with the greenhouse gas report released this week, a comprehensive climate action plan due to be completed in summer 2025 and implementation of the gas-reduction strategies.

Based on a state assessment, the report projects an increase in Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley temperatures of 5.9 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050. That is projected to translate into 37 days per year of 90 degrees or hotter, and 12 days reaching 95 degrees — up from at least 15 days of 90-degrees-or-hotter days over eight of the last summers since 2010. Heat events and associated extreme rainfall are projected to impact everything from health to agriculture, infrastructure design, recreation, the environment and the economy, according to the report.

"Climate change presents a global threat to the health of our planet, but its impacts are felt locally in the form of higher temperatures, extreme weather, flooding, property damage and health risks to our most vulnerable residents," Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Becky Bradley said in introducing the greenhouse gas inventory, during a news conference at the agency's 615 Waterfront Drive headquarters in Allentown.



The intersection of Route 22 at Route 191 (Nazareth Pike) and Highfield Drive in the bottom left in Bethlehem Township is seen in November 2021. Industry and transportation account for 64% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the Greater Lehigh Valley, according to an inventory released Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. Saed Hindash File Photo | For lehighvalleylive.com

The emission estimates and projections in the report are based on activities within the entire Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that covers Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania and Warren County, New Jersey, with 2022 serving as the baseline year.

Among the findings are:

- This Greater Lehigh Valley region emits 12.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- That amounts to 14.7 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emitted by each of these counties' 863,000 people.
- Industry, like warehousing and manufacturing, emits the most greenhouse gases at 4.09 million metric tons of carbon dioxide

equivalent per year, followed by the transportation sector, which emits 4.08 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year.

- Together, these industry and transportation sectors account for 64% of all emissions in the Greater Lehigh Valley.
- By 2050, if steps aren't taken to make changes in the way we live our daily lives, the four-county region's emissions will grow by 9.3%, to nearly 13.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year.

"Understanding where our emissions are coming from will help us develop a data-supported plan that serves as a strategic guide for reducing emissions in the region," the planning commission's Martinez said after reviewing the study's statistics and methodology.



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Environmental Planner Christian Martinez discusses Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, a regional greenhouse gas inventory at the agency's 615 Waterfront Drive headquarters in Allentown. Kurt Bresswein | For lehighvalleylive.com

Bradley, the planning commission director, said citizens interested in getting involved in the push for reducing greenhouse gas emissions can look for workshops being scheduled as early as this fall, ahead of the comprehensive climate action plan's release by summer

2025.

The planning effort gives the region access to \$4.6 billion in grants funded by the federal Inflation Reduction Act to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change, according to the planning commission.

Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong during Tuesday's rollout of the report acknowledged skeptics who say temperatures have always risen and fallen throughout Earth's history and that burning fossil fuels hasn't had the impact that some fear. He disagrees, and the report says inaction in the Lehigh Valley is not an option for protecting the planet and future generations.

"The key here, the secret, is that the solutions that are suggested by climate action are also the things that you want in your community," Bethlehem Mayor J. William Reynolds said at Tuesday's news conference. "You want walkable communities, you want bike-able communities, you want reduced cars. You want mixed-use neighborhoods where you have businesses and you have the residences. You want all those things, you don't want pollution. You want parks, you want green spaces — all of those things."



Solar panels unveiled Sept. 27, 2022, cover 1 million square feet of the Uniqlo distribution center in Phillipsburg, part of the Bridge Point 78 warehouse complex along Route 22 on the border with Lopatcong Township. Saed Hindash File Photo | For lehighvalleylive.com

Among the work that the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's greenhouse gas-reduction efforts builds on are the 2006 agreement by the Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton mayors to cut their municipal government carbon emissions by 30% in five years, as well as the cities' own [climate action plans like Bethlehem's](#) that was started in 2017 and rolled out in 2021.

"What this does is, this gives regional value — partly because it defines our future as being tied to each other," Reynolds said. "You take a look at things like (Route) 22 or (Interstate) 78 or our waterways or even some of our parks, those things don't stop — and certainly our air — they don't stop at municipal boundaries."



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Executive Director Becky Bradley pauses during a moment of levity in the rollout Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, of a regional greenhouse gas inventory at the agency's 615 Waterfront Drive headquarters, along the Lehigh River in Allentown. Kurt Bresswein | For lehighvalleylive.com

Visit lvpc.org/climate-action to view the complete 70-page greenhouse gas inventory, as well as the Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan released in March that sets a priority to reduce transportation-related carbon emissions by 300,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030.

LOCAL NEWS

How much is the Lehigh Valley contributing to climate change? New report reveals numbers



A Lehigh Valley Planning Commission booklet with the Greater Lehigh Valley Greenhouse Gas Inventory is seen Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, during a news conference in Allentown. The data, detailing how much greenhouse gas is being emitted and where it is coming from, will be instrumental in developing the Lehigh Valley's first regionwide Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. (April Gamiz/The Morning Call)



By **EVAN JONES** | ejones@mcall.com | The Morning Call

UPDATED: September 24, 2024 at 6:22 p.m.

The Lehigh Valley's growth is expected to continue for several years. Those tasked with managing that growth want to make sure the region's contributions to climate change don't grow alongside it.

On Tuesday, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission unveiled the Greater Lehigh Valley Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Besides the region's core counties — Lehigh and Northampton — it also includes data for the entire Metropolitan Statistical Area, adding Carbon County and Warren County, New Jersey.

"There's going to be a lot of conversation about what to do," Bethlehem Mayor J. William Reynolds said at a news conference at LVPC headquarters in Allentown. "How do we reduce this and things like that? The most important thing for us is defining the problem, so we have a baseline to be able to prove because we can't just rely on individual experience when we're making these decisions. You have to take a look at what the data is."

Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong said it's important for the entire Valley to unite for such a plan and help make the region livable for future generations.

"I want this better for my grandchildren," Armstrong said. "I want this to be better for your children. I want this better for the people who want to come here. And that's why we've been put in these positions, we've been elected to

By the numbers, the Greater Lehigh Valley region emits 12.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent — that's 14.7 metric tons for each of the 863,000 people in the four-county region.



[Read More](#)

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The biggest contributor to that number is the industrial sector, which emits 4.09 million tons per year. Emissions come from electricity and natural gas consumption along with various industrial processes that include cement production, iron and steel forging, and food and beverage processing.

Transportation activities emit the second-highest amount at 4.08 metric tons. Not surprisingly, the Lehigh Valley's becoming a logistics hub with hundreds of tractor-trailers on the roads each day is a heavy contributor, as are car-centric commuter habits for many residents.

The increase in population is expected to keep transportation emissions as a main contributor to greenhouse gases, despite the adoption of fuel-efficient and electric vehicles.

Overall, industry and transportation combine for 64.3% of all emissions in the Valley.

Other sectors include:

- commercial energy, which includes offices, retail businesses, schools and hospitals, 2.6 million metric tons, or 21.1%
- residential, 1.5 million, or 12%

If no changes are made to reduce emissions, they are projected to increase to 13.9 metric tons by 2050.

The average temperature in the Valley could increase by as much as 5.9 degrees, according to the Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment of 2021. The Valley now averages about 15 days a year where the temperature exceeds 90 degrees. By 2050, that number is projected to increase to 37.

“This forecast shows that inaction is not an option to avoid significant climatic warming,” said Christian Martinez, LVPC environmental planner. “To avoid the worst effects from climate change, we will need to significantly reduce our emissions by 2050.”

Martinez said a comprehensive climate plan is in the works.

“It is our duty to work toward a safer, healthier and more equitable region for current and future generations,” he said.

Morning Call reporter Evan Jones can be reached at ejones@mcalls.com.

Originally Published: September 24, 2024 at 5:42 p.m.

Around the Web

REVCONTENT

Stop Doing Stretches for Sciatica! Fix the Root Cause Instead

LA Fit

'A problem that can be solved': Lehigh Valley officials release regional greenhouse gas inventory

LehighValleyNews.com | By [Molly Bilinski](#)

Published September 24, 2024 at 5:55 PM EDT



Molly Bilinski / LehighValleyNews.Com

Becky Bradley, executive director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, as well as other regional officials on Tuesday released the latest Greater Lehigh Valley Greenhouse Gas Inventory.



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ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Climate change is a global threat, but its impacts are felt right here in the Lehigh Valley — from higher temperatures and extreme weather to flooding, property damage and more.

WLVR
Here & Now

“Our region now, including our neighboring counties, is over 860,000 people, so we're getting pretty close to a million,” said Becky Bradley, executive director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. “... We're a successful region, as everyone knows, and that's great for growing a family, growing a business — as a result, thousands of more people and businesses are coming here every year. All of them contribute to emissions.

“But that growth comes from being an attractive region, and it doesn't have to mean more emissions.”

Bradley, alongside other officials, on Tuesday released the latest [Greater Lehigh Valley Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#). An estimate of all the carbon emissions being released across the region, the report also details which sectors — like transportation, residential, commercial and industrial — are contributing the most.

The findings will form the foundation for the commission's next project, a regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, set to be released next summer.

“Then the next step — get off of our backsides and do something about it. It’s a problem that can be solved.”

Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong

“A lot of work went into this, and why?” Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong said. “Well, because if we don't get together, we all live here together, and then that gives the burden to all of us to get together, to work together, to make sure we know the problem, where is the problem.”

“Then the next step — get off of our backsides and do something about it. It’s a problem that can be solved.”

Decarbonizing the Lehigh Valley

While the LVPC and other organizations have been leading regional efforts to mitigate

WLVN
Here & Now

seen an acceleration as more federal funding has become available.

In early 2023, commission officials announced they had received [a \\$1 million infusion of federal funds](#) after officials opted into the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, part of the federal Inflation Reduction Act.

The funding came a little over a month after LVPC published its last [greenhouse gas assessment](#). The study showed the Valley's 2019 emissions made up just shy of 4% of the Commonwealth's total gross greenhouse gas emissions.

About 35% of the Valley's total emissions were attributed to industrial electricity and natural gas, while about 27% was from transportation and mobile sources, according to the study.

With the federal funding, the LVPC was tasked with creating a Priority Climate Action Plan, or PCAP, focused on transportation decarbonization, as well as a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, or CCAP. The former was due earlier this year, while the latter is expected to be adopted in August.

[The PCAP](#) encompasses the entire Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Lehigh, Northampton and Carbon counties in Pennsylvania, as well as New Jersey's Warren County.

There are six priority measures outlined in the more than 100-page plan "specifically tailored for transportation decarbonization." Only those included in the PCAP could be eligible for implementation grants.

They include:

- Implementing priority bicycle commuting corridors and catalytic projects, and priority sidewalk gaps as proposed in Walk/RollLV.
- Increasing transit ridership above current levels in the Lehigh Valley
- Increasing development of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) of all types in the region from 2022 baseline figures.
- Increasing the number and geographic distribution of alternative fueling stations in the region.
- Reimagining and retrofitting major transportation corridors, including Route 22, Route

Pennsylvania Turnpike) to include additional green spaces, enhanced native and noninvasive landscaping and tree canopy and nature-based stormwater management practices.

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

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Each measure includes targets, estimates for greenhouse gas reduction, as well as a description of low income and disadvantaged communities would benefit.

At least 40% of the benefits from grant funding must occur in low-income and disadvantaged communities as defined in the White House's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

The Valley's three major cities — Allentown, Easton and Bethlehem — are all considered "disadvantaged," [according to the screening tool](#), described as "overburdened and underserved."

Unfortunately, the plan was not accepted by the EPA, and the region was shut out from an IRA pool of \$4.6 billion in implementation funding.

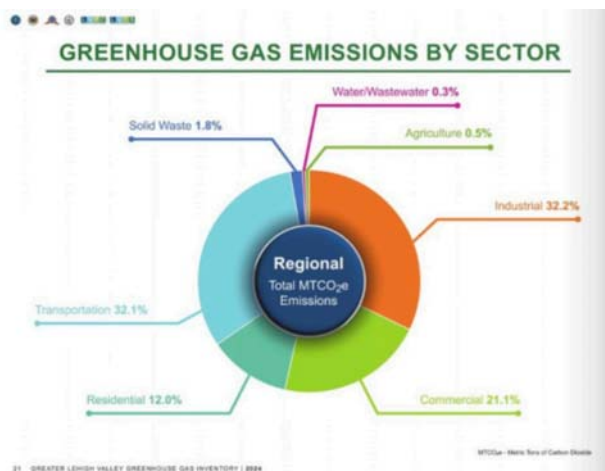
Asked about the grants Tuesday afternoon, Bradley said "a lot of the stuff that we were doing advocacy-wise ended up happening. We didn't necessarily get a direct grant, but we may be eligible for some statewide funds. They're working all of that through right now."

Overall, the report shows the region emits 12.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, or MTCO₂e, working out to about 14.7 MTCO₂e per resident.

The regional total is a sharp increase from the last assessment, which reported the total annual emissions at 9.86 million MTCO₂e. However, individual emissions remained the same.

There's a few reasons why, said Christian Martinez, an environmental planner with the commission. First, the new assessment includes the entire Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area, while the previous report only focused on Lehigh and Northampton counties.

"While Lehigh and Northampton definitely have a higher population and higher emissions, it's still a significant number of people that are contributing to emissions from these other two counties that we're including now, so that can definitely be a significant reason for why the emissions are higher," Martinez said. "The base years were also different. So, with our previous greenhouse gas inventory that was around 2019 data, while this greenhouse gas inventory is 2022 data, so the rebound from COVID, that may play a part as well."



Screenshot / Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

The industrial and transportation sectors are responsible for the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report, at 32.3% and 32.1%, respectively.

The industrial and transportation sectors are responsible for the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the report, at 32.3% and 32.1%, respectively.

"The results of the regional inventory indicate that an effective plan to reduce

industrial electricity and gas, transportation fuel uses and vehicle miles traveled,” according to the report, which includes details on the PCAP, which targets the transportation sector.

“However, all other sources of emissions will need to be considered to reduce the effects of climate change.”

Increases to population and traffic — problems many residents complain about — have solutions in sustainability, said Bethlehem Mayor J. William Reynolds.

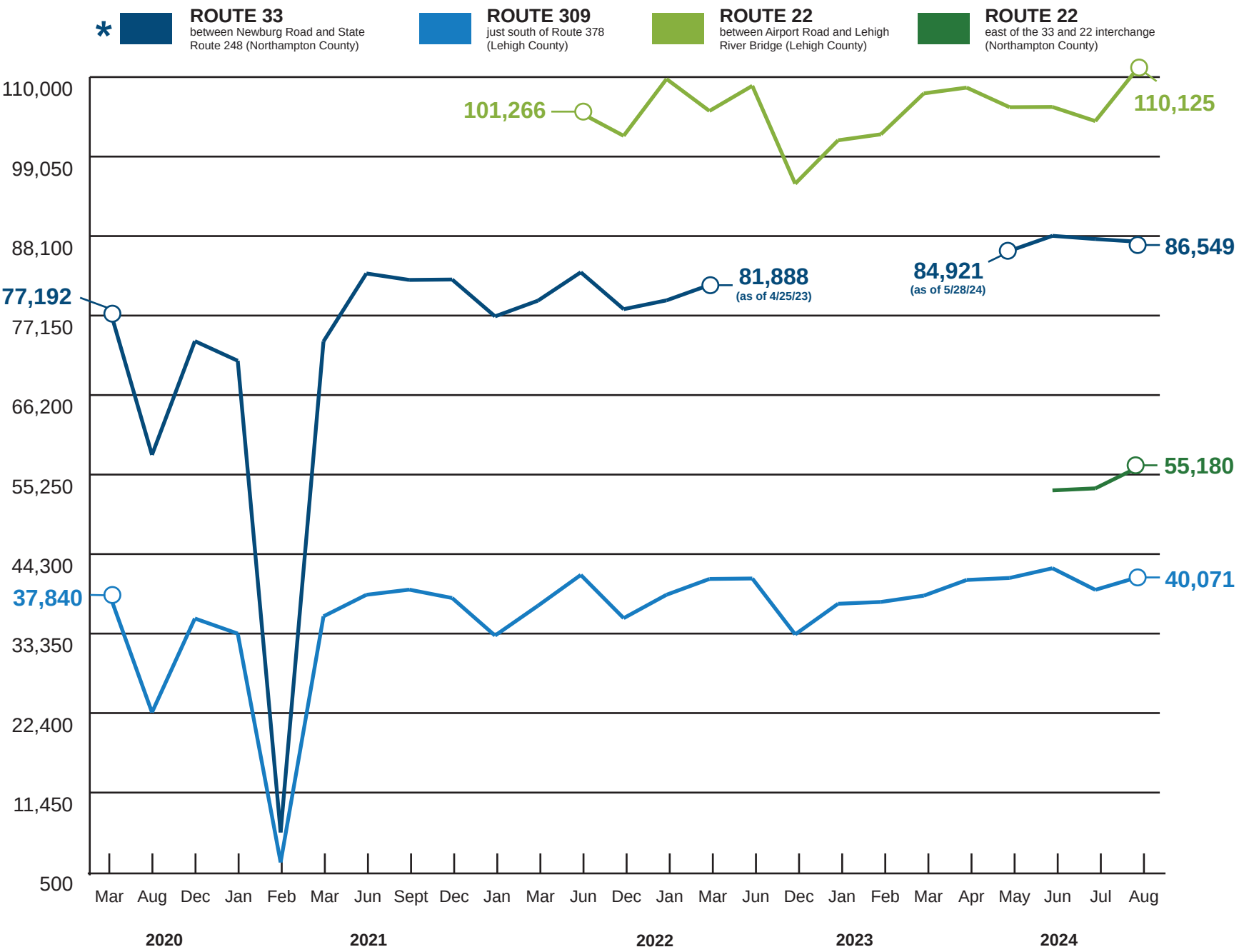
“America made a lot of planning mistakes in the 20th century, a lot of them, and we have been slowly unwinding them over the past several decades,” Reynolds said. “To be able to create cities, to be able to create municipalities, to be able to create regions by which we're using the public space as a way to move people around, to bring people together, and not to do things like divide communities, not to be able to do things like create inequities.”

If nothing is done to reduce emissions, officials estimate they could grow to nearly 13.9 million MTCO₂e by 2025 — an increase of 9.3%.

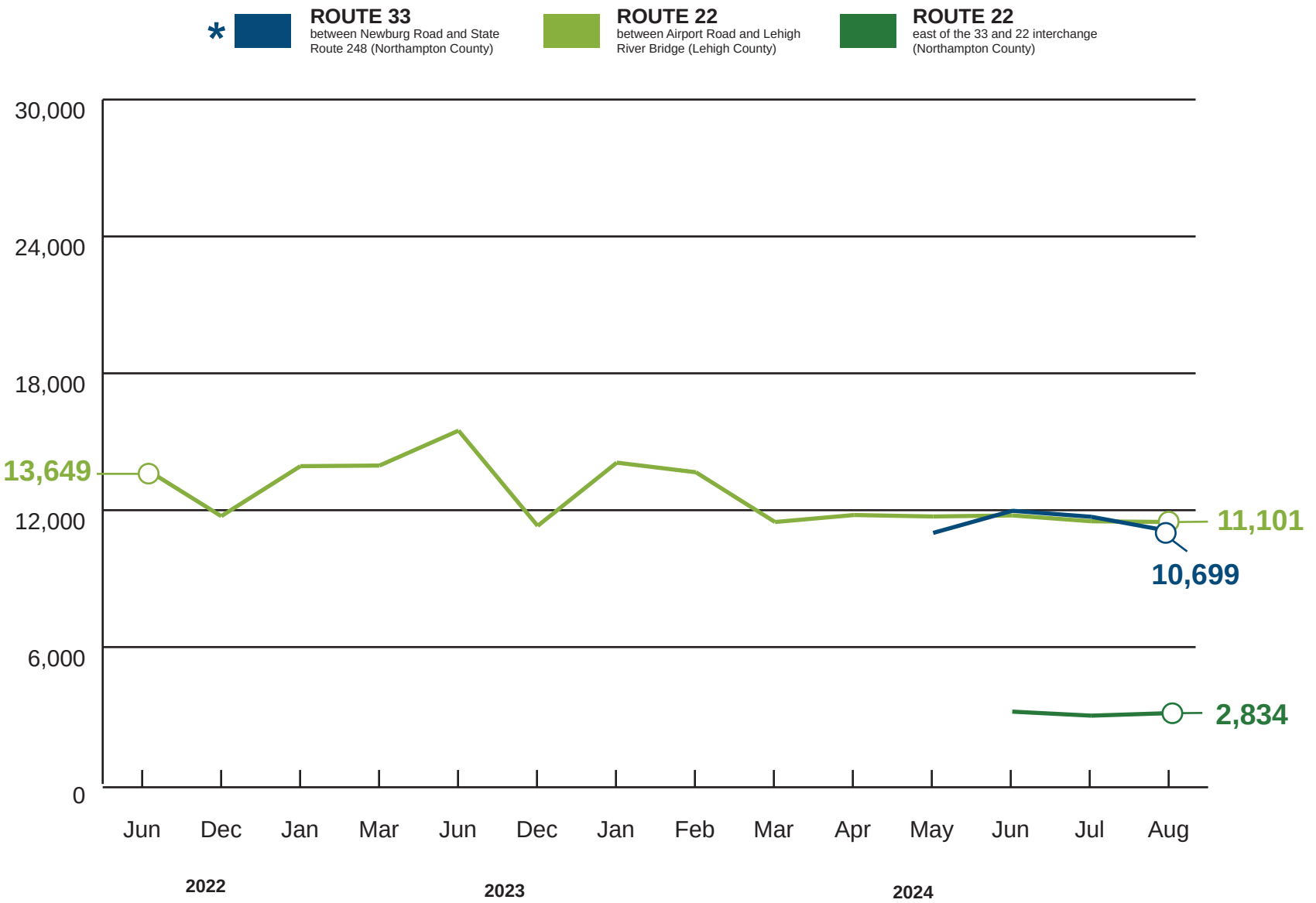
The greenhouse gas inventory acts as a start to the CCAP, Bradley said, and officials want input from residents.

“We're going to be scheduling some workshops with the community,” Bradley said. “And we have a philosophy of building a bigger table. So, if you want to be part of the conversation, you have a seat, and we will bring a chair up for you to sit and be part of that.”

TOTAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC

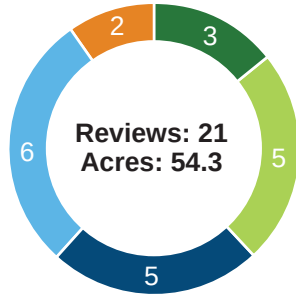


TOTAL TRUCK TRAFFIC

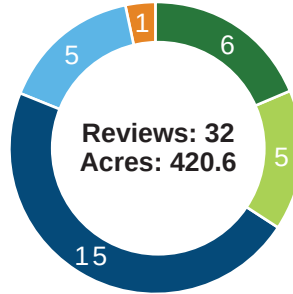


Plan Activity

Lehigh County



Northampton County



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

Regional Totals*

20
 Subdivision/Lot Line
 Adjustments

19
 Development

11
 Stormwater Management

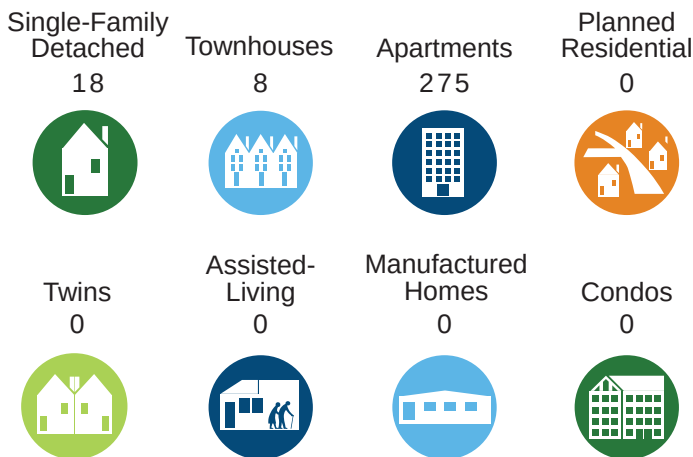
3
 Municipal Ordinances,
 Maps and Plans

474.9
 Acres

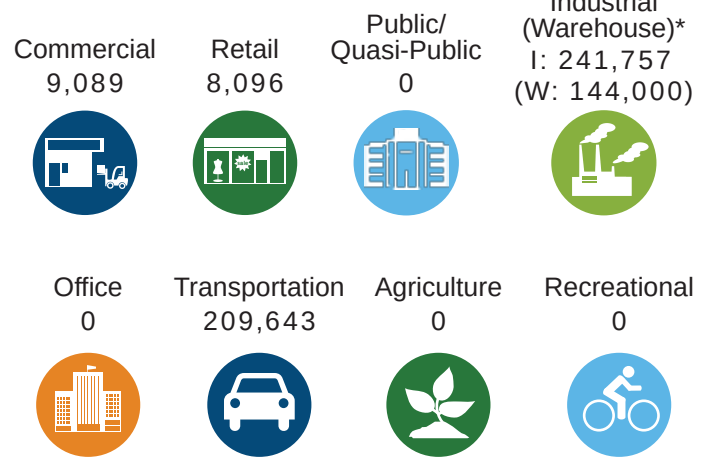
*Includes preliminary and final plans

Types of New Development

Residential: 301 Total Units

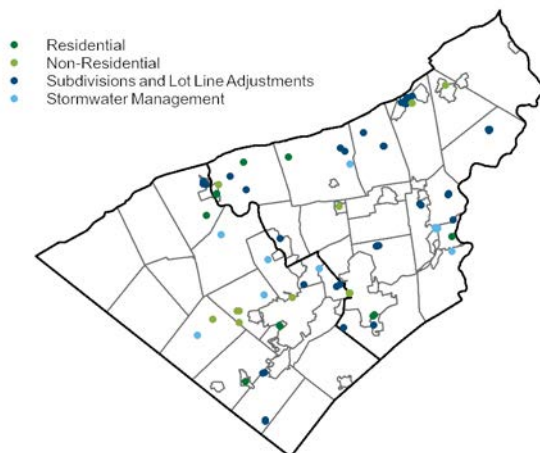


Non-Residential: 468,585 Total Square Feet

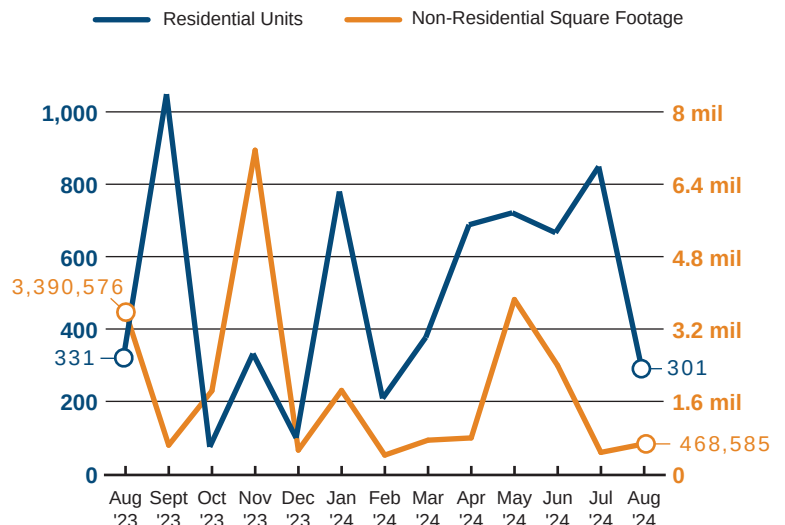


* Warehouse number is a subset of industrial total square footage.

Location of Development



Year to Date (Year to Year)



THE MORNING CALL

Talking Business with Becky Bradley: New stormwater plan will help Lehigh Valley manage growth



Water flows into a storm drain Monday, June 21, 2018, on Martin Luther King Drive in Allentown. (Rich Schultz/The Morning Call)



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

PUBLISHED: September 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Life is full of seemingly boring, trivial things that if you think about them, you'd realize they're actually profoundly important. Like preparing your business' balance sheet. Tedious, but neglect it and you might end up bankrupt. Getting the oil changed. Mundane, but don't do it and your car becomes a driveway ornament.

Stormwater is sort of like that. It's that trickle of water running along the curb and into the storm sewers, but don't manage it well when there's a heavy rain and you get polluted streams, flooding, landslides, property damage and sometimes death — literal disaster.

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission recently embarked on a two-year process of updating the Lehigh Valley's Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for the 15 watersheds serving the area and its nearly 700,000 residents. Rather than the 15 separate management plans we have now, we'll have a single, global plan. Five decades ago, at the advent of the Clean Water Act of 1972, followed by Pennsylvania's Stormwater Management Act of 1978, society generally treated stormwater runoff as a nuisance that should be shuttled away where it couldn't cause damage. Now we know it can be a resource usable for drinking water, irrigation and recharging underground aquifers. That means we have a golden opportunity to update these watershed management plans — most of which were last updated in the 1990s — to evolve with our changing development patterns.

In today's world of more extreme weather and rapid development, it's an incredibly complex undertaking — much more like balancing the finances of a Fortune 100 company than changing out the 40 weight in your Ford. Over the past month, we've been meeting with municipal, public and private stormwater stakeholders from across the region. We need a raft of data from all 62 of our municipalities, including land use changes, soil data, zoning changes or anything else that could impact the rate at which water flows after a storm.

In places where there's little or no development, a storm happens, and the rain or snow filters through the natural system and finds its way into the ground or to the stream or river network. But where there's development, impervious surfaces prevent the water from filtering through that system. Over the past three decades since most of these plans were updated, we've seen a lot of development, that includes nearly 50,000 new homes and more than 100 million square feet of non-residential development. While stormwater in new development is now required to be managed onsite, many legacy issues from combined municipal stormwater and sewer infrastructure to older sites being regraded affect proper management.

In addition, poor and outdated systems cost taxpayers millions of dollars, to fix problem areas. How communities, businesses and developers manage where stormwater runs is the difference between a two-inch rainfall being a water-in-the-basement minor nuisance or a major flood that closes roads, damages property or worse. It can also send pollution into our streams and rivers.

Systems to manage stormwater runoff include both gray and green infrastructure such as storm sewers, retention ponds, detention basins and underground tanks, and these are always going to be key ingredients. But today we know we can design systems that mimic the natural water cycle, capturing and managing rain where it falls using

vegetative components. These systems, known as green stormwater infrastructure or GSI include rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs and riparian buffers. As part of our update, we now have a chance to shine a greater focus on them. Think vegetation instead of pipes, bioswales instead of drainage ditches, green instead of gray. It's also cheaper to install and maintain. Green infrastructure supports better air quality, greater biodiversity and reinforces our quality of life.

Liesel Gross, chief executive officer of the Lehigh County Authority, knows better than most why all this matters. The water and sewer authority serving 270,000 people in 15 municipalities has embarked on a 10-year, \$600 million plan to preserve capacity and upgrade its aging network. The upgrades include 1,000 miles of underground pipes. Its treatment capacity is 87 million gallons a day — plenty to serve its customers — but during heavy storms it can be inundated with up to 160 million gallons in a day. All that overflow, including raw sewerage, goes rushing into the river untreated.

“What happens with our rainwater and stormwater directly impacts our drinking water,” Gross said. “Rainwater entering the sanitary sewer system is a big issue. This is incredibly important.”

It's important enough that 98 municipalities across Pennsylvania — including all three Lehigh Valley cities, Bethlehem Township, Fountain Hill and Palmer Township — adopted stormwater management fees to collect money from residents, businesses and institutions, based on the amount of runoff they generate from their buildings and parking lots. Revenue generated from these fees are typically used to supplement stormwater management related costs. New communities adopt fee programs every year, and in most every case it's controversial. I get it. People with stretched budgets don't need another fee. But this is one of those hidden issues that impacts our everyday life, and if neglected, could leave a community feeling like that company headed for bankruptcy.

In the coming months we'll be holding public meetings to collect data, determine community trouble spots and develop the best plan for the future. I invite everyone to participate. I promise, it won't be boring. In fact, you may learn things about your community that you didn't realize are incredibly important. Next time you grab a glass of water remember, it's drinkable because of integrated water resource management, which includes stormwater.

Becky Bradley is executive director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 26, 2024
TO: Commission members
FROM: Matt Assad
CC:
REGARDING: Plan Lehigh Valley Radio Show on WDIY 88.1FM

Our most recent show on National Public Radio WDIY detailed the update the stormwater management plans for all 15 Lehigh Valley watersheds into a single, global stormwater management plan that will better protect the region from flooding, but also help prevent the pollution of our rivers and streams.

The Commission recently embarked on a two-year process of updating the Lehigh Valley's Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for the watersheds serving the area and its nearly 700,000 residents. Rather than the 15 separate management plans we have now, we'll have a single, global plan.

The guest for the show was our very own LVPC Director of Environmental Planning, Susan Myerov. Few people in the state know more about stormwater management than Susan, who before coming to the LVPC, spent 10 years as executive director of Pennsylvania Environmental Council. That show is now streaming at LVPC.org and WDIY.org. The next show will air at 6:30 pm, Monday Oct. 6, and will focus on the 70th anniversary of Route 22.



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
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BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 26, 2024
TO: Commission members
FROM: Matt Assad
CC:
REGARDING: Reconnecting Communities Grant Program

I wanted to give one last reminder for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. The US Department of Transportation created this pilot program to advance community-centered transportation connection projects that help people get better access to daily needs such as work, education, healthcare, food, nature and recreation. It targets disadvantaged communities and is offering more than \$600 million over the next three years for planning, technical assistance and even construction. This is a new program, and it offers grants in the millions. The deadline for this round of funding is September 30, so you will have to hurry, but it is a three-year program, so there will certainly new funding rounds in the coming months. More information is available at transportation.gov/reconnecting