

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transportation Programming for the Counties of: Carbon ✧ Monroe ✧ Pike ✧ Schuylkill

August 19, 2025, Technical Planning Committee Business Meeting Summary and Minutes

Attendees:

Marie Bishop
Colleen Connolly
Steve Fisher*
Brian Funkhouser
Doyle Heffley*
AJ Jordan*
Robert Manzella
Gary Martinaitis*
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*
Mike Mrozinski*
Larry Peterson*
John Petrini
Jeff Rai
Nick Raio*

Organization:

PennDOT District 4
Luzerne Co. Planning
PennDOT District 4
Michael Baker Intl.
PA House of Rep.
LANTA
Luzerne Co. Planning
STS
Monroe Co. Planning
Pike Co. Planning
PennDOT District 5
PennDOT District 4
PennDOT District 5
PennDOT Central

Attendees:

Daniel Reese
Rich Schlameuss*
Susan Smith*
Brian Snyder*
Jared Soto
Nate Staruch
Steve Thomas

Nettie Ginocchetti
Kate McMahan
Sean Papke
Jonathan Shaw
Daniel Yelito

Organization:

Luzerne Co. Planning
MCTA
Schuylkill Co. Planning
Pike Co. Planning
Carbon Co. Chamber
Monroe Co. Planning
Michael Baker Intl.

NEPA Alliance
NEPA Alliance
NEPA Alliance
NEPA Alliance
NEPA Alliance

*Technical Committee members who voted at this meeting

Summary of Actions Taken by the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee:

During this meeting, the MPO Technical Committee voted on the following actions:

Action 1: Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2025, Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Snyder, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mrozinski called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

1) Business Items

- a) Approval of Minutes from the June 17, 2025, Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting
Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2025, Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Snyder, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a) District 5-0 2025-2028 TIP Administrative Actions
Information was included in the meeting packet which highlighted administrative actions on the 2025 TIP for District 5. Mr. Peterson presented the actions for District 5.

Action 1 – SR 1021 over RBM&N Railroad – Increase to cover railroad flagger. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 2 – 443 over Mill Creek – Increase to cover current estimate. The sources are 209 Business over Kettle Creek, Kunkletown over Princess Run, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Line Item.

Action 3 – Kunkletown Road over Princess Run – Funds released due to project completed. The NEPA Highway and Bridge Item was used as a balancing source.

Action 4 – PA 191 Brodhead Creek Bridge – Increase to match negotiated agreement plus internal costs. The sources are 209 & 33 NB over Appenzell Creek and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 5 – Raven Run Road over Shenandoah Creek – Release funds to match 971 damage claim estimates. The NEPA Highway and Bridge Item was used as a balancing source.

Action 6 – Mount Pocono Borough Pipe – Increase to cover AUC. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 7 – US 209 over NRR – Increase for additional inspection costs due to accelerated work schedule. The source is SR 715/611 Intersection.

Action 8 – PA 611 Retaining Wall Improvements – Increase funds to match negotiated agreement plus internal cost. The sources are SR 611 Emergency Rock Slope Mitigation, PA 611 Retaining Wall Repairs, and The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 9 – Red Rock Road over Paradise Creek – Increase funds to match negotiated agreement – The sources are Shiffer Road over PA 33, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 10 – 209 Schafer School House – Increase to cover inspection services throughout the remaining duration of construction. The source is the NEPA High Friction Surface Line Item.

3) Transportation Planning & Programs

a) Current Project Status Update – Major/Interstate Projects

Mr. Peterson provided an update on Major/Interstate projects in District 5.

b) 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. McMahon stated that development of the 2027-2030 TIP is beginning. PennDOT has released updated Financial Guidance and General and Procedural Guidance which help guide the TIP development process. NEPA staff participated in the workgroups for the development of each guidance documents. NEPA staff has prepared a development timeline for the MPO's TIP development. Ms. McMahon went through the key milestones during the TIP development. PennDOT districts are currently working on determining which projects will carryover to the new TIP. Meetings between the MPO and Districts will be scheduled in September or October. PennDOT Central Office is encouraging MPOs to develop a community and demographic analysis during TIP development. Ms. McMahon stated that the MPO also plans to hold TIP development meetings with transit providers and Bureau of Public Transit. Mr. Jordan asked if committee members should speak with the MPO before the TIP public comment period. Ms. McMahon stated that they would reach out to transit providers before the comment period. NEPA's allocation for 2027 is \$49 million according to the financial guidance. Mr. Raio stated that regional allocations may be subject to change because the current federal authorization expires at the end of FFY 2026. Ms. McMahon stated that the most recent reauthorization in IJA increased funding and helped add projects to the TIP. Central Office is anticipating that funding will remain level.

c) SR 4001 Section 405 Alternatives Study

Mr. Funkhouser provided an update on the current status of the SR 2001 Section 405 Alternatives Study. Michael Baker has segmented the corridor into groupings for a variety of potential future projects and developed cost estimates. Michael Baker has developed the draft report. It has been reviewed by the study management team, District 4, and District 5. A meeting was held with District 5 on June 23rd to review options for diverting truck traffic from SR 2001. A meeting was held with District 4 on July 17th to review the draft report with district leadership and gather comments. A second meeting with District 4 is scheduled for August 25th. A final draft report will be presented to the Technical Committee at a future meeting. The study organizes SR 2001 into priority segments and also accounts for future inflation since the projects will take several years to move to construction, subject to available funding. Cost estimates for the project range from \$55-\$65 million in today's dollars.

d) Route 611 Corridor Study

Ms. McMahon stated that a notice to proceed for the Route 611 Corridor Study has been approved to add \$200,000 in supplemental planning funds to the current work program, with a \$50,000 local match that will be provided by the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. A management team to guide the study has been developed and includes representatives from Pocono Township, Stroud Township, Monroe County and District 5. A kickoff meeting of the management team is scheduled for August 26th.

e) Eastern PA Freight Infrastructure Plan

Ms. McMahon stated that the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance – NEPA MPO, Lehigh Valley MPO, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO, Reading MPO and Lebanon MPO have now all approved the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Infrastructure Plan. The EPFA has recently launched a website for the plan and mapping- <https://epennfa.org/>. A Memorandum of Understanding outlining the role and actions of the EPFA has been drafted and was approved by the NEPA MPO on June 17, 2025. So far, NEPA MPO, Lehigh Valley MPO and Reading MPO have adopted the MOU. Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO and Lebanon MPO plan to adopt the MPO at their next MPO meetings.

f) Active Transportation Plan

Ms. McMahon stated that the Active Transportation Plan was adopted by the Policy Board on June 17, 2025. A meeting of the Active Transportation Task Force will be scheduled in October to discuss implementation of the plan recommendations. One of the recommendations of the plan is to have a dedicated page on the NEPA website for Active Transportation. NEPA staff have developed an Active Transportation web page which can be found here- <https://www.nepa-alliance.org/active-transportation/>. The web page contains a copy of the Active Transportation Plan, a story map of the plan development and resources for municipalities interested in active transportation planning and implementation.

Ms. Smith asked if the MPO could reach out to municipalities to broadcast the availability of the webpage. Ms. McMahon stated that they could do outreach to municipalities.

g) Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan

Ms. McMahon stated that the Coordinated Public Transit Plan was adopted by the Policy Board on June 17, 2025. The MPO has asked Michael Baker to assist with plan implementation since they have technical expertise which will help determine which recommendations should be considered first. A draft scope of work will be voted on at the next MPO meeting.

Mr. Heffley stated that the current system is not working for customers. Other options for sharing funding with Uber and Lyft should be considered as alternative options. Ms. McMahon stated that as the MPO meets with transit providers, these alternatives can be considered as possible pilot programs. The transit subcommittee can also discuss alternatives. Mr. Schlameuss stated that MCTA is piloting a microtransit program that operates in a similar way to Uber and Lyft. Uber and Lyft face several challenges operating in rural areas, and that trips through there may be exorbitant. Mr. Heffley stated that starting the conversation is important, and that the transit model being used ten years from now will not be the same as the current model. Mr. Jordan stated that Uber and Lyft rides are subsidized by the driver and private equity.

h) Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Update

Ms. McMahon stated that the LTAP program year wrapped up at the end of June. NEPA staff have developed a dashboard of the 2024-2025 LTAP program which can be accessed [here](#). Mr. Papke presented statistics from the 24-25 LTAP program year on the dashboard. Mr. Yelito stated that LTAP will be offering a new Equipment Safety Class, and that any interested municipalities can reach out to him to schedule a class.

4) Other Business

a) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Application

Ms. McMahon stated that PennDOT is accepting preapplications for the TASA program until September 5th. Project sponsors will meet with the PennDOT district and Planning Partner to review the application to make sure that it is eligible. Final applications are due by the end of October. Project sponsors will be asked to present to the NEPA MPO at an upcoming meeting. The MPO Technical Committee will then review and rank the applications and submit recommendations Central Office.

b) Long-Rang Transportation Plan (LRTP) Kickoff

Ms. McMahon stated that the LRTP kickoff meeting has been scheduled for September 4th. FHWA recommended beginning LRTP development 30 months before adoption of the plan in the most recent STIP finding. The next LRTP is due in January 2028. We are on a four-year update cycle due to our air quality status. The kick off meeting will go over the development timeline, plan requirements, and the schedule for consultant selection. We will be issuing an RFQ for a consultant open-end agreement in the coming weeks.

5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.