

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

September 16, 2025, Technical Planning Committee Business Meeting Summary and Minutes

<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>
Rocky Ahner*	Carbon County	John Petrini	PennDOT District 4
Chris Barrett	PMVB	Gene Porochniak	FHWA
Marie Bishop	PennDOT District 4	Jeff Rai	PennDOT District 5
Roger Christman*	Monroe County	Nick Raio*	PennDOT Central
John Christy*	Monroe County	Jen Ruth	PennDOT District 5
Kerry Cox	PennDOT District 5	Rich Schlameuss*	MCTA
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
Brian Funkhouser	Michael Baker Intl.	Brian Snyder	Pike Co. Planning
Micah Gursky*	St. Luke's	Jared Soto	Carbon Co. Chamber
Doyle Heffley*	PA House of Rep.	Nate Staruch	Monroe Co. Planning
Robert Manzella	Luzerne Co. Planning	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5
Gary Martinaitis*	STS		
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
Matthew Osterburg*	Pike County	Jonathan Shaw	NEPA Alliance
Larry Peterson*	PennDOT District 5	Daniel Yelito	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 August 19, 2025, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Scope of Work for Plan Implementation. A motion was made by Mr. Ahner, seconded by Mr. Osterburg, to approve the scope of work. 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 August 19, 2025, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a) District 4-0 2025-2028 TIP Administrative Actions

Information was included in the meeting packet which highlighted administrative actions on the 2025 TIP for District 4. Mr. Fisher presented the actions for District 4.

Action 1 – SR 739 Shoulder Widening – Increase CON phase due to estimate. The source is the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item.

Action 2 – I-84 Cameras Pike County – Decrease due to pre-bid adjustment. Funds were returned to the TSMO Reserve Line Item.

b) 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 – NEPA Bridge Overlay Bundle #2 – Increase is for additional PPC overlay on various structures. The sources are Kellersville Historic Structures, Scotrun Swiftwater, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 2 – 209 Holy Cross Road to Hollow Road – Increase to cover current estimate and add CRP funds to release STP funds. The sources are the Urban Regional Reserve Line Item and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Line Item.

Action 3 – 715 over McMichael's Creek II – Increase to cover additional effort in final design for environmental permits, roadway activities. The sources are 903 2nd to 13th St, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 4 – 209 Holy Cross Road to Hollow Road – 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 – Sterling Rd Safety Improvement Area 1 – Add FD phase to TIP for current estimate. The sources are Sterling Rd Safety Improvement Area 1 UTL and ROW phases, NEPA High Friction Surface – 2025, 209 Middle Smithfield Elementary Dr to Portuguese Lane, the Safety Line-Item Reserve, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 6 – Delaware Ave Signal Improvements – Increase CON phase to match current estimate. The sources are Delaware Ave Signal Improvements FD and ROW phases, the CMAQ Line-Item Reserve, and the Urban Regional Reserve Line Item.

Action 7 – 443 over Mill Creek – Cashflow to use available funds in FFY 25. The sources are 209 & 33 NB over Appenzell Creek and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 8 – 309 Resurface - Ben Titus Rd N – Increase CON phase to cover current estimate. The sources are 309 Resurface - Ben Titus Rd N UTL phase and The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 9 – Brockton Mtn Rd over Locust Creek – Release funding due to low bid saving – The balancing sources are Smith Hill Rd over Appenzell Creek, Red Rock Rd over Paradise Creek, Paradise Rd over Upper Little Swatara Creek, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 10 – AMTRAK Passenger Rail, NEPA Camera Gap and 443 over Mill Creek – Cash flow to align with anticipated need. NEPA All Weather Pavement Markings 2025- release funds due to low bid savings. The balancing source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Interstate Action 1 – I-80 Demo – Cost decrease due to low bid savings. The balancing source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item.

Statewide Action 1 – NEPA High Friction Surface - 2025 – Reduce phase to obligated amount. The balancing source is the HSIP Set Aside Reserve Line Item.

Statewide Action 2 – NEPA All Weather Pavement Markings – Increase to cover additional I-81 and I-80 locations. The source is the All Weather Pavement Marking Reserve Line Item.

3) **Transportation Planning & Programs**

a) Current Project Status Update – TA/ARC/MTF/FLAP Projects

Mr. Vottero provided an update on TA/ARC/MTF/FLAP projects in District 5.

b) 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. McMahon stated that development of the 2027-2030 TIP is ongoing. PennDOT has released Community Demographic Analysis data and NEPA staff has begun updating mapping, including crash, low-income, and minority data. Meetings with District 4 and 5 will be scheduled once they receive finalized numbers for August redistribution. NEPA staff is also working to organize meetings with transit providers to begin discussions on the transit TIP.

c) Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. McMahon stated the NEPA MPO held an LRTP kickoff meeting on September 4th. The previous LRTP was reviewed, as well as the LRTP Timeline, and selection timeline for a new open-end agreement for consultant assistance. FHWA has requested that the LRTP planning process begin 30 months from the expected adoption of the LRTP, and the MPO's current open-end agreement expires before then. The RFQ was presented to the Technical Committee, and will be advertised in several local newspapers, the NEPA website, and will be sent to several disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs). Response packages will be due on October 24th. Another LRTP Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 6th to review responses and select the top three firms. The meeting may be cancelled if we receive fewer responses. Firms will then be asked to do presentations at the November 18th MPO Meeting. The LRTP Steering Committee and Technical Committee will score the responses, and a consultant will be selected at the December 16th Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting.

d) 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 has been developed. Michael Baker will prepare agendas and facilitate implementation meetings, prioritize feedback from transit stakeholders, and provide technical assistance. A budget of up to \$20,000 has been set.

Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Scope of Work for Plan Implementation. A motion was made by Mr. Ahner, seconded by Mr. Osterburg, to approve the scope of work. The motion passed unanimously.

e) 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 was held on August 25th. The final draft report will be presented to the Technical Committee and Policy Board at the December 16 Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting. The report organizes SR 2001 into five 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. Ms. McMahon stated that this study would be a topic of discussion when NEPA meets with District 4-0 for their TIP Development meeting. Mr. Osterburg asked if the segment recommendations were organized into a priority list. Mr. Funkhouser stated that the report began with low cost improvement options and then organized the segments into a priority list.

f) Route 611 Corridor Study

Mr. Funkhouser provided an update on the current status of the Route 611 Corridor Study. 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 was held on August 26th. A steering committee list, as well as when the first steering committee meeting should be held was discussed at the meeting. The study is expected to be completed in June 2026.

g) 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.

h) 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 is scheduled for October 22nd 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.

i) Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Data Collection

Ms. McMahon stated that the NEPA MPO staff is underway collecting data for 93 HPMS samples. Mr. Yelito stated that new segments have been added due to the 2020 Census urban areas being redrawn. NEPA Staff have reviewed about 75% of the segments so far and are expected to wrap up in the next few weeks.

4) Other Business

Mr. Ahner thanked the NEPA staff for performing a drone flyover of a Carbon County bridge and creating a storymap that Carbon County is utilizing in a grant application for the bridge. Mr. Ahner also mentioned a potential problem in Jim Thorpe. The county is looking to remove parking and convert the space into a seating and picnic area. Trucks take wide turns at the nearby intersection, creating a safety issue.

Ms. McMahon stated that NEPA staff will be attending the fall Planning Partners Meeting in State College. NEPA is presenting in two sessions at the meeting, highlighting the MPO's Active Transportation Plan and GIS/Drone work.

Mr. Gursky invited the Technical Committee to attend the NEPA Alliance Annual Networking Reception on September 25th.

5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.