

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

November 18, 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	Gene Porochniak	FHWA
Tony Bandiero	EPACT	Emma Pugh	PennDOT District 4
Marie Bishop	PennDOT District 4	Nick Raio*	PennDOT Central
Roger Christman*	Monroe County	Jen Ruth	PennDOT District 5
Toby Fauver	Rockland Planning	Rich Schlameuss*	MCTA
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
Brian Funkhouser	Michael Baker Intl.	Brian Snyder*	Pike Co. Planning
Doyle Heffley*	PA House of Rep.	Jared Soto	Carbon Co. Chamber
AJ Knee*	LANTA	Nate Staruch	Monroe Co. Planning
Gary Martinaitis*	STS	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning		
Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning	Jeffrey Box	NEPA Alliance
Larry Peterson*	PennDOT District 5	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Ken O'Brien	HDR	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
Danyel Patrick	Michael Baker	Jonathan Shaw	NEPA Alliance
John Petrini	PennDOT District 4	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 September 16, 2025, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Ahner, 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 September 16, 2025, Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting

Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2025, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Ahner, seconded by Mr. Snyder, 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 209 over Sawkill Creek – Increase CON Phase to address an AUC. The sources are the NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item, SR 6 over Delaware River, and SR 6 over Wallenpaupack Creek.

Action 2 – SR 390 over Outlet Promised Land Lake – Decrease to CON phase. Funds were returned to the NEPA 4-0 Highway 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 – Main Blvd over Trib Catawissa Creek – Adding FD phase to TIP and cash flow to align with anticipated need. The sources are NEPA PM#7 and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 2 – SR 715/611 Intersection – Cashflow to use available 581 funds. The sources are 309 resurface – Ben Titus Rd North and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Line Item.

Action 3 – 209 Betterment, Jim Thorpe Wall Rehabilitation, St. Clair to Frackville Reconstruction, NEPA Highway & Bridge Line Item – Sources for 2025 August Redistribution.

Action 4 – NEPA PM #7 – Cashflow to use available 185 funds, Brown St over Broadhead Creek, SR 4026 Mahanoy Creek – Released due to phases not needed, Honeymoon Trail Rd over Pine Creek, US 209 over Eagle Hill Run, Main Blvd over Catawissa Creek 2, Mutton Hollow Rd over Kettle Creek, Suedberg Road over trib. to Swatara Creek, SR 209 over Mine Hollow Run, Centre St over trib Shenandoah Crk – Cash flowed to align with anticipated need, 209 Bus. over Kettle Creek – Released to cover current estimate. The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item was used as a balancing source

Action 5 – Sterling Rd Safety Impr Area 1 – Increase funds to match negotiated agreement plus internal cost. The source is the Safety Line Item Reserve.

Action 6 – NEPA PM #6 – Increase to continue construction inspection services throughout the remaining duration of the project, SR 447 over Brodhead Crk – Increased to cover final invoice. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Line Item.

Action 7 – Transp Enhance/Alternative Project Mngmt – Increased to cover continuing Management Assistance for Transportation Alternative Program. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Line Item.

Action 8 – SR 1021 (Lincoln Drive) over RBM&N Railroad – Release due to low bid savings. The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item was used as a balancing source.

Interstate Action 1 – I-81 Pine Grove to Minersville – Advancing funds to cover AC. The balancing source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item.

Statewide Action 1 – PA 33 Median Barrier PE Phase - 2025 – Funds added for photogrammetry. The source is the State Reserve Line Item.

Statewide Action 2 – PA 33 Median Barrier CON Phase – Increase to cover PS&E estimate. The sources are the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item and STP State Reserve Line Item.

Statewide Action 3 – Weatherly Retaining Wall Replacement – Increase to current estimate. The source is the PROTECT Reserve Line Item.

3) Transportation Planning & Programs

a) Current Project Status Update – Highway Projects

Mr. Vottero provided an update on Highway projects in District 5.

b) 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. McMahon stated that development of the 2027-2030 TIP is ongoing. A meeting with PennDOT District 5 was held on October 23rd, and a meeting with District 4 was held on November 12th, to begin discussing carryover projects and new potential projects with NEPA staff and the county representatives. Funding for the 2027 TIP has remained flat and project costs continue to rise, which limit the number of new projects that can be added. The NEPA MPO has been successful in pursuing funding through spike

and PROTECT funds, as well as August redistribution. Projects on the draft TIP have to be submitted to Central Office by the end of the year. Staff has other steps to complete including the Community Demographic Analysis. An Air Quality Conformity analysis will also be conducted. Other portions of the TIP including the Interstate and Transit TIPs will be added. Mr. Fisher stated that he appreciates that NEPA staff pursues earmarks when they are available. Ms. McMahon stated that they are still waiting to hear about an earmark request through Rep. Bresnahan's office for the SR 6 over Wallenpaupack Creek Bridge. Earmarks were not including in the appropriations continuing resolution but are still possible. During the TIP meeting with District 4, the SR 2001 study and the possibility of adding a project onto the TYP and funding a short term improvement through HSIP was discussed. Mr. Vottero mentioned that District 5 has received discretionary funds for SR 33.

c) Active Transportation Plan Implementation

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 was held on 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. Another recommendation was education related, so the possibility of holding active transportation workshops throughout the region was discussed during the meeting. Two workshops would be held in person in the spring. Another meeting of the Active Transportation Task Force will be scheduled in February.

d) Eastern PA Freight Infrastructure Plan

Ms. McMahon stated that the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance members– NEPA MPO, Lehigh Valley MPO, Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO, Reading MPO and Lebanon MPO have now all approved the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Infrastructure Plan and adopted the MOU. Lehigh Valley MPO is currently coordinating to get all of the signatures on the MOU, and a meeting is expected to be held in the new year.

e) Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Data Collection

Mr. Yelito stated that the NEPA MPO staff conducts an annual HPMS data collection. Staff is collecting data for 93 HPMS samples for this year. 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. A quality assurance assessment with Central Office was held on September 11th and NEPA received an accuracy of 98.48%

f) Transportation Alternatives-Set Aside (TASA) Program Applications

Ms. McMahon stated that the TASA application period has closed. Three applications from the NEPA region were received. East Union Township, Stroudsburg Borough, and Schuylkill River Greenways submitted applications. Applicants will have the opportunity to present their application to the committee at the December MPO meeting. Committee members will then score the projects, and the scores will be submitted to Central Office. Mr. Mrozinski asked if the applicants will be presenting in person. Ms. McMahon stated that they were given the option to present in person or virtually.

g) Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan

Mr. Fauver provided an update on the Coordinated Public Transit Plan. A meeting of the Transit Subcommittee is scheduled for November 19th at the NEPA Alliance office. The subcommittee will review the Action Plan and prioritize 3-5 items to begin focusing on for implementation. The subcommittee will then decide the owners of each action item and assist them as they work towards implementation.

h) SR 2001 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. Meetings have been held with the Pike County Commissioners and Delaware Township to present the draft plan and final recommendations. The final draft report will be presented to the Technical Committee and Policy Board at the December 16th 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. The report also recommends a number of low cost safety improvements that can be made while funding for the priority segments is pursued. Mr. Mrozinski stated that the intersection of SR 2004 and 2001 has been a priority for Delaware Township. Mr. Funkhouser stated that the study recommends intersection improvements that would realign the four-way stop or create a roundabout. Both options have similar costs.

i) 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 meeting of the plan steering committee was held on October 6th. The steering committee helped identify intersections in the corridor that should be studied. Traffic counts and turning movement counts at the intersections were conducted in October. Plans for public engagement were also discussed, including an open house, and wikimapping tool for public input. Another meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for December 4th.

j) Request for Qualifications for LRTP Update

Ms. McMahon stated that the NEPA MPO issued a Request for Qualifications for consultant assistance in September. The current open-end agreement with Michael Baker will not expire until 2027, which will not cover the Long Range Transportation Plan development cycle, which is recommended by FHWA to begin 30 months from the expected adoption date of the plan. NEPA received 22 requests for copies of the RFQ. Michael Baker was the only respondent. The RFQ closed on October 24th.

i) Michael Baker International Presentation

Mr. Funkhouser provided a presentation introducing the Michael Baker Team and outlined a proposed schedule and budgets for major projects that would occur during the period of the open-end contract. The presentation slides are attached.

ii) Technical Committee Discussion

Ms. McMahon stated that the NEPA staff has worked well with Michael Baker over the past 7 years. The consultant agreement would likely be for three years with the option to exercise a two-year extension. NEPA plans to create the LRTP Storymap, and do more public engagement in-house, so the proposed budget for the LRTP may be lower than expected. Mr. Vottero asked what funding is available for the LRTP. Ms. McMahon stated that the LRTP is typically funded through the MPO's UPWP. Mr. Vottero asked if NEPA plans to reach out to firms that requested the RFQ but did not submit to find out why. Ms. McMahon stated that she would check with Mr. Raio if the MPO is required to do that. Mr. Porochniak asked if the MPO has talked with Central Office about supplemental planning funds for the LRTP. Ms. McMahon stated that the MPO can usually fund the LRTP through the UPWP but that she will follow up with Central Office. Mr. Fisher recommended using the STC survey for public engagement. Ms. McMahon stated that the MPO has done that the last two LRTP updates since the schedule has lined up. The MPO will decide whether they will award the contract to Michael Baker at the December 16th joint MPO meeting.

4) Other Business

Ms. McMahon stated that PennDOT's Green Light Go Program is open. Pre-applications are due by January 2, 2026. PennDOT's Multimodal program is expected to open soon and the MPO will send out information about the two programs in the future. Ms. McMahon stated that the MPO is requesting in person attendance for the December 16th Joint MPO meeting.

5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.