

# Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

## **February 16, 2026, Technical Planning Committee Business Meeting Summary and Minutes**

<b><u>Attendees:</u></b>	<b><u>Organization:</u></b>	<b><u>Attendees:</u></b>	<b><u>Organization:</u></b>
Rocky Ahner*	Carbon County	John Petrini	PennDOT District 4
Scott Cressman	PennDOT District 5	Gene Porochniak	FHWA
John Christy*	Monroe Co.	Emma Pugh	PennDOT District 4
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4	Jeff Rai	PennDOT District 5
Micah Gursky*	St. Lukes	Nick Raio*	PennDOT Central
Doyle Heffley*	PA House of Rep.	Daniel Reese	Luzerne Co. Planning
Jodi Hinger	Carbon County	Jen Ruth	PennDOT District 5
AJ Knee*	LANTA	Rich Schlameuss*	MCTA
Christopher Kufro	PennDOT District 5	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
John Malinchok*	Schuylkill Co. Planning	Jared Soto	Carbon Co. Chamber
Rob Manzella	Luzerne Co. Planning	Steve Thomas	Michael Baker
Gary Martinaitis*	STS		
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning	Kate McMahan	NEPA Alliance
Larry Peterson*	PennDOT District 5	Jonathan Shaw	NEPA Alliance
Ken O'Brien	HDR	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 December 18, 2025, Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Ahner, seconded by Mr. Malinchok, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to confirm the email ballot on January 20, 2026, to approve the Median Barrier Spike Amendment. A motion was made by Mr. Ahner, seconded by Ms. Meinhart Fritz, to confirm email ballot. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 3: Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the SR 209 over Sawkill Creek Amendment. A motion was made by Mr. Schlameuss, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the amendment. 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 December 18, 2025, Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting  
Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2025, Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Ahner, seconded by Mr. Malinchok, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

- b) Confirmation of email ballot on January 20, 2026, to approve SR 33 Median Barrier Spike Amendment  
Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to confirm the email ballot on January 20, 2026, to approve the Median Barrier Spike Amendment. A motion was made by Mr. Ahner, seconded by Ms. Meinhart Fritz, to confirm email ballot. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a) District 4-0 2025-2028 TIP Amendment and 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.

Amendment 1 – SR 209 over Sawkill Creek – CON Phase cost increase. Project was let on 2/15/2024. The source is the Federal Carryover Reserve Line Item.

Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the SR 209 over Sawkill Creek amendment. A motion was made by Mr. Schlameuss, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 1 – SR 209 over Sawkill Creek – CON Phase cost increase. Project was let on 2/15/2024. The sources are Box Culvert Bundle Round 1 and the NEPA Highway & Bridge 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 – I-81 Mountain Run Creek Arch, SR 209 over Panther Creek, SR 209 over Railroad, Centre Street over Mahanoy Creek, and Little Catawissa Bridge – Phase added to TIP to match 971 Damage Claim Estimate. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 2 – 209/115 Int. Imp Phase 2 – Increase due to the rise in real estate values over time period. The source is PA 33 Resurfacing.

Action 3 – NEPA Camera Gaps – Release due to low bid savings. The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item was used as a balancing source to maintain fiscal constraint.

Action 4 – Shiffer Rd over PA 33 – Align funds with anticipated need due to let date moving to 2/25/27. Project fully funded on the draft 2027 TIP. Paradise Rd over Upper Little Swatara Creek – Toll credited. The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item was used as a balancing source to maintain fiscal constraint.

Interstate Action 1 – I-80 Bridge Improvements – PE Phase added to TIP. I-80/Exit 308 Realignment – Increase to complete construction management services. The balancing source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item.

Statewide Action 1 – 209 Schafer School House – Increase to cover AUC. The source is the HSIP Set Aside Reserve Line Item.

Statewide Action 2 – Fork Street Improvements – Add UTL and CON phases as per MTF agreement. Local Funds are additional to the TIP. The source is the Multimodal Reserve Line Item.

Statewide Action 3 – NEPA Camera Gaps – Funds returned to the Statewide TSMO Reserve due to low bid savings. The balancing source is the TSMO Reserve Line Item.

## 3) Transportation Planning & Programs

- a) Current Project Status Update – Bridge Projects

Mr. Petrini provided an update on Bridge projects in District 4. Ms. Ruth provided an update on Bridge projects in District 5.

b) Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. McMahon stated that the NEPA MPO selected Michael Baker as the consultant for a new open end agreement at the December meeting. NEPA and Michael Baker staff are putting together the contract for the agreement. The contract will need to be reviewed by NEPA and Michael Baker's legal teams. The contract will begin on July 1, 2026. Initial conversations for the LRTP Scope of Services have also been held and a draft will be developed for the Technical Committee to review.

c) 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. McMahon stated that development of the 2027-2030 TIP is ongoing. A meeting to review the draft TIP was held with Central Office, both PennDOT Districts, and county and transit representatives on February 3, 2026. The project selection process was reviewed. 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. One new project in Carbon County was added utilizing CMAQ funding. CMAQ funding is also being flexed to LANTA to expand evening and weekend service in a pilot project in Carbon County. Staff is in the process of completing the Community Demographic Assessment. An Air Quality Conformity analysis will also be conducted. Other portions of the TIP including the Interstate and Transit TIPs will be added. The draft TIP will be available for the committee to review on April 21. The public comment period will run from May 11 to June 11 with a public meeting held on May 19 in coordination with the NEPA MPO meeting. The TIP will be considered for adoption at the June 16 Joint MPO Meeting.

d) NEPA MPO Drone Visualization Program

Ms. McMahon stated that the NEPA MPO drone visualization program has been able to collect valuable aerial photos and videos of TIP and local transportation projects. New federal legislation has been passed that limits the use of federal funds for drones manufactured by foreign entities. NEPA uses a DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise drone manufactured in China. Guidance received from FHWA limits the use of UPWP funding for operation of the drone. Other non-federal NEPA funding is available on a limited basis for project flights upon county request. Purchase of an American-made drone is being considered, but options are limited and cost prohibitive. Mr. Ahner stated that the NEPA Drone Visualization Program has been incredibly valuable for Carbon County in pursuing funding for local bridges. Mr. Ahner suggested that the purchase of a new drone could be split between the seven counties in NEPA Alliance's LDD region. Mr. Mrozinski asked if NEPA was considering a pricing list for drone flights. Ms. McMahon stated that funding is available within NEPA for flights on a case by case basis. Mr. Ahner stated that drone footage of the Weissport Bridge would be incredibly valuable for upcoming public meetings. Ms. Ginocchetti stated that drone programs are largely facing the same issues due to the prevalence of Chinese manufactured drones in the consumer market.

e) Transportation Alternatives Set Aside

Ms. McMahon stated that TASA projects were presented to the Technical Committee at the December MPO meeting. Following the meeting the committee scored the projects. East Union Twp. SR 924 Improvements and Schuylkill River Trail Phase 2 both received 5/5 stars. The Stroudsburg Transforming Main Street project received 4/5 stars. Scores were sent to Central Office in January and the projects will be considered for funding through the statewide TASA round.

f) Active Transportation Plan Implementation

Ms. McMahon stated that a meeting of the Active Transportation Task Force was held on October 22, 2025. The committee supported holding two Active Transportation Summits in the spring. A meeting is scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the date, time, and locations of the summits.

g) Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan

Ms. McMahon stated that a meeting of the transit subcommittee was held on February 11 in Jim Thorpe and virtually on Teams. The subcommittee discussed holding coordination meetings with regional transit providers on a quarterly or biannual basis. The need for coordination on shared ride services was discussed. Many shared ride trips cross county and MPO borders. NEPA will prepare a proposal for the Bureau of Public Transit to fund a multi-MPO study of shared ride services. Rockland Planning and Michael Baker will prepare action strategies for the committee moving forward. Outreach to neighboring municipalities will be conducted as well.

h) Route 611 Corridor Study

Mr. Thomas provided an update on the current status of the Route 611 Corridor Study. A management team including representatives from Pocono Township, Stroud Township, Monroe County, and District 5 has been meeting monthly to provide guidance on the project. A public open house was held in person on January 21 in Pocono Township and was attended by over 50 people. The Wikimapping survey was open from January 9 to February 13. 191 pins were dropped along the corridor. Michael Baker and NEPA staff have also conducted stakeholder interviews with local and industry leaders along the corridor. A second open house will be held in person in the spring. Ms. McMahon stated that the attendance at the open house was the most that the NEPA MPO has every received.

i) Eastern PA Freight Infrastructure Plan

Ms. McMahon stated that the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance has no updates. Ms. McMahon will follow up with LVTS about schedule a meeting.

**4) Other Business**

Ms. McMahon stated District 5 and District 4 are holding another round of PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach sessions. The session in District 5 will be on March 26 and the session in District 4 will be on April 2. Additional information will be sent to the committee.

Mr. Ahner mentioned a potential problem in Jim Thorpe. The county is looking to remove parking along US 209 and convert the space into a seating and picnic area. Trucks take wide turns at the nearby intersection, creating a safety issue. Mr. Mrozinski suggested using the LTAP Technical Assistance Program to study the area. Mr. Ahner stated that the area encroaches into the PennDOT right of way but is grandfathered in, creating a hazardous situation if the use changes.

**5) Adjournment**

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