

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

April 21, 2026, Technical Planning Committee Business Meeting Summary and Minutes

<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>
Rocky Ahner*	Carbon County	Ken O'Brien	HDR
Marie Bishop	PennDOT District 4	John Petrini	PennDOT District 4
Roger Christman*	Monroe Co.	Emma Pugh	PennDOT District 4
John Christy*	Monroe Co.	Nick Raio*	PennDOT Central
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4	Jen Ruth	PennDOT District 5
Brian Funkhouser	Michael Baker	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
Micah Gursky*	St. Lukes	Jared Soto	Carbon Co. Chamber
Jodi Hinger	Carbon County	Nate Staruch	Monroe Co. Planning
AJ Knee*	LANTA	Steve Thomas	Michael Baker
Rob Manzella	Luzerne Co. Planning		
Gary Martinaitis*	STS	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Olivia McDonald	Michael Baker	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning	Jonathan Shaw	NEPA Alliance
Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning	Daniel Yelito	NEPA Alliance
Larry Peterson*	PennDOT District 5		

*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: Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2026, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Christy, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Meinhart-Fritz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

1) Business Items

a) Approval of Minutes from the February 17, 2026, Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting
Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2026, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Christy, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the minutes. 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.

Action 1 – SR 6 over Wallenpaupack Creek – Add 2026 appropriations earmark in FFY 2026.

Action 2 – SR 6 over Sawkill Creek – Increase FD Phase to process agreement. CE Clear. SR 1006 over Shohola Creek – Increase PE phase to process a supplement. The NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item was used as a drawdown reserve line item for balancing.

Action 3 – SR 6 over Sawkill Creek – Increase PE Phase to process a supplement. The NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item was used as a drawdown reserve line item for balancing.

Action 4 – SR 390 High Friction Surface – Increase CON Phase to PS&E estimate. The NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item was used as a drawdown reserve line item for balancing.

Action 5 – Asset Management Phase 2 – Add PE Phase for core borings. The NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item was used as a drawdown reserve line item for balancing.

Action 6 – SR 6 over Delaware River – Add PE Phase to begin design. SR 6 over Wallenpaupack Creek – Shift partial CON phase for balancing. The NEPA 4-0 Highway Line Item was used as a drawdown reserve line item for balancing.

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 – Hunter Creek Bridge – Phase added to TIP and funds added to match negotiated agreement plus internal cost. The sources are Lincoln Drive over RBM&N Railroad and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 2 – SR 903 over Mud Run – Toll credit. The sources are SR 209 & 33 NB over Appenzell Creek and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 3 – Suedberg Road over tributary to Swatara Creek – Phase increased to match 971 Damage Claim Estimate. Funds are being aligned with anticipated need and are carried on the draft 2027 TIP. Minersville Arch Bridge – Funds are being aligned with anticipated need and are carried on the draft 2027 TIP. Kellersville Historic Structure – Align funds with anticipated need due to let date moving out to 6/10/27. Project fully funding on the draft 2027 TIP. The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item was used as a balancing source to maintain fiscal constraint.

Action 4 – SR 903 over Mud Run – Increased FD phase to complete PS&E package based on Pub. 408 updates. Increase UTL phase to cover PPL agreement amount. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 5 – SR 309 Resurfacing – Ben Titus Road – Cash flow to align with anticipated need. PA 191 Brodhead Creek Bridge – FD and ROW Toll credited to release 581 funds. Fully funded on the draft 2027 TIP. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item. Hunters Creek Bridge – Cash flow to align with anticipated need. Fully funded on the draft 2027 TIP. Smith Hill Rd over Appenzell Creek – FD and ROW phase toll credited to release 581 funds. The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item was used as a balancing source to maintain fiscal constraint.

Action 6 – Smith Hill Road over Appenzell Creek – Increased to match negotiated agreement. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 7 – SR 209 Schafer School House Road – Increased for Low Bid. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Statewide Action 1 – Tobyhanna Pocono Summit West – Construction phase added to 2025 TIP. The Highway Reserve Line Item was used as a funding source to maintain fiscal constraint.

Statewide Action 2 – SR 115 Effort Corridor Improvement – Increased to cover AUC. The source is the HSIP Set Aside Reserve Line Item.

Statewide Action 3 – Fork Street Improvements – Shifting UTL funds to CON phase.

Statewide Action 4 – Kline Township Phase 4 – Add PE phase for administrative costs. Local match is additional to STIP. Add CON phase as per MTF agreement. Local match is additional to the STIP. The Multimodal Reserve Line Item was used as a funding source to maintain fiscal constraint.

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 (TIP)

Ms. McMahon presented the draft 2027-2030 TIP Package. Ms. McMahon stated that the draft TIP package is nearly complete but NEPA staff is still completing the Community Demographic Assessment which replaced the Environmental Justice Analysis. The Community Demographic Assessment looks at conditions, crashes and TIP projects for both minority and white (non-Hispanic/Latino) population areas and areas of below poverty and above poverty populations. Ms. McMahon stated that we are also waiting to receive the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for Carbon and Monroe counties from Central Office.

Ms. McMahon stated that once the TIP package is complete, staff would send out an email ballot to the Technical Committee to approve the 30-day comment period. If approved, the draft TIP will be put out for a 30-day public comment period from May 11, 2026 to June 11, 2026. Paper copies will be available at seven locations across the NEPA MPO region. A public comment hearing will be held on May 19, 2026, in conjunction with the May Technical Committee meeting. The hearing will be held simultaneously at in person locations in each MPO county. The public meeting will also be held virtually. The 2027 TIP will be considered for adoption by the NEPA MPO at the June 16, 2026 joint meeting.

Mr. Ahner stated that Carbon County requested to add county bridge #19 added to the TIP and requested an update on when it will be added, because the project is ready to advance, and is on a key route used during the summer tourist season. Ms. McMahon stated that the project was being funded through funds that were not through the TIP, and that the bridge only needed to be added for tracking purposes. Ms. McMahon stated that she would reach out to District 5 to see if the project could be added in 2026. The county will need to send a letter showing that all of the funding has been put together. Mr. Fisher asked if the transportation organizations received uniform guidelines for reporting projects impacting performance measures. Ms. McMahon stated that PennDOT provided a template and then MPO staff looked through the TIP for applicable projects.

Mr. Mrozinski joined the meeting and began chairing the Technical Committee.

c) 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 is being reviewed by NEPA and Michael Baker's legal teams. The contract will begin on July 1, 2026. A scoping meeting for the LRTP Scope of Services has also been held and a draft will be developed for the Technical Committee to review at the May meeting. NEPA staff will take on more of the public involvement phases and mapping. The draft scope will be considered for adoption at the June MPO Meeting. The next Long Range Transportation Plan is required by January 2028.

d) Active Transportation Plan Implementation

Ms. McMahon stated that a meeting of the Active Transportation Task Force held on March 5, 2026, to discuss the Active Transportation Summits. The task force recommended holding the summits in the fall instead to share information about grant opportunities which are typically open early in the year. The next meeting of the task force is scheduled for August 6, 2026.

e) 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. Rockland Planning and Michael Baker will reach out to transit providers to prepare action strategies for the committee moving forward. Outreach to neighboring municipalities will be conducted as well.

f) 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 steering committee meeting was held on April 14th to review the draft plan recommendations. A second open house will be held in person on May 6, 2026 where the draft recommendations will be presented to the public.

Mr. Mrozinski asked how Michael Baker projected the 2050 AADT on PA 611. Mr. Thomas stated that the traffic engineer assigned traffic values based upon current zoning & land use. The engineer then estimated the build out potential for empty lots using existing values. Mr. Thomas stated that he would have the traffic engineer reach out to Mr. Mrozinski with more information. Ms. McDonald stated that developments that were already approved were also taken into account, and that tourism along the corridor was projected to grow. The consultant team also filtered out any empty lots that could not be developed. Mr. Knee asked if MCTA transit vehicles and increasing ridership were reflected in the projected AADT growth along PA 611. Mr. Thomas stated that MCTA has been involved in the stakeholder interview process. The public survey and open house also gave feedback on bus stops and bicycle pedestrian activity along PA 611. The information from the Corridor Study will be shared with MCTA to inform their transit development planning. Ms. Meinhart stated that NEPA staff has developed a storymap documenting the need for the 611 Corridor Study and its development process.

g) Eastern PA Freight Infrastructure Plan

Ms. McMahon stated that the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance met on March 16th. The group will begin prioritizing the recommendations in the freight study and developing action strategies. The EPFA plans to meet quarterly going forward.

4) Other Business

a) Automated Red Light Enforcement Funding Program

Ms. McMahon stated that PennDOT will be accepting applications for the 2026 Automated Red Light Enforcement Program from June 1st through June 30th, 2026. A pre-application scoping form is required prior to submitting an application. Scoping forms submitted by April 30th will be reviewed and returned by May 29th.

b) 2026 – 2028 Technical Committee Appointments

Ms. McMahon stated that NEPA MPO Technical Committee appointments expire at the end of June. Letters to county commissioners and transit boards will be sent out requesting Technical Committee appointments for a two-year term commencing on July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2028. A new Chair and Vice-Chair will be voted on at the July MPO meeting.

5) Adjournment

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