

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

May 19, 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	Nick Raio*	PennDOT Central
Roger Christman*	Monroe Co.	Daniel Reese	Luzerne Co. Planning
Kerry Cox	PennDOT District 5	Krista Ripley	STS
Jonathan Eboli	PennDOT District 4	Jen Ruth	PennDOT District 5
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4	Rich Schlameuss*	MCTA
Brian Funkhouser	Michael Baker	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
Micah Gursky*	St. Luke's	Joanne Stehr	PA State Representative
AJ Knee*	LANTA	Jared Soto	Carbon Co. Chamber
Chris Kufro	PennDOT District 5	Nate Staruch	Monroe Co. Planning
Gary Martinaitis*	STS	Mark Tobin	PennDOT Central
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning	Steve Thomas	Michael Baker
Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5
Larry Peterson*	PennDOT District 5		
John Petrini	PennDOT District 4	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Gene Pirochniak	FHWA	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
Harold Pudliner*		Jonathan Shaw	NEPA Alliance
Emma Pugh	PennDOT District 4	Daniel Yelito	NEPA Alliance

*Technical Committee members who voted at this meeting

Note:

The May 19th NEPA MPO Technical Committee was conducted as a hybrid meeting with staff attendance at four physical locations in the NEPA MPO region, linked via a Teams meeting internet connection. Virtual participation via the internet TEAMS link was also offered as a means of attendance for the public and committee members not at the NEPA staffed meeting locations.

Meeting Locations:

Lehighton Borough Building, 1 Constitution Ave., Lehighton, PA

Monroe County Planning Commission, 701 Main Street, 4th Floor, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Pike County Training Center, 135 Pike County Blvd, Lord's Valley, PA

Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation, Union Station, 2nd Floor, 1 Progress Circle, Pottsville, PA 17901

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 confirm the May 6, 2026, email ballot authorizing the 2027 TIP 30-Day Public Comment Period. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, to confirm the email ballot. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2026, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 3: Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the District 5 TIP amendment. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Raio, to approve the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1) Business Items

- a) Confirmation of May 6, 2026, Email Ballot Authorizing 2027 TIP 30-Day Public Comment Period
Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to confirm the May 6, 2026, email ballot authorizing the 2027 TIP 30-Day Public Comment Period. Ms. McMahon stated that the email ballot was approved by a vote of 10 yay and 0 nay. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Meinhart-Fritz, to confirm the email ballot. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) Approval of Minutes from the April 21, 2026, Technical Committee Meeting
Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2026, 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 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 – Shiffer Rd over PA 33 – Increase to cover supplement to update the permitting and additional effort to complete the bat survey on the existing bridge. The sources are New Philadelphia Rd over Pine Creek Bridge and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 2 – Main Blvd over Trib Catawissa Creek – Phase added to TIP to match 971 Damage Claim Estimate. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 3 – NEPA Camera Gaps – Increased for consultant services. The sources are the TSMO Reserve Line Item & the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 4 – Hallet Road over Cranberry Run – Increase to cover added bridge/culvert and structure bat assessment, structure borings, and RDA document plus internal cost. The source is Berne Drive over Red Creek Bridge.

Action 5 – PA 924 over Trib to Catawissa Creek – Increase funds to match 971 Damage Claim Estimate. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 6 – US 209 over NR Railroad – Release funds due to project being complete. The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item was used as a balancing source to maintain fiscal constraint.

Amendment 1 – 61 Resurfacing Walmart Plaza to 1004 – Advance funds to address priority project. The sources are St. Clair to Frackville Reconstruction and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Mr. Mrozinski requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the District 5 TIP amendment. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Raio, to approve the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

Ms. McMahon stated that TASA awards were announced. One project in the NEPA region was funded. The next phase of the Schuylkill River Trail was awarded \$1,380,000 and was the number one project scored by the Technical Committee. Two other projects in the region were not funded.

b) 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. McMahon stated that the TIP public comment period will continue until June 11, 2026. Paper copies will be available at seven locations across the NEPA MPO region. The 2027 TIP will be considered for adoption by the NEPA MPO at the June 16th joint Policy Board and Technical Committee meeting. The NEPA MPO is requesting in person attendance for the meeting.

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. The contract will begin on July 1, 2026. A scoping meeting for the LRTP Scope of Services was held and a draft has been developed for the Technical Committee to review. Ms. McMahon presented the draft Scope of Work to the Technical Committee. She noted that comments had been received from Ms. Smith regarding the District Strategy Days task and they will be addressed in the scope. Ms. McMahon asked the committee to review the draft scope and provide any comments or changes. The draft scope will be considered for adoption by the Technical Committee at the June 16th meeting. The next Long Range Transportation Plan is required to be adopted by January 2028.

Mr. Ahner asked for an update on the SR 895/309 intersection in Schuylkill County. Mr. Raio stated that the intersection received HSIP statewide funding for a safety study.

d) Route 611 Corridor Study

Mr. Thomas presented an update on the current status of the Route 611 Corridor Study. A second open house for the study was held on May 6, 2026 at the Pocono Township Municipal Building. Ms. McMahon stated that the second open house had lower attendance than the first one but that is typical in planning studies. There was also another meeting in the county at the same time which may have affected attendance. Mr. Thomas presented the draft recommendations to the Technical Committee and stated that the final report is being drafted. A steering committee meeting will be held on June 2nd to review the draft report. The final report and recommendations will be presented to the Technical Committee at the June 16th MPO meeting.

4) Other Business

a) 2026 – 2027 Meeting Dates

Ms. McMahon stated that the draft meeting schedule for next year is included in the meeting packet. Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of the October meeting, which has been moved due to a conflict with the APA PA Annual Conference. The Policy Board will have two meetings following NEPA Alliance Board of Directors meetings, and two meetings will be held jointly with the Technical Committee. Ms. McMahon requested that the Technical Committee review the schedule and let us know if there are any conflicts. The meeting schedule will be considered for adoption at the June 16th meeting.

b) Mr. Ahner stated that the NEPA drone program has been incredibly valuable to Carbon County in preparing grant applications. With the current funding restrictions, Mr. Ahner suggested that the purchase of a new drone could be split between the counties in NEPA MPO region. Mr. Mrozinski asked if an estimate could be put together by August ahead of the county budget season. Ms. McMahon stated that the NEPA MPO drone is only two years old, and that the MPO is only prohibited in using PennDOT work program funds in the operation of the drone. Other funding is available within NEPA for flights on a case by case basis. Flights at the Weissport Projects, and the US 6/SR 434 Intersection in Pike County are planned for this

summer. Ms. Meinhart-Fritz asked if the MPO or counties could apply for a statewide LSA grant to secure funding. Ms. McMahon stated that she would look into the program.

5) Adjournment

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