

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

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

September 15, 2026, Technical Planning Committee Business Meeting Summary and Minutes

<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>
Rocky Ahner*	Carbon Co.	John Petrini	PennDOT District 4
David Alas	PennDOT Central	Harold Pudliner*	Carbon Co. Redevelopment
Chris Barrett	PMVB	Emma Pugh	PennDOT District 4
David Bodnar	Carbon Co. Planning	Nick Raio*	PennDOT Central
Jennifer Borino	PennDOT District 4	Daniel Reese	Luzerne County
John Christy*	Monroe Co.	Krista Ripley*	STS
Scott Cressman	PennDOT District 5	Jen Ruth	PennDOT District 5
Cynthia Defebo	Pike County	Rich Schlameuss*	MCTA
Steve Fisher*	PennDOT District 4	Susan Smith*	Schuylkill Co. Planning
Brian Funkhouser	Michael Baker Intl.	Nate Staruch	Monroe Co. Planning
Jodi Hinger	Carbon County	Scott Vottero	PennDOT District 5
AJ Knee*	LANTA		
Robert Manzella	Luzerne Co. Planning	Jeff Box	NEPA Alliance
Christine Meinhart-Fritz*	Monroe Co. Planning	Nettie Ginocchetti	NEPA Alliance
Mike Mrozinski*	Pike Co. Planning	Kate McMahon	NEPA Alliance
Nyomi Nonnemaker	PennDOT Central	Jonathan Shaw	NEPA Alliance
Ken O'Brien	HDR	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 and Policy Board voted on the following actions:

Action 1: Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2026, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Christy, seconded by Mr. Pudliner, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1) Business Items

- a) Approval of Minutes from the August 18, 2026, Technical Committee Business Meeting
Ms. Meinhart-Fritz requested a motion from the Technical Committee to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2026, Technical Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Christy, seconded by Mr. Pudliner, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

2) TIP Amendments and Administrative Actions

- a) District 4-0 2025-2028 TIP Administrative Actions and Amendment
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 and PP and L Flume – Cashflow adjustment while increasing federal funds and decreasing state funds to establish 80/20 fed/state share for obligation. Funds were returned to the Highway Reserve and Bridge Reserve. The Deob Reserve Line Item was utilized as a balancing source to maintain fiscal constraint.

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 – PA 61 Resurfacing Walmart Plaza to SR 1004 – Increase to cover PS&E estimate. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 2 – Brockton Mtn Road over Locust Creek – Increased to cover undercut, additional protective fence, vibration monitoring, and well survey. The sources are NEPAPM #7 and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 3 – Columbia Street Arch Bridge – CON phase increased to cover AC amount. The sources are the Columbia Street Arch Bridge PE phase, 443 Roadway Improvements, Existing Message Board, NEPA PM #7, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 4 – US 209 over Eagle Hill Run – Increase funds to match current estimate. The sources are SR 209 over Mine Hollow Run, NEPA Bridge Preservation and Repair #9 and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 5 – Box Culvert Bundle Round 1 – ROW acquisition services. The sources are Main Blvd over Trib Catawissa Creek, NEPA PM #7, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 6 – Delaware Ave Signal Improvements – Increase to meet low bid. The source is Urban Regional Reserve Line Item.

Action 7 – Red Rock Rd over Paradise Creek – Increased to match 971 damage claim estimate. The source is the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 8 – St. Clair to Frackville Reconstruction – Adding STP and NHPP funds due to HSIP maximum allowance on project being exceeded. The sources are AMTRAK Passenger Rail, Hamilton West Resurface-Sciota, SR 715 over McMichael's Creek II, the Urban Regional Reserve Line Item, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 9 – St. Clair to Frackville Reconstruction – Cashflowed to use available NHPP and STP funds for 26. The sources are PA 33 Resurfacing, PA 33 Median Barrier, Hamilton West Resurface-Sciota, 209 Betterment, NEPA Camera Gaps, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 10 – PA 715 Stone Arch Replace – FD phase increase to providing assistance with right-of-way plan interpretation, addressing final structure plan comments and completing utilities. The sources are PA 309 Resurface Ben Titus Rd North, PA 715 Stone Arch Replace CON phase, and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 11 – Gap View Drive – Hallet Road over Cranberry Run – Upper Smith Gap Rd over Aquashicola Creek – Sugar Hollow Road over Sugar Hollow Creek – Paradise Road over Upper Little Swatara Creek – Advance E&S plans, utility coordination and foundation design to finalize DEP permit. The sources are Paradise Rd over Upper Little Swatara Creek FD and ROW phases, the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Action 12 – SR 715/611 Intersection – Cash Flowed to use available 581 funds. The NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item was used as a balancing source to maintain fiscal constraint.

Action 13 – PA 209 Mt Nebo to Holy Cross Rd – Increase due to additional design cost for the turn lanes at the intersection and design costs for the riparian buffer issues with NPDES permit. The sources are NEPA low cost signal upgrades and the NEPA Highway & Bridge Regional Line Item.

Interstate Action 1 – I-80 sec 17M Breakout – Increased to match low bid. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item.

Interstate Action 2 – I-80 Exit 308 Realignment – CON cost increase due to NTP issue which resulted in shifting the construction season. The source is the Interstate Contingency Line Item.

Interstate Action 3 – I-80 Sec 17M Breakout #2 Exit 304/305 – End of year cashflow. The source is I-80 from Creek Rad to SR 487.

Statewide Action 1 – 611/715 Improvements – Cash flow to align with anticipated LET date 8/12/27. The Girard Point Bridge Rehab was used as a balancing source to maintain fiscal constraint.

Statewide Action 2 – Route 447 Hot-in-Place – Phase added to the TIP. The source is the RDP Reserve Line Item.

Statewide Action 3 – PA 209 Holy Cross Road to Hollow Road – Decrease sHSIP funds to match 1:1 BCR application amount. PA 209 Middle Smithfield Elem. Drive to Portuguese Lane – Cashflow pre-con phases out to later years to better align with let date of 4/1/2029. Projects are carried on the FY27 TIP. The HSIP Set-Aside Reserve used as balancing source of funds to maintain fiscal constraint.

Mr. Christy asked when the PA 209 Mt Nebo to Holy Cross Rd project would be let. Ms. Ruth stated that the let date would be August 2028. The project has received CE clearance and is entering the FD and ROW phases. Ms. Meinhart-Fritz asked for an update on the 611/715 Improvements project. Mr. Cressman stated that PennDOT can set up a future meeting to give Monroe County an update.

3) Transportation Planning & Programs

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

Mr. Fisher provided an update on TA/ARC/MTF/FLAP projects in District 4. Mr. Vottero provided an update on TA/ARC/MTF/FLAP projects in District 5.

Mr. Mrozinski asked for confirmation that county MTF funding was added to the Carlton Hill Road over Taylor Creek Project. Mr. Fisher stated that he would follow up with Mr. Mrozinski.

b) Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Funkhouser provided a presentation on the Long Range Transportation Plan update. The LRTP Steering Committee held a kickoff meeting on August 11, 2026. Data collection and analysis has begun, and NEPA staff have conducted public outreach at community events across the NEPA MPO region. The LRTP public input map can be found here: <https://wikimapping.com/wikimapping-project>. Later in the year, the project team will begin conducting stakeholder interviews and complete data collection for the LRTP Regional Profile.

Mr. Ahner asked which events NEPA Staff would attend in Carbon County. Ms. McMahon stated that NEPA staff will be attending the Carbon County COG Meeting and the State of the County Breakfast. Mr. Ahner asked if NEPA Staff could look for events to attend in Lehigh. Ms. Meinhart-Fritz stated that NEPA staff did an outstanding job at the West End Fair. Mr. Yelito stated that he is also promoting the survey at LTAP classes to get municipal workers involved. Ms. Smith stated that she would be sharing the public input tool at the Schuylkill County EMA LEPC Conference. Mr. Knee stated that LANTA can share the tool on public transit and noted that Lehigh has had some turnover in municipal staff. Ms. Smith asked if the project team could ask about PA 183 during the stakeholder interview with RATS MPO. Mr. Funkhouser confirmed that they would.

c) 2027-2029 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. McMahon stated that development of the draft 2027-2029 UPWP is ongoing. A Supplemental Planning Study request was made from Schuylkill County for a Tamaqua Gateway Study. A gap through Tamaqua was identified in the 9/11 National Memorial Trail Anthracite Connector Feasibility Study. The study would identify the trail alignment and look at traffic calming options coming into Tamaqua from the Western end of the borough. The study would be included as a separate task in the draft UPWP. If Central

Office does not grant the supplemental request the UPWP would be amended to remove the task. The NEPA MPO is anticipating that the study would cost roughly \$100,000 and be done by Michael Baker under their open-end agreement. Ms. Meinhart asked if there were other funding opportunities for the study. Ms. McMahon stated that there are other programs through DCNR, but a 50/50 match is required. Ms. Smith stated that Schuylkill County is also pursuing DCNR grants, but that the project is related more to traffic calming than trail development.

Ms. McMahon stated that the next UPWP also identifies an update to the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan. Initial conversations with Luzerne County have been underway about doing a joint Coordinated Transit Plan with the LLTS MPO. A joint plan would help identify transit needs between all counties. Mr. Knee stated that PennDOT has an inter-city bus coordinator that may be a useful contact for the future plan update.

Ms. McMahon stated that the Draft UPWP will be presented to the Technical Committee at the October 13 Technical Committee Meeting. The Technical Committee will vote to approve sending the draft UPWP to FHWA and FTA for a 45-day public comment period. The UPWP will be brought for adoption at the December 15th Joint Technical Committee and Policy Board Meeting. The UPWP will then go before the NEPA Board in January for final approval.

d) Active Transportation Plan Implementation

Ms. McMahon stated that the Active Transportation Task Force is planning two Active Transportation Workshops for October and November. The Schuylkill/Carbon county workshop will be held at the Lehigh Carbon Community College Tamaqua campus. The Monroe/Pike county workshop could not be held at Middle Smithfield's Community Building, so NEPA staff are reaching out to ESU for a potential meeting space. Once dates and locations are confirmed information will be sent out to schedule the workshops.

e) Eastern PA Freight Alliance

Ms. McMahon stated that a coordination meeting was held on August 27, 2026, to prioritize action items for the group moving forward. LVPC organized the plan recommendations into a single excel spreadsheet and asked EPFA members to update the alliance on any projects, and rank policy recommendations. Many of the projects identified in the NEPA MPO region are already programed.

f) NEVI Community Charging Round

Ms. McMahon stated that the NEPA MPO identified priority locations for EV charging in 2025 based on the results of the NEVI Community Charging survey and submitted the results to PennDOT. PennDOT has divided the state into four regions for the NEVI Community Charging Funding Rounds. The Eastern Region program is expected to open by the end of September. Interested Organizations can apply for funding to install electric vehicle charging stations. Awards will be between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 with a 20% match.

Mr. Christy asked if contractors and businesses would be eligible for the program. Ms. McMahon stated that they are eligible for the program, and that PennDOT has some requirements for site location and requires coordination with electric suppliers to ensure that adequate infrastructure can power the charging stations. Ms. Meinhart-Fritz stated that several Wawa stores have been proposed in Monroe County and asked if they would be eligible as site hosts. Ms. McMahon stated that they should be eligible. Mr. Fisher asked if PennDOT is coordinating NEVI charging station construction across state lines so that two stations are not constructed across the border from each other. Ms. McMahon stated that she would reach out to PennDOT's Alternative Fuels Coordinator to speak at the next MPO meeting. Ms. Smith stated that potential applicants must submit an interested organization form on the PennDOT website. Some EV stations in Frackville have been brought online.

4) Other Business

Ms. McMahon stated that Mr. Raio was promoted to Western Section Manager position in PennDOT CPDM and will no longer be the Central Office Representative for the NEPA MPO. Mr. Alas and Ms. Nonnemaker will be the PennDOT contacts until Mr. Raio's spot is filled. Mr. Raio thanked everyone and stated it has been great working with the NEPA MPO.

5) Adjournment

There being no further business, the NEPA MPO Technical Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.