



Lehigh Valley Green Transportation Infrastructure Project

Letters of Intent



Resolution No. 03-28-24-A
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
ADOPTING THE CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION PRIORITY CLIMATE
ACTION PLAN FOR TRANSPORTATION DECARBONIZATION

- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is organized by the Counties of Lehigh and Northampton to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the two-county region in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act of 1978, among other statutes both state and federal; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (“LVTS”) was created in 1964 to serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lehigh Valley pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code and to implement provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, among other federal statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program to provide \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution; and
- WHEREAS,** CPRG is a two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants to the largest metropolitan areas in the US, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants; and
- WHEREAS,** The LVPC received a \$1 million EPA Planning Grant to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan by March 1, 2024, and a Regional Climate Action Plan by June 2025 for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton PA/NJ Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Warren County, NJ and Carbon County, PA in addition to Lehigh and Northampton Counties, PA; and
- WHEREAS,** LVPC chose to focus Priority Climate Action Plan efforts on the sector with the fastest growth in greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, and partnered with the LVTS, as the region’s transportation planning board to complete the planning effort; and
- WHEREAS,** LVTS along with the LVPC, have prepared a regional Priority Climate Action Plan focused on decarbonization of the transportation sector in accordance with EPA’s CPRG program guidance; and
- WHEREAS,** LVTS/LVPC utilized the open, inclusive, public WorkshopLV: Environment and Transportation to discuss, guide and draft priorities. Workshops included residents, businesses, and a variety of partner organizations, agencies, and authorities, who worked create the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan*; and
- WHEREAS,** LVTS/LVPC also, met with Carbon County, PA and Warren County, NJ to engage in the development of the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan*; and

WHEREAS, The intent of the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* is to reduce transportation related emissions, improving air-quality and improving human and environmental health. This broad goal is consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, *Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan*, *Northampton County Livable Landscapes Plan*, *Lehigh County Livable Landscapes Plan*, Lehigh, and Northampton Transportation Authority's (LANTA) *Moving LANTA Forward Regional Transit Plan* and LANTA's *Enhanced Bus/Bus Rapid Transit* planning; and

WHEREAS, *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* is consistent with the LVTS and LVPC adopted resolutions to include Health in All policies (Resolutions 9-19-19-A and 10-2-19-B, respectively) and LVTS Vision Zero policy (Resolution 11-15-23-B); and

WHEREAS, Improving green infrastructure is a critical measure of the Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan and U.S. Route 22, 33, 309, and 378, as well as, the 33 Park and Ride Multimodal Facility offer some of the greatest opportunity to sequester carbon utilizing natural systems services; and

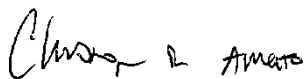
WHEREAS, The LVPC in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation wish to apply for CPRG Implementation funding for the US Route 22, 33, 309, 378, Park and Ride Multimodal facilities green infrastructure project by the April 1, 2024 EPA deadline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVPC adopts the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* as its official transportation decarbonization policy plan; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVPC urges the EPA to award Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant funds to the Lehigh Valley Green Transportation Infrastructure Transformation Project as a means to sequester carbon in areas with high and growing emissions, reduce stormwater runoff, improve water and air quality, create and enhance insect and migratory bird corridors, improve health and wellbeing, especially in Justice 40 equity communities, reduce energy consumption, eliminate major transit safety concerns and develop carbon reduction implementation standards for the entire highway system in the region and beyond.

Adopted by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission on the 28th day of March 2024.

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION



Dr. Christopher Amato, Chair



Christian "Tori" Morgan, Vice Chair



Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen, Treasurer

ATTEST:



Becky A. Bradley, AICP, Executive Director



DR. CHRISTOPHER R. AMATO
Chair

CHRISTINA V. MORGAN
Vice Chair

ARMANDO MORITZ-CHAPELLIQUEN
Treasurer

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Executive Director

Resolution No. 03-21-24-A

**OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COMMITTING TO THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION IMPLEMENTATION GRANT
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR A COALITION**

- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (“LVTS”) was created in 1964 to serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lehigh Valley pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code and to implement provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, among other federal statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study’s formation included the then Pennsylvania Department of Highways, now the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as a voting member and work program partner of the Metropolitan Planning Organization; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) have had successive agreements in place for the management and operations of the Metropolitan Planning Organization since 1964 and have successfully collaborated on tens of billions of dollars of infrastructure investment projects over the decades; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is organized by the Counties of Lehigh and Northampton to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the two-county region in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act of 1978, among other statutes both state and federal; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission serves as the administrative and operational conduit for the LVTS and holds all contracts and agreements with the PennDOT and US Department of Transportation for Metropolitan Planning Organization functions within the Lehigh Valley; and
- WHEREAS,** Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program to provide \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution; and
- WHEREAS,** CPRG is a two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants to the largest metropolitan areas in the US, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants; and
- WHEREAS,** The LVPC received a \$1 million EPA Planning Grant to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan by March 1, 2024, and a Regional Climate Action Plan by June 2025 for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton PA/NJ Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Warren County, NJ and Carbon County, PA in addition to Lehigh and Northampton Counties, PA; and

WHEREAS, LVPC chose to focus Priority Climate Action Plan efforts on the sector with the fastest growth in greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, and partnered with the LVTS, as the region's transportation planning board, including PennDOT, to complete the effort; and

WHEREAS, LVTS along with the LVPC, have prepared a regional Priority Climate Action Plan focused on decarbonization of the transportation sector in accordance with EPA's CPRG program guidance; and

WHEREAS, LVTS/LVPC utilized the open, inclusive, public WorkshopLV: Environment and Transportation to discuss, guide and draft priorities. Workshops included residents, businesses, and a variety of partner organizations, agencies, and authorities, who worked create the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan*; and

WHEREAS, LVTS/LVPC also, met with Carbon County, PA and Warren County, NJ to engage in the development of the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan*; and

WHEREAS, The intent of the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* is to reduce transportation related emissions, improving air-quality and improving human and environmental health. This broad goal is consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, *Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan*, *Northampton County Livable Landscapes Plan*, *Lehigh County Livable Landscapes Plan*, Lehigh, and Northampton Transportation Authority's (LANTA) *Moving LANTA Forward Regional Transit Plan* and LANTA's *Enhanced Bus/Bus Rapid Transit* planning; and

WHEREAS, *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* is consistent with the LVTS and LVPC adopted resolutions to include Health in All policies (Resolutions 9-19-19-A and 10-2-19-B, respectively) and LVTS Vision Zero policy (Resolution 11-15-23-B); and

WHEREAS, Improving green infrastructure is a critical measure of the Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan and U.S. Route 22, 33, 309, and 378, as well as, the 33 Park and Ride Multimodal Facility offer some of the greatest opportunity to sequester carbon utilizing natural systems services; and

WHEREAS, The LVPC in partnership with the PennDOT wish to form a Coalition, for CPRG Implementation funding for the US Route 22, 33, 309, 378, Park and Ride Multimodal facilities green infrastructure project by the April 1, 2024, EPA deadline.

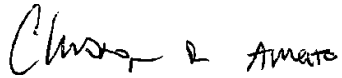
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVPC Executive Committee authorizes the formation of a formal Coalition and entrance into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to develop, apply for and implement the EPA for a Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant to invest in the improvement of the region's environment through transportation decarbonization.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVPC Executive Committee authorizes the Administration to finalize the Memorandum of Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and instructs the same to present the completed document the Executive Committee at a future meeting.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVPC Executive Committee urges the EPA to award Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant funds to the Lehigh Valley Green Transportation Infrastructure Transformation Project as a means to sequester carbon in areas with high and growing emissions, reduce stormwater runoff, improve water and air quality, create and enhance insect and migratory bird corridors, improve health and wellbeing, especially in Justice 40 equity communities, reduce energy consumption, eliminate major transit safety concerns and develop carbon reduction implementation standards for the entire highway system in the region and beyond.

Adopted by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Executive Committee on the 21st day of March 2024.

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Dr. Christopher Amato, Chair

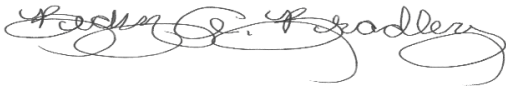


Christian "Tori" Morgan, Vice Chair



Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen, Treasurer

ATTEST:



Becky A. Bradley, AICP, Executive Director



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

RICHARD MOLCHANY
Chair, Coordinating Committee

BRENDAN COTTER
Chair, Technical Committee

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Secretary,
Coordinating Committee +
Technical Committee

Resolution No. 03-20-24-A OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY PRIORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (“LVTS”) was created in 1964 to serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lehigh Valley pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code and to implement provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, among other federal statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) is organized by the Counties of Lehigh and Northampton to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the two-county region in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act of 1978, among other statutes both state and federal; and
- WHEREAS,** The LVTS and the LVPC share a staff, office and other operational resources administratively managed by the LVPC Executive Committee and LVPC Administration; and
- WHEREAS,** Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program to provide \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution; and
- WHEREAS,** CPRG is a two-phase program providing \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants to the largest metropolitan areas in the US, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants; and
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- WHEREAS,** LVTS along with the LVPC, have prepared a regional Priority Climate Action Plan focused on decarbonization of the transportation sector in accordance with EPA’s CPRG program guidance; and
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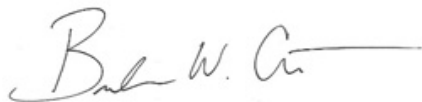
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVTS Technical Committee recommends adoption of the *Lehigh Valley Priority Climate Action Plan* as its official transportation decarbonization policy plan; and

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVTS Technical Committee, supports the LVPC and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Coalition's, application to the EPA for a Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant to invest in the improvement of the region's environment through transportation decarbonization.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the LVTS Technical Committee, through our transportation planning work agree to support the LVPC and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Coalition and provide necessary data, analytics, planning and on-call support as Metropolitan Planning Organization partner.

Adopted by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study on the 20th day of March 2024.

LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

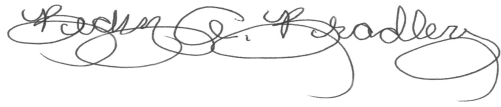


Brendan Cotter, Chair
Technical Committee



Ryan Meyer, Vice Chair
Technical Committee

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Becky A. Bradley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Becky A. Bradley, AICP, Secretary,
LVTS Technical and Coordinating Committees



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Letter of Consistency for Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation
Grants General Competition program - US Route 22 Green Infrastructure Corridor

Dear Administrator Regan:

This letter identifies the subject project as being consistent with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Carbon Reduction Strategy and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Climate Action Plan.

This project will reimagine and retrofit US Route 22, a 22-mile-long major transportation corridor to include additional green spaces, enhancing native and non-invasive landscaping, tree canopy and nature-based stormwater management practices, reducing hazards and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, protecting migratory bird, insect, and wildlife pathways, improving air quality, and the health, safety and welfare of the region's most traveled corridor.

Please accept this letter as PennDOT's agreement with the application and willingness to work with the applicant in the future if the project is awarded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry S. Shifflet".

Larry S. Shifflet
Executive Deputy Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation