

Lackawanna Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization

Lebanon County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

Reading Area Transportation Study

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR COORDINATION OF FREIGHT
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
REGION AND THE CREATION OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA FREIGHT ALLIANCE**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and among Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) including and limited to the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (LLTS MPO), Lebanon County Metropolitan Planning Organization (LEBCO MPO), Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS MPO), Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization (NEPA MPO), and Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS MPO), collectively referred to hereinafter as "the PARTIES."

PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a working alliance between the PARTIES to collaborate on mutually beneficial freight transportation studies, plans, programs, and/or efforts. Upon adoption, this agreement shall result in the establishment of the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance (EPFA).

AGREEMENT

The PARTIES acknowledge that portions of the Northeastern Pennsylvania region are characterized as an attractive destination for the goods movement industry, given proximity to major intermodal freight terminals, proximity to nearly 40 percent of the United States population, and the presence of a robust multimodal transportation network.

And, on March 17, 2022, the PARTIES agreed to jointly develop the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Infrastructure Plan. In 2024 the PARTIES completed the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Infrastructure Plan and each MPO has subsequently adopted the document. Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Infrastructure Plan MPO adoption includes: Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (LLTS MPO) on January 14th, 2025, Lebanon County Metropolitan Planning Organization (LEBCO MPO) on February 28th, 2025, Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS MPO) on December 12th, 2024, Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization (NEPA MPO) on December 17th, 2024, and Reading Area Transportation Study (Reading MPO) on January 16th, 2025.

A key role for Metropolitan Planning Organizations is to serve as forums for cooperative

transportation planning and decision-making in metropolitan areas as defined in 23 CFR 450.306. And, this MOU constitutes a multi-party agreement which aligns with the definitions of “coordination,” “cooperation,” and “consultation” as defined in 23 CFR 450.104 for the PARTIES, as well as complying with other relevant provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. No. 117-58), the most recent federal surface transportation legislation.

The PARTIES agree to follow this MOU in order to ensure coordination in the tracking and development of the freight or transportation planning products of the metropolitan transportation planning process.

This MOU is intended to ensure that the products of each respective MPO freight transportation planning process take into account the impacts of the plans and programs developed by the other MPOs; avoid duplication of effort; reflect consistency of approaches where possible; and ensure the consideration of the interests of all participating MPOs.

The PARTIES seek to advance, jointly or independently, the infrastructure and policy actions identified in the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Infrastructure Plan as adopted.

The PARTIES hereto agree to perform in good faith, and to the extent practicable and appropriate, the activities of voluntary coordination, cooperation, and consultation amongst themselves, as follows:

1. Establish a primary point of contact for each MPO which are PARTIES to this agreement.
2. Develop a managing agreement that includes a roster of current contacts for all PARTIES.
3. Convene, at regularly scheduled intervals, a meeting of representatives from the PARTIES to this agreement. This includes an annual meeting of the Executive Directors or appropriate key freight planning staff of the MPOs which are PARTIES to this agreement to engage in discussions of mutual freight activities and the development of freight elements associated with federally-required planning products or analyses. The annual meeting will also serve as a mechanism for assessing this MOU, reconfirming primary points of contact for each MPO, addressing management of the Alliance, ongoing efforts of the Alliance, and for discussing additional expectations and approaches, as appropriate.
4. During the development of the Long-Range Transportation Plan/Metropolitan Transportation Plan for each PARTY, consult as appropriate with all PARTIES regarding key elements of the plan as they relate to freight transportation.
5. During the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for each PARTY, consult as appropriate with all PARTIES regarding key elements of the TIP as they relate to freight transportation planning.
6. Identify “boundary” freight projects or programs which impact the planning areas of two or more of the PARTIES.
7. Cooperate in efforts toward achieving, where possible, general consistency of

freight planning products, analyses, and tools through informal communication and document exchange amongst PARTIES to this agreement.

8. Develop a coordinated and complementary approach to federal discretionary grant applications for freight related transportation planning & implementation, to ensure implementation of the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Infrastructure Plan and reduce competition amongst PARTIES to this agreement for limited federal dollars.
9. Participate, to the extent practicable, in the transportation planning processes of the other PARTIES through such activities, as are deemed appropriate, as meeting participation, including the use of the PARTIES' public participation processes and involvement in freight transportation studies, as well as through informal and ongoing communications regarding same.
10. Make accessible all relevant research, analysis, materials, and work products to all PARTIES as necessary to advance the freight infrastructure planning and coordination.

SIGNATURES

The undersigned PARTIES acknowledge and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding for coordination of freight transportation planning activities in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region and the creation of the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance:

Lackawanna Luzerne Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization

Name Title Date

Adoption Date:

Lebanon County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Name Title Date

Adoption Date:

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, as contracting entity on behalf of the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

Name Title Date

Adoption Date:

Northeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Planning Organization

Name Title Date

Adoption Date:

Reading Area Transportation Study

Name Title Date

Adoption Date: