

**Public Hearing Statement**  
**Friday, May 11, 2018**  
**12:00 noon, LANTA Community Room**  
**1060 Lehigh Street, Allentown, PA**

The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) was created by Lehigh and Northampton Counties in March of 1972 for the purpose of providing the residents of the two counties with convenient, dependable and affordable public transportation services.

Since its creation, LANTA has revised routes and schedules; expanded services; restructured transit fares; continuously improved its bus and paratransit vehicle fleet and made other necessary capital improvements to facilities, to help achieve the high quality of public transit services being provided.

LANTA presently provides fixed-route services, its LANtaBus System, over 30 bus routes within and between Lehigh and Northampton Counties and owns and operates 83 city transit vehicles.

LANTA's fiscal year 2019 operating budget calls for the continuation of LANtaBus services. No significant changes in service level are expected on the LANtaBus system and no fare increases are planned for the coming fiscal year. The FY 2019 operating budget does call for the elimination of the student fare from the LANtaBus fare structure which has been replaced by the sale of bus passes at a deeper discount in area schools.

Approximately 4.5 million passengers will have boarded LANtaBus transit vehicles during the annual by the end of fiscal 2018.

Through the LANtaVan division, approximately 420,000 trips will have been provided this fiscal year to the elderly and persons with disabilities in the community using 108 publicly owned,

accessible vans and mini-buses operated through contract with a local private carrier, Easton Coach Company.

LANTA's fiscal year 2019 operating budget calls for the continuation of LANtaVan services. No significant changes in service level are expected and no fare increases are currently planned for the coming fiscal year.

LANTA intends to continue its investment in capital equipment and to work towards greater efficiency and productivity of LANtaBus and LANtaVan services to meet growing demand.

The Authority will be applying for capital and planning funds from the federal government to support a proposed program of projects. Funds will be sought to support these projects through Sections 5307, 5310, 5339 and other sections of Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015, the current federal transportation authorizing legislation as approved and sanctioned by the United States Congress.

Funds for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 Program of Projects will be sought through Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula funding programs Sections 5307, 5339 & 5340 of the FAST Act in the amount of \$9.126 million as apportioned to the Pennsylvania portion of the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA; Phillipsburg, NJ urbanized area for transit projects through FFY 2019. Approximately \$960,000 of funding under the Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program and approximately \$663,000 of funding under the Federal Section 5310 program is also being sought. Matching funds are provided through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Act 89 funding as well as through Lehigh and Northampton Counties, Pennsylvania for a total program budget of \$13.44 million.

The line items included in the FFY 2019 Program of Projects are described in the handout material made available at the meeting today. Line items will be funded through a combination of the sources noted above.

Copies of the Program of Projects have been and continue to be available to the public on LANTA's website and by request. Methods for obtaining a copy of the Program of Projects was described in the public notices posted in LANTA facilities, on LANTA vehicles, in the Morning Call, on LANTA's website and on LANTA's social media accounts.

The items being presented as part of the FFY 2019 Program of Projects have been approved by the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, (LVTS), and are part of the certified Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, for the Lehigh Valley.

That concludes the official testimony of the hearing and the members of the public in attendance who have indicated they would like to make a statement on the sign-in sheet will now be provided the opportunity to make their comments. After these individuals have made their comments, all in attendance will be allowed to ask questions. Thank you.

End.