



Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority  
1060 Lehigh Street, Allentown, PA 18103  
Phone: 610-435-4517

## LANTA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2025

LANTA Administrative Offices, Allentown, PA

Members Attending: Mike Lichtenberger – Chair of the Authority; Matt Malozi – Treasurer of the Authority; Sheila Alvarado - Secretary of the Authority; Kimberly Schaffer; and Beth Halpern.

Members Attending via Webinar / Teleconference: Fred Williams; Jared Mast; and Amy Beck.

Members Absent: Becky Bradley; Jennifer Ramos; Iris Linares; and Matt Rozsa.

Staff and Contractors Attending: O. O'Neil, T. Williams, J. Polster-Abel, B. Cotter A. Yacko, J. Ozoa, A. Knee, D. Lightner – LANTA Staff. Kent Herman – Solicitor.

Public Attending: Maurice Wells.

Public Attending via Webinar/Teleconference: None.

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Mike Lichtenberger, Chair of the Authority.

### **2. Roll Call**

Roll Call was conducted by Mr. O'Neil.

### **3. Public Comment**

During Public Comment, Maurice Wells commented that he hoped that the federal government shutdown would not negatively affect LANTA operations.

### **4. Approval of the Minutes**

*The minutes of the September 9, 2025, Board of Directors meeting were approved on a motion made by Ms. Alvarado and seconded by Mr. Malozi.*

**5. Report of the Chair**

As part of the Report of the Chair, Mr. Lichtenberger noted that LANTA had submitted a request to PennDOT for stabilization funding in September. Similar to the requests submitted by SEPTA and Pittsburgh Regional Transit, LANTA's request would allow for a two-year stabilization period. LANTA's request included a plan for how LANTA would use that two-year period to make adjustments that put LANTA in a better financial position. PennDOT has acknowledged their receipt of that request and informed LANTA that the request is under review. The acknowledgement from the PennDOT Secretary Michael Carroll, which is attached, also states that PennDOT is looking to make a determination in the very near future.

Mr. Lichtenberger noted that the LANTA Board appreciates the update from Secretary Carroll as well as PennDOT's consideration of LANTA's request. The Board urges the Department to reach a positive determination as a result of that review to allow LANTA to avoid immediate and severe service reductions. While an approval of LANTA's stabilization request would help for the short term, LANTA continues to advocate for a longer-term sustainable funding solution for public transportation.

Mr. Lichtenberger then concluded the Report of the Chair.

**6. Report of the Committees**

A. Finance Committee – Mr. Malozi, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met in Executive Session on Monday August 25 to discuss a private personnel matter. Minutes of the session were provided to all Board members.

*On a motion made by Mr. Malozi and seconded by Ms. Schaffer, the Board voted to ratify the actions taken during the Executive Session.*

Mr. Malozi reported that the Finance Committee also met on Tuesday October 7 prior to the Board meeting. As part of the agenda, staff presented updates on various items and initiatives including state transit funding; the schedule for upcoming communications and public meetings regarding service changes and fare adjustments; the process for the preparation and adoption of the 2027 through 2030 regional

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); as well as the status of the implementation of the Valley Ride fare collection system.

Mr. Malozi then concluded the Committee report.

B. Administration & Safety Committee – Ms. Alvarado, Chair of the Administration & Safety Committee, reported that the Administration & Safety Committee met on Tuesday October 7 prior to the Board meeting. As part of the agenda, staff presented the Administration & Safety Dashboard Report which covered employee headcount as of the day of the meeting, and training completed in August. The report is attached.

In addition, staff presented updates on various items and initiatives including an update on the Advertising Vendor Services RFP; the process to recertify the use of Automated Passenger Counter equipment as required by the Federal Transit Administration; the schedule and agenda for upcoming general safety meetings which are required for all employees; as well as an overview of the PennDOT Act 44 management review.

Ms. Alvarado then concluded the Committee report.

C. Service Support & Planning Committee – Ms. Schaffer, Chair of the Service Support & Planning Committee, reported that the Committee did not meet in October and that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday November 11.

D. Service Delivery & Accessibility Committee – On behalf of Ms. Linares, Chair of the Service Delivery & Accessibility Committee, Mr. O’Neil reported that the Service Delivery & Accessibility Committee did not meet in October and that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday December 9.

## **7. Other Items**

- Ms. Williams reported that LANTA Operations Supervisors are taking part in a Dispatch/Supervisor training program conducted by PennTrain, a program administered by the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association (PPTA).
- Mr. Yacko reported that three LANTA Maintenance Department employees are taking part in a mechanic apprenticeship program also conducted by PennTrain.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheila Alvarado".

11/11/2025

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Sheila Alvarado  
Secretary

Date



*Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority*

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**LANTA Board Meeting  
Agenda  
October 7, 2025**

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of the Minutes – September 9, 2025 Board Meeting
5. Report of the Chair
6. Report of Committees
  - A. Finance – Matt Malozi
    - i. Items for consideration of approval:
      - a. Ratification of Actions Taken During Executive Session
  - B. Administration & Safety – Sheila Alvarado
  - C. Service Support & Planning – Kim Schaffer
  - D. Service Delivery & Accessibility – Iris Linares
7. Other Items
8. Adjournment

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

September 29, 2025

Owen O'Neil, Executive Director  
Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority  
1060 Lehigh Street  
Allentown, PA 18103

Dear Mr. O'Neil:

This letter is in response to Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority's (LANTA) letter dated September 15, 2025 requesting the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (Department) approval of a one-time use of state capital assistance funding under 74 Pa.C.S. § 1514 to fund LANTA operations. LANTA is requesting \$24 million to support its operations for two years.

Section 427.6(b) of the Department's Regulations, 67 Pa. Code § 427.6(b), allows the use, with Department approval, of capital assistance funds for operating assistance to prevent one or more of the following:

- to prevent a reduction in service.
- to prevent an unreasonable fare increase.
- to prevent a projected one-time unbalanced operating budget.

The use of capital assistance funds for operating assistance must include a written justification supporting that the proposed one-time use of capital funds for operating assistance will not result in the deferral of any important capital project that could have been funded if the capital funds were not transferred to operations.

As stated in your letter, LANTA does not receive a statutorily specified allocation of capital assistance funding. However, LANTA does receive competitively awarded funding under 74 Pa.C.S. § 1514 (c) to match federal capital funding and other specified projects, like rolling stock and facility maintenance.

LANTA is facing a \$12 million annual operating budget deficit as a result of several factors, including service expansion to support population and economic growth in the region and stabilization of the Shared Ride program with operating funds. Without additional financial support, LANTA has indicated they will have to reduce service on fixed route buses by 40 percent, reduce the availability of Shared Ride, and significantly increase fares across all modes beginning in January 2026.

The Department is reviewing LANTA's FY 25-26 capital assistance grant and other information necessary to make a decision on this request. I hope to have a determination or recommendation in the very near future.

If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Biggica, Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation, at 717.787.8197 or [mebiggica@pa.gov](mailto:mebiggica@pa.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael B. Carroll  
Secretary of Transportation



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**Joint LANTA Finance Committee and  
Administration & Safety Committee  
Agenda  
October 7, 2025**

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**Finance Committee**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Report on Initiatives
  - A. State Funding Update
  - B. Upcoming Schedule of Public Meetings/Communications Regarding Service and Fare Actions
  - C. FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program Preparation
  - D. Valley Ride Fare Collection System Implementation Update
5. Adjournment

**Administration & Safety Committee**

1. Call to Order
2. Administration & Safety Dashboard
3. Procurements
  - A. Update – Advertising Vendor Services RFP
4. Report on Initiatives
  - A. APC Equipment FTA Recertification
  - B. Upcoming General Safety Meetings
  - C. PennDOT Act 44 Management Review
5. Other Items
6. Adjournment

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## Preliminary Service and Fare Change Public Announcements and Meetings Schedule

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Annual Survey – released on or before October 13, 2025 and run through November 14, 2025.

### Service Reduction Scenarios

- Implementation January 26, 2026.
- Potential Scenarios – 5% reduction, or 20% reduction dependent upon funding situation.
- Public Meeting to be held week of November 17 (Thursday November 20 at latest).
- Legal Ad to be published 30 days prior to meeting date (week of 10/17).
- Posting of public meeting announcement on buses 21 days prior (week of 10/27).
- Scenarios will be presented to the Board at the Service Support & Planning Committee on November 11. Both scenarios may need to be presented depending upon the information we have at the time regarding PennDOT's approval of LANTA's stabilization request.
- Information regarding the scenarios (either the selected scenario or both depending upon information available at the time) will be posted on the LANTA website for public review after the Service Support & Planning Committee meeting to provide some public review time prior to the public meeting.

### Fare Increase – Fixed Route

- Early March 2026 implementation, to coincide with Phase 2 of Valley Ride implementation.
- Disparate Impact/Disproportionate Burden Analysis of the proposed fare increase to be presented to the Board at the Service Delivery & Accessibility Committee meeting on December 9.
- Legal Ad for fixed route fare increase public meeting to be published after the December 9 Board meeting.
- Public meeting for fare increase to be held mid-January (date to be determined).

### Fare/CoPay Increase – Lottery Shared Ride Program

- Tentative implementation date – March 1, 2026 or later if necessary.
- Public meetings may be held simultaneously with fixed route fare increase public meeting or possibly as a separate process.



## Administration & Safety Committee Dashboard

Monday, 10/06/2025

LANTA employees count as of 10/06/2025 below.

Union Employees	Count	Percentage
Male	154	69.36%
Female	68	30.64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>100%</b>
Non-Union Employees		
Male	40	50.63%
Female	39	49.37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>
All LANTA Employees		
Male	194	64.45%
Female	107	35.55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>100%</b>

Open Positions: Currently LANTA has the following open positions:

- None

Internal Training Update: List of internal trainings that were completed in August 2025:

- New employee training Operations and Maintenance – 0
- Recertifications – 24
- Retraining – 0
- Ride-Alongs – 44
- Endorsement Trainings – 0
- Safety Meetings - 0