Wednesday 9/16 – 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Title: Mobile Workshop #1 – Transit & Trails Training

Speaker: Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA)

Description: Need a ride to the trail but don't have a bike rack? Worried about parking at crowded trailheads? Ever had a breakdown miles from home with no easy way back? Transit to the rescue!

This interactive mobile workshop introduces trail enthusiasts to the growing mobility options available through local public transit. Led by the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) and the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation (CAT), participants will explore how transit can make trail access easier, safer, and more flexible.

The workshop begins with a tour of Bethlehem's new Walnut Street Garage, featuring bicycle-specific amenities, stops for LANTA's Enhanced Bus Service (EBS) lines, and the new CAT Bicycle Cooperative. Inside CAT's facility, participants will learn how to plan rides using trail maps, transit maps, and bus schedules while getting an introduction to safe and efficient transit riding.

LANTA staff will demonstrate how to identify bus stops, routes, and schedules, whether planning ahead or navigating an unexpected mid-ride emergency. Participants will also learn how to board a LANTA bus, pay fares, and load bicycles onto bus-mounted bike racks.

To put those new skills to the test, the group will board a live LANTA bus for a hands-on transit experience. Participants will practice riding the bus, requesting a stop, exiting safely, and retrieving their bicycles like seasoned transit riders. Bikes will be provided by CAT for demonstration purposes only.

Length: 120 Minutes

Wednesday 9/16 – 2:45 PM - 4:30 PM

Title: Mobile Workshop #2 – Historic Hotel Walking Tour

Speaker: Historic Bethlehem Tours | Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites

Description: Learn about the 280-plus-year history of Bethlehem's unique beginnings starting in the early 1740s with a guided tour through the Moravian Church Settlements–Bethlehem World Heritage Site, and the Colonial Industrial Quarter along the Monocacy Creek.

Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites (HBMS) interprets three centuries of the history and culture of Bethlehem by vividly telling the stories of Bethlehem's people through well-maintained original buildings and sites, rare collections that are available through exhibits and research, and illuminating educational programs. During the tour, HBMS will shed light on how local history has been leveraged into successful programming for residents and visitors, thereby providing an economic boon to region.

Length: 90 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 – 9:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Title: Mobile Workshop #3 - Bethlehem Complete Streets Tour **Bring your own bike and helmet or use bike share*

Speaker*: Corey Gray, City of Bethlehem*

Description: The City of Bethlehem has made significant investments in its trail network to serve both local and regional needs, including improvements and expansions to the South Bethlehem Greenway, and D&L Trail. However, like many communities in Pennsylvania, gaps remain between these trails and the neighborhoods, business districts, and daily destinations they are intended to serve. This session explores how the City of Bethlehem is using Complete Streets principles and a Safe System approach to bridge that gap and integrating trails into vital components of the City's transportation network. By aligning these planning efforts, the City intends to improve mobility for all users, while addressing key "last mile" connections between communities and regional trails. Participants will ride on a guided bike tour of the City, stopping at recent improvements, ongoing problem areas, and future projects. Bikes and helmets will

be provided to the first 20 registrants; all other participants must bring their own bike. Bike Police escorts will be provided.
Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 – 2:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Title: Mobile Workshop #4: Tour Allentowns MLK Projects

Speaker: City of Allentown
Description: Join a bus tour of the MLK projects in Allentown including stops at Wire Mill Arboretum, Fountain Park, and Union Terrace Park.
Length: 135 Minutes

Friday 9/18 – 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Title: Mobile Workshop #5: Walking in the Shoes of History - Easton Silk Mill / Historic Easton Cemetery

Speakers: Brit Kondravy, DLNHC; Keith Lampman-Perlman, The Historic Easton Cemetery
Description: In the 19th century, many American cemeteries were designed not only as burial grounds but also as proto-parks—spaces for walking, picnicking, and leisurely strolls. With 85 acres of land, the Historic Easton Cemetery is Easton, Pennsylvania's largest greenspace, acting as a sculpture garden, an arboretum and a place for recreation, mindfulness, reflection, and community. Join us as we travel from the revitalized Simon Silk Mill, along the Karl Stirner Arts Trail, to the Historic Easton Cemetery. Our tour will tell the story of the Lehigh Valley, and the nation, by remembering those interred there, including George Taylor, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. **(Route includes stairs up a hill, some incline, we well as flat paved and gravel sections. We'll move at a social pace.)**
Length: 135 Minutes

Wednesday 9/16 - 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Title: Quantifying Trail Benefits: Economic Impact of the Empire State Trail

Speaker: Rosanne Lubeck, LaBella Associates
Description: Discover how the completion of the 750-mile Empire State Trail has benefited New York's economy, environment, and public health. This session highlights key findings of the Empire State Trail Economic Impact Report from Parks & Trails New York: 9 million+ annual visits, multi-billion dollar visitor spending, and substantial job creation. We'll examine how trailside "Trail Towns" are capturing this revenue through tourism and infrastructure, proving that greenway investments deliver a high-yield return for local and state economies.

Length: 60 Minutes

Wednesday 9/16 - 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Title: Lessons Learned in Trail Development: Eight Short Stories to Inspire Your Next Project

Speaker: Matt Ludwig, NV5; Ramya Sivakumar NV5; Rosa Mannion, NV5
Description: No two trails are alike; they all have their unique characteristics. Similarly, the planning, design, and construction of each trail seems to take on their own twists and turns. NV5's planners, landscape architects, and engineers will share lessons learned through various projects in the region. Come hear a series of eight short stories about interesting roadblocks and quirky twists encountered through the trail development process to give you ideas about tackling issues on your own projects.
Length: 60 Minutes

Wednesday 9/16 - 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Title: Leveraging Ordinances, Official Maps and Private Development for Trail Development

Speaker: Chris Stanford, Michael Baker International; Sandra Zadell, Upper Gwynedd Township

Description: Some PA municipalities are leveraging the strength of their subdivision and land development ordinances (SALDO) and official maps to require construction of trails and other bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure by private land development and other agencies including PennDOT. This session will present examples where municipal ordinances, official maps and other local approaches have been successful in creating portions of community walking and bicycling networks.

Length: 60 Minutes

Wednesday 9/16 - 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Title: Walking Through World Heritage: Trails, Paths, and Heritage Interpretation at the Moravian Church Settlements

Speaker: Katherine Faull, Moravian Heritage, Institute for Moravian History and World Heritage,

Description: What does it mean for a trail to pass through a UNESCO WOrld Heritage Site – and how do we do it well? This session explores how the four component sites of the transnational Moravian Church Settlements World Heritage Site (Bethlehem PA; Herrnhut, Germany; Chrisiansfeld, Denmark; Gracehill, Northern Ireland) each use walking and trails as heritage interpretation, offering American trail planners rare comparative models from Europe and a case study from Bethlehem's own Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Length: 60 Minutes

Wednesday 9/16 - 4:00 - 5:00PM

Title: A Highline in the Little Apple: A vision of an Easton Highline and Connecting Trail moving toward reality

Speaker: Trevor Pinho, city of Easton; Elizabeth Class-Maldonado, Trust for Public Land; Jared Mast, Greater Easton Development Partnership

Description: In the 50+ years since CNJ discontinued passenger service to Easton, the property has been the subject of plans for everything from short line rail to active transportation. In this session, representatives from a partnership between the City of Easton, Greater Easton Development Partnership, and Trust for Public Land will discuss efforts to redevelop the unused rail structure into an elevated park connected to regional trail network (Two Rivers Trailway and D&L).

Length: 60 minutes

Wednesday 9/16 - 4:00 - 5:00PM

Title: Engineering a Resilient Future

Speaker: Nathaniel McCulloch, Wilson Consulting Group; Dave Kapura, Wilson Consulting Group

Description: Historic canal and river crossings are some of eastern Pennsylvania's most meaningful—and most challenging—trail assets that invite users to vividly imagine the past. This session will focus on three case studies—the Mansion House Bridge, Weissport Overflows, and Lumberville Aqueduct—to show how engineering decisions can strengthen heritage, improve resilience, and enhance trail connectivity while aligning modern standards with preservation goals.

Length: 60 Minutes

Wednesday 9/16 - 4:00 - 5:00PM

Title: Countywide Trail Planning: From Concept to Implementation

Speaker: Brian Styche, Chester County Planning Commission; Stephen Buck, Chester County Planning Commission

Description: This presentation will be an overview of the trail planning process from its earliest stages of initial concept through the preparation of feasibility studies, master plans, design documentation, construction and long-term maintenance. It is based on recent work completed by Chester County demonstrating how these principles translate into the real world. Over the last decade, Chester County completed a series of trail plans that built a foundation for investment in its public trail network.

Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 9:45AM - 10:45AM

Title: Beyond the Trail: Prioritizing Pedestrian Connections that Expand Access

Speaker: Kaitlin Mills, HRG

Description: Greenways and trails are most successful when people can safely and comfortably reach them from where they live, work, and play. While many communities invest in trail corridors, fewer address the everyday pedestrian and bicycle connections that make these systems usable. This session shows how Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) planning can help identify and prioritize connections using case studies and a practical, replicable process focused on implementation, safety, equity, and access.

Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 9:45AM - 10:45AM

Title: A Natural Alliance: Municipal Sustainability and Greenways in the Lehigh Valley

Speaker: Veronika Vostinak, City of Allentown; Sarah DeGrendel, City of Bethlehem; Brandon Sullivan, City of Easton

Description: Sustainability staff from Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton share similar climate goals but collaborations with trail and greenway organizations aren’t always obvious. This session explores that connection through mapped heat data, overviews of each City's Climate Action Plans, and real projects: Allentown's Youth Climate Action Fund, Bethlehem's Monocacy Way Trail connection, and Easton's Bushkill Street Park and Riparian Buffer Greenway. Time will be reserved for questions and conversation.

Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 9:45AM - 10:45AM

Title: Cost Effective & Sustainable Event and Business Practices AND From Compost to Community: Activating Underused Spaces Through Recreation

Speaker: Alice Wanamaker, DLNHC AND Gabe Lloyd, Long Tail Productions

Description: Meetings, events and other gatherings such as summits are a part of our daily lives. As organizations whose missions are to conserve and protect the environment, incorporating sustainable practices into these events and our daily activities is an essential business practice. Learn how DLNHC went single-use plastic free for their largest fundraiser of the year and pick up ideas to incorporate sustainable business practices into your daily operating procedures.

You will also discover how "active placemaking" transforms unexpected sites—even active compost centers—into thriving community hubs. Using our weekly 5k and bike race series, Fifth Street Cross and RunSpringa, as a model, we demonstrate how to layer community recreation over functional utility sites. Learn the logistics of managing "co-existence" between municipal operations and public events, and how to maximize the return on public land to boost local quality of life without expensive capital construction.

Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Title: Bushkill Creek Greenway: A Living Framework for Climate Infrastructure and Stewardship

Speaker: Laura Stedenfeld, Omnes; Sheila Fuentes, Omnes; Craig Beavers, Palmer Township; Megan Schmidt, AKRF

Description: This session presents the Bushkill Creek Greenway master plan in Palmer Township, a 5.1-mile, 114-acre corridor shaped by climate pressures of flooding, karst geology, quarrying, and invasive species. Developed through robust community engagement and multidisciplinary analysis, the plan advances trails as climate infrastructure through dam removal, riparian restoration, and long-term stewardship strategies that build ecological resilience and support ongoing community care of the watershed.

Length: 90 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Title: Trail Grant Do's and Don'ts

Speaker: Christine Dettore, DCNR; Alex MacDonald, DCNR; Lorne Possinger, DCNR

Description: DCNR Staff will discuss overall grant requirements to build a successful trail application. Presenters will discuss subjects such as Ownership and Control, Design Only Requirements and how to prepare an understandable budget. This session will highlight common issues staff see on grant applications specific to budgets and ownership and control. Staff will also highlight the Priority Trail Gaps identification process.

Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Title: Economic Development Panel Discussion

Speaker: Tina Smith – Director, Northampton County DCED; Samantha Pearson – Director, Lehigh County DCED; Sierra Fogal, President of PA Outdoor Business Alliance / Business Owner Pocono Whitewater

Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Title: Innovative Solutions to Enhancing Trail Access that Build Success for Long-Distance Trails and Their Communities: The Pennsylvania Highlands Trail as a Model

Speaker: Madison DeGerolamo, Appalachian Mountain Club; Robert Thomas, Campbell Thomas & Co

Description: Learn how the Appalachian Mountain Club is promoting awareness and enjoyment of the Pennsylvania Highlands Trail through the enhancement of multiple transportation modes as well as compatible economic development with its host communities, trail towns, the general public and the business community. Our presentation includes a photo tour on the Trail across Pennsylvania showing access by transit integration, 1st and last mile options, active transportation and links to other long-distance trails.

Length: 60 minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Title: Toolbox to Acquire Land for Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space AND Lehigh Valley Trail Connection Strategy: Advancing Regional Connectivity through Collaborative Planning

Speaker: Susan Myerov, LVPC; Sherry Acevedo, Northampton County; Evan Gardi, LVPC

Description: The Lehigh Valley Trail Connection Strategy is a regional planning initiative focused on advancing regional connectivity through trails. Using GIS analysis and stakeholder collaboration, the plan identifies and prioritizes critical trail gaps across the Lehigh Valley. This session highlights the Critical gaps, partnerships, and strategies to support active transportation, access, and coordinated trail development. **AND** An in-depth discussion of the incremental process to purchase land for parks, recreation, trails, and open space. A checklist of items will be presented of the buyer's due diligence in fee simple acquisitions and easements (conservation and/or trail). Building off of her knowledge and experience in open space, parks, recreation, greenways, and trails, Sherry will provide a technical aspect of land purchases, deed restrictions, and Covenants that run with the land in perpetuity as a toolbox.
Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Title: Leveraged WalkWorks Grant Funding

Speaker: Willow Perkins; Dan Meehan; Kristin Shandor
Description: This session highlights how Kulpmont Borough, Pennsylvania, leveraged WalkWorks grant funding, digital engagement tools, and collaborative planning strategies to develop a community-driven Active Transportation Plan. Attendees will learn practical methods for improving walkability, bicycle access, and transportation safety in small municipalities through surveys, interactive mapping, walk audits, GIS analysis, and community engagement techniques that can be replicated in similar communities.
Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Title: You Don't Need Mountains: Building Outdoor Culture in a Major Metro Region Through Trails, Policy, Youth Programs, and Community Action

Speaker: John Raisch, Founder, YJR Outdoors LLC
Description: You Don't Need Mountains explores how outdoor culture can be built in a major metro region through trails, youth programs, stewardship, policy, and community action. Using examples from the Philadelphia region, this session shows how The Circuit Trails, local dirt trails, youth cycling, municipal planning, and outdoor programming can connect into a stronger regional outdoor culture.
Length: 60 Minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Title: The Path to a Permit: Navigating New Regulatory Challenges for Waterside Trails

Speaker: Bill Torr, Michael Baker International
Description: Permitting trails along waterways in Pennsylvania has become increasingly complex due to a recent reinterpretation of PADEP guidelines that previously exempted many trail projects in regulated floodplains. This session will provide a high level overview of the ramifications of these changes, including increased duration and cost for engineering, permitting, and construction. Several ongoing Lehigh Valley trail projects will be highlighted to discuss lessons learned and mitigation strategies.
Length: 60 minutes

Thursday 9/17 - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Title: Blueprint Communities, Anthracite Heritage & Economic Development: Planning the September 11th Anthracite Connector Trail in Panther Valley Blueprint Communities

Speaker: Jared Soto; Andy Hamilton, 9/11 National Memorial Trail Board; Rob Armstrong, WSP

Description: This session will focus on the intersection of community and economic development and trail planning. The Anthracite Connector Trail promotes the natural and historical assets in Panther Valley. Trail development coincided with the Panther Valley Blueprint Communities PA Program which focused on elements of economic development and heritage tourism in the local boroughs. The session will review how stakeholder development contributed to successful alignment outcomes for future success.
Length: 60 Minutes