



Erie LRTP Update 2052

Stakeholder Group: Municipalities, School Districts, Tribes & Nations

September 16, 2025: 6 – 8 PM

Summit Township Municipal Building + Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Name	Organization	Email
Matt Waldinger	Millcreek Township	mwaldinger@millcreektownship.com
Thad Urban	Iroquois School District	turban@iroquoissd.org
Pete Dion	Girard Township	ptrdnk@gmail.com
Jeff Fike	City of Corry	jfike@corrypa.gov
Jessica Horan	Erie County	jhoran@eriecountypa.gov
Alexandra Royal	Erie County	aroyal@eriecountypa.gov
Lisa Murphy	Whitman, Requardt & Associates	lcmurphy@wrallp.com
Alexandra Shostak	Whitman, Requardt & Associates	ashostak@wrallp.com

Participants attended in-person as well as online via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting Summary

Jessica Horan opened the meeting by welcoming the participants, mentioning that the meeting would be recorded and that no AI notetakers were permitted. Then each participant in the room and online introduced themselves.

A brief powerpoint describing the LRTP Update process was presented by Lisa Murphy, one of the consultants at Whitman, Requardt & Associates who is preparing the plan. Powerpoint slides are available on the Erie County LRTP website.

What transportation issues are your constituents (students and families) discussing?

Opportunities - Use the lake! Erie has a terrific resource that makes it unique, but it is underutilized. There should be programs to get local residents, particularly kids, to interact with the lake. For example, boating programs, hikes on Presque Isle, etc. Erie needs to capitalize on this learning opportunity.

Access to Bus Transportation

- The system for buying and using bus passes is too complicated and needs to be simpler, observed by Iroquois school district. Kids, especially from underserved populations, could benefit from taking the bus but can't figure out how to get the passes. Even the EMTA staff couldn't explain how to get the passes.
- Kids would like access to outdoor activities (e.g. the waterfront) via better access to the public transportation system.
- In Corry, bus stops are available but people rarely use the bus.

Commuting – No convenient Amtrak in Erie for commuters. The rail they have doesn't go anywhere useful. A commuter ferry would be nice.

Biking/Multiuse trails

- Local communities and downtown Erie have nice biking trails, but they aren't connected. Biking network is currently focused on recreation, not transportation. Trying to travel between communities becomes unsafe for bicyclists (e.g., Fairview to downtown). A goal would be to connect those bike trails so they can be used for commuting to/from school and between communities.

- The school districts (e.g. Iroquois) are supposed to be advertising walk/bike to school, but it's not currently safe. Kids ask for bike racks in Iroquois School District but it's not safe to bike to school from Wesleyville, Lawrence Park, etc.

Pedestrian bridge – any ped bridges need to be well-lit with police call boxes, otherwise it may not be safe for the general public and the public (specifically women) may not use it.

PennDOT issues (need to follow up):

- Bridges over I-90 are being upgraded to help with truck heights. But some bridges are being taken down and not being put back. This causes traffic circulation issues, especially in times of emergency when I-90 is closed in the winter. Ambulances and EMS need those bridges to respond.
- Girard Twp contacted PennDOT to insist that the Beckman Rd bridge over I-90 stayed in place/be replaced. In Girard, if I-90 is closed, you can't get anywhere; without another route, Tannery Road is full of cars. When Girard asked PennDOT to replace Beckman Rd bridge, also asked about an emergency exit onto I-90 for emergency vehicles only.
- It would be helpful to have message boards available for truckers, showing the number of available spots for truck parking at nearby locations
- Who decides the I-90 restrictions during bad weather? Sometimes they are poorly timed. For example, sometimes travel on I-90 is restricted even if conditions are fine, then school buses cannot travel on it, so then they have to take back roads that are often in worse shape than the interstate.

Sidewalk Availability and Quality

- City of Corry – sidewalks are of poor quality and need to be repaired.
- Girard – vulnerable road users trying to share roads that don't have sidewalks, like Route 20 in the Westgate area. People try to cross the bridge with no sidewalk, which seems dangerous.
- Lawrence Park – Some citizens don't have sidewalks in their yards, so the sidewalks are missing pieces. The foot bridge in Lawrence Park is gone, so kids are stranded unless they cut through the baseball field and take a generally unsafe route. To get from Lawrence Park to Erie, there's a few miles of busy road with no sidewalk, and kids want to get to Erie for jobs.

Access to Employment

Ties in with access to public transportation and sidewalk availability and quality – kids who want to commute to City of Erie after school for work have a hard time due to the confusing transit system and the lack of sidewalks/bike trails creating unsafe walking/biking routes.

Intersection Congestion and Safety

- 12th street synchronized signals are not working well, need to be investigated.
- Route 20 at Westgate Intersection in Girard - A resident of Girard expressed concern about the Route 20 at Westgate intersection (between Honeybrook Circle and Sunset Drive). Most businesses have a right turn only onto Route 20, and Westgate is the only road people from the subdivision can use to access Route 20 by turning left unless they go through the mobile home park to access a nearby light. It's a difficult/dangerous left turn out of Westgate. **Suggest adding a circulation study for this area to the LRTP** to evaluate the best solution. May need to add a signal at Westgate, but it's close to another signal so that may not be the best solution.
- Route 20 and Avonia Road in Fairview – Congestion on Route 20 westbound, turning left onto Route 98 to go to the schools gets backed up during peak hours. Recent population growth and the presence of big subdivisions nearby makes the problem worse. Going from two to one lane causes cars to stack in the single lane, so through traffic cannot get by. This problem has been occurring for years.
- East Lake Road @ Iroquois Avenue – This is a very confusing set of two intersections for both drivers and pedestrians. The signage and ped crossing needs to be improved and pedestrian crossing. Lots of kids cross here walking to school.

Issues with freight movement, deliveries, trucks?

Delivery trucks cause traffic issues when they make deliveries right in the middle of town in Girard. Difficult to know how to fix this issue, likely something for the municipality to deal with. Same issue on 12th street in the City of Erie. Need more loading zones.

Are there specific school locations that have particular transportation problems?

The EMTA bus stop in front of the high school in Iroquois School District causes a problem; people who use that stop are smoking/swearing.