



**Erie LRTP Update 2052**  
**Stakeholder Group: Community Partners & Organizations**  
 September 18, 2025: 1 – 3 PM  
 Summit Township Municipal Building + Microsoft Teams

**Attendees**

Name	Organization	Email
Kim Hawkes	Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance	kimberly.hawkes@hawkesenterprises.com
Bill Roche	City of Corry	mercuryman@verizon.net
Rick Emerick	Fort LeBoeuf School District	emerickr@flbsd.net
Sean Wolfrom	Fort LeBoeuf School District	wolfroms@flbsd.net
Tim May	Harborcreek Township	tmay@harborcreektownship.org
Aaron Snippert	City Redevelopment Authority	asnippert@redeveloperie.org
Matt Waldinger	Millcreek Township	mwaldinger@millcreektownship.com
John Oliver	Visit Erie	joliver@visiterie.com
Wendy Neckers	Downtown Corry Business Association	wneckers@gmail.com
Chuck Gray	Impact Corry	director@impactcorry.com
Emily Fetcko	Erie Downtown Partnership	Emily.Fetcko@eriedowntown.com
Emerson Bannon	Erie County Planning & Community Development	ebannon@eriecountypa.gov
Kim Harris	Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism	kharris@oilregion.org
Freda Tepfer	General Public	fstepfer@yahoo.com
Katie Kretz	Multicultural Community Resource Center	kkretz@mcrerie.org
Passle Helminski	Elderly and Disabled Transportation Committee	passle@roadrunner.com
Beverly Weaver	Erie County Housing Authority	bweaver@eriecountyha.org
Curtis Jones	Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	cjones@eriepa.com
Kristy Gnibus	Human Relations Commission	kgnibus@eriecountypa.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 Alexandra Royal. Powerpoint slides are available on the Erie County LRTP website.

**What are your main transportation concerns in Erie County? Are there unmet transportation needs facing communities you serve?**

Year-round pedestrian access

- Close the gaps in the pedestrian network that were identified in the Active Erie Plan. Note that the LRTP *will* include the specific project recommendations that were made in that plan as well as any other adopted plans in the County. There is no need for stakeholders to repeat those.
- There are isolated areas along state and county roads with no pedestrian crossing in any direction.
- Increase sidewalk presence along city parks in City of Erie.

### Snow removal

- Snow from clearing the roads ends up on the sidewalks, blocking pedestrian access and the pedestrian call buttons. Snow on the sidewalks is a safety concern.
- Snow removal is a large concern, some businesses clear their parking lots but not their sidewalks or fail to clear the sidewalk (with no enforcement).
- Suggestions: designated snow lanes when there's a major snow event, or locations where municipalities can haul plowed snow. See Anchorage, Alaska as an example.
- Can there be a pilot project for heated sidewalks in Erie? Geothermal or steam heat. Would help pedestrian safety a lot

### Pedestrian safety

- Bayfront – In Erie with the Bayfront closure, traffic has been diverted causing pedestrian safety concerns. State Street being blocked off causes additional pedestrian safety and access issues. At the dock, there's no stop signs, and pedestrians try to cross there.
- Crosswalks on state routes – The Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance would like to get crosswalks in Corry between the trail and park locations. Per PennDOT, data is needed to prove you need a crosswalk on a state route. However, it's dangerous to cross in these areas without a crosswalk, so data wouldn't show people crossing the road there. All people drive to the trail because it's unsafe to walk, so how to demonstrate the need for a crosswalk? What temporary measure could there be to get some data to see if anyone would use a crosswalk? (**Followup with PennDOT to determine process for getting a crosswalk in this situation**).
- Crosswalk Visibility – Issues in the City of Erie with faded or nonexistent crosswalks, creating dangerous situations for pedestrians and difficulty for drivers in knowing where the ped crossings are. This is especially dangerous for visually impaired pedestrians. Need pavement markings warning drivers that a crosswalk is coming up. Can technology help alert drivers to a crosswalk, especially in winter when they're hard to see?
- Roundabouts - can be difficult for pedestrians to use/cross. Should be fully accessible: Pedestrian hits a button, all the lights go red and all traffic stops while pedestrian crosses. Drivers here ignore Yield to Pedestrians signs. Specifically Rt. 5 at Millfair Rd., the flashing pedestrian sign is constantly on, so it's worthless (issue with the wind activating the sign?). Also pedestrian signs don't work for the visually impaired.
- Peninsula access – Millcreek has a grant to add sidewalk on 6<sup>th</sup> street starting at the city line going west. People need a ped/bike friendly way to get to Peninsula Dr.
- Sidewalk furniture – Should there be a policy or standard for “sidewalk furniture” at intersections (e.g., bike racks, benches, signs, RR control boxes) so it's easier to see pedestrians crossing.

### Pedestrian experience

- Prioritize the pedestrian experience in downtown Erie, including making the main streets look more quaint and shoppable, exploring micro-transit options, reducing vehicle density. Pedestrians spend more in businesses along main streets.
- Erie Downtown Partnership interested in/recommending streets that promote pedestrian circulation in business areas. Currently working on a public space study that considers how pedestrians use the space. Adding sidewalks along key corridors would help to create a sense of place.

Wayfinding – Need to create a wayfinding standard for trails countywide, using pictograms for those with limited English and QR codes that link to translations to make signage more accessible to more people. Include signage indicating what trails are appropriate for snowmobiles, and which are not allowed for cars and ATVs (multiuse trails sometimes get confused for a road)

### Sidewalk Deterioration

- Tree roots are one of the issues with sidewalks deteriorating. Changing the medium beneath the sidewalk can prevent tree roots from growing right under the sidewalks. See the webinar "Community Forestry: Resolving Tree-Sidewalk Conflicts" hosted by Penn State Extension. Recording: [https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Community+Forestry%3A+Resolving+Tree-Sidewalk+Conflicts/1\\_zqu7qy0g](https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Community+Forestry%3A+Resolving+Tree-Sidewalk+Conflicts/1_zqu7qy0g) and Materials:



