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**Lehigh Valley Association of REALTOR® support
proposed Lehigh Valley regional rail study**

REALTORS® believe that safe, convenient and efficient transportation infrastructure enhances the quality of communities, supports property values, and mitigates the effects of traffic congestion that accompany growth. REALTORS® support improving mobility in communities so that all citizens have access to transportation means best suited to their needs.

The Lehigh Valley Association of REALTORS® (LVAR) supports the proposed study of regional rail for the Lehigh Valley, which will examine the need for extending rail service to the Lehigh Valley from New Jersey. Ultimately, LVAR believes that an expansive rail network serving the Lehigh Valley, eastern Pennsylvania, and surrounding regions will:

- Increase both residential and commercial property values in the region;
- Positively impact economic development and improve the competitive advantage of the Lehigh Valley;
- Increase the mobility and accessibility of the region's workforce, thereby attracting and retaining skilled workers and employers;
- Enhance the revitalization of the urban cores in the Lehigh Valley;
- Alleviate congestion on our roadways by providing increased transportation choices and preserving a high quality of life; and
- Reduce energy consumption and provide environmental benefits.

Approved by the LVAR Board of Directors – October 2008