

**LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**April 29, 2015**

Members of the Coordinating Committee:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting, held on April 29, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 233 at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Engineering District 4-0 Office, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

Please check for errors or omissions.

Thank you.

A meeting of the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 in Conference Room 233 of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation District Office in Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

Mr. George Roberts, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked for self-introductions. Mr. Roberts received a letter of proxy from Mr. George Kelly stating that Mr. Steve Pitoniak will serve as his proxy; and a letter of proxy from Mr. James Arey that Mr. Dean Roberts will serve as his proxy. (All permanent proxies are listed in the committee member lists attached to these minutes.)

In this document: Mr. Roberts identifies Mr. George Roberts, and Dean will identify Mr. Dean Roberts to avoid confusion.

Mr. Roberts stated for the record that in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Law and the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), Coordinating Committee Secretary Nancy, submitted the required public meeting notice, which appeared in local papers.

### **ITEM #1 – OCTOBER 15, 2014 LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Copies of the January 21, 2015 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee meeting minutes were sent out to all committee members. Mr. Roberts asked for additions, deletions or corrections. It was noted that the next order of business list in the last paragraph under the second item of business; the next item of business should read the Wilkes University Gateway Project Presentation. Under the third item of business; Mr. Prescott's title should be in not of General Counsel, and, the University received a TAC grant not TAP, a motion to approve the October 15, 2014 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee meeting minutes as noted, was made by Dominic Yannuzzi, seconded by Nancy Snee, and carried.

### **ITEM #2 – 2015-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) MODIFICATIONS**

#### **PennDOT District 4-0 Modifications**

Copies of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) modifications were sent out to all committee members. Mr. Fisher highlighted the modifications to the 2013-2016 TIP, which included:

- Added construction phase of Federal Aid Paving on SR 11 in Lackawanna, SR 3023 in Lackawanna and SR 2004 in Luzerne
- Added right-of-way phase for one of the P3 Bridges from a Central Office line item for SR 4019 which is currently closed
- Adjusted for low bid on Dorrance Park and Ride project which produced savings allowing to advancement of White Haven project from 2017 to 2015 allowing for an early bid on the project
- Added safety funding for the LLTS region from Central Office

- Addition of the TAP projects: Carbondale River Walk in Lackawanna, Back Mountain Trail in Luzerne, and Wilkes University Streetscape in Luzerne
- Adjusted for low bids on the SR 1025 and SR 1040 slides in Luzerne which created cost savings that go back to the region
- Adjusted for low bid on the Spruce Street Complex Retaining Wall which created cost savings that go back to the region
- Added Railroad Crossing project on SR 2032 (Foote Avenue) in Luzerne from Central Office funding
- Addressed an Accrued Unbilled Cost (AUC) on PA 435 Bridge over SR 348
- Added the Nanticoke Study project

Mr. Roberts noted that the SR 4019 Bridge (Edella Road over I-81 in Lackawanna is scheduled to be replaced on the P3 next year, but the District has to determine if the bridge can remain closed or if repairs should be done to open the bridge prior to the P3 scheduled program.

Mr. Fisher noted that the modifications were all administrative actions and would not require a vote. Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the Transit TIP modifications.

#### **Luzerne County Transit Authority (LCTA)**

Mr. Gavlick noted that LCTA is purchasing an additional vehicle next year. LCTA is looking at installing a new camera system. Currently only the fixed route busses have camera and they want to install them in the share ride busses. The camera system will cost \$150,000 and the additional vehicle will cost \$55,000.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion for the Coordinating Committee to adopt the Luzerne County Transit Authority amendments was made by Robert Fiume, seconded by John Pocius, and carried.

#### **County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS)**

Mr. Fiume present five modifications for COLTS

- Increase the ADA para transit service project allocation staying within the 10% of the fiscal year allotment according to FTA Circular 9030
- Purchase three para transit vans
- Purchase Eco-Lane Software – Project that PennDOT is contracting so every transit agency in the state utilizes the same vendor and program for scheduling / dispatching shared ride appointments
- Purchasing and installing two bus shelters within the service area
- Capitalizing parking fees and attorney fees for the intermodal project

Dean clarified that the amendments that require a vote are items that utilize federal funding like Share the Ride projects, and Mr. Pocius noted that bus shelters were also federally funded and the Committee re-voted on LCTA's amendments to ensure proper protocol.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion for the Coordinating Committee to adopt the County of Lackawanna Transit System amendments on the projects with federal funding was made by Steve Pitoniak, seconded by John Pocius, and carried.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion for the Coordinating Committee to adopt the Luzerne County Transit Authority amendments on the projects with federal funding was made by John Pocius, seconded by George Roberts, and carried.

### **ITEM #3 – STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ON-LINE PUBLIC MEETING**

Dean noted that the public comment period for the State Transportation Commission (STC) Public meeting runs from April 16, 2015 to May 29, 2015. The webcast is still available to view at the website <http://www.talkpatransportation.com/>. Everyone is encouraged to go to the website and preview the public meeting as well as provide feedback on the project feedback form as well as TYP survey. This is the second year that STC has utilized the on-line format in place of traveling to each region for these meetings. The goal is to make it easier for public participation.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next item of business – Long Range Transportation Plan Update.

### **ITEM #4 – LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) UPDATE**

Mr. Roberts noted that the MPO is in the midst of updating the Long Range Transportation Plan and that a LRTP update meeting is following the LLTS Coordinating Committee meeting. It was noted that the first stakeholders meeting was held a couple of weeks ago and that Lackawanna County had about 25 attendees and Luzerne County had about 12 attendees. Mr. Pitoniak noted that there was a wide range of feedback on varying projects and activities. One of the main concerns was educating the public through the LRTP program process on more use of transit. Also discussed were construction projects in the area; the need for more construction projects and the need for more transit projects. The MPO is putting a matrix together for evaluating all the project on the TIP. Mr. Watts noted that today's steering committee will establish the type of priorities and categories for scoring projects.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next item of business – Other Business.

### **ITEM #5 – OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Green Light Go Program**

Mr. Pitoniak noted that there were eight applications from the MPO but no criteria was provided from Central Office for ranking the projects. The projects were widely varied and all ranked number one priorities with the exception of two projects. One was a carryover / duplicate from the first round of the Green Light Go Program and the other did not have the appropriate fund match (50/50). It was noted that the MPO had a two week turnaround time on prioritizing the

projects. It was also noted that another round of the Green Light Go Program will be coming and that air quality significant projects will have priority on the regional TIPs. Dean noted that project selection and awards for Green Light Go should be coming next month, and the next round for submissions will be coming in October.

### **Bike Study**

Lackawanna Planning is coordinating a bike study in downtown Scranton with the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Association. A preliminary study proved positive to do a complete study. Two issues hampering bike lane installation is the island in the midway on the 500 Block of Lackawanna Avenue and on street parking.

### **Turnpike**

There is a Turnpike status meeting next Tuesday as it moves forward with the projects presented at the LLTS October 2014 meeting.

### **Coal Street Extension Opening, Wilkes-Barre**

Mr. Frati noted that a private developer is working on Phase 2 of paving the Coal Street project. The developer is building 357 feet of roadway to PennDOT specifications and with PennDOT guidance. The project moves forward, spurning development in the area.

### **COLTS Intermodal Center**

Mr. Fiume noted that as soon as Martz moves into the intermodal center and their building is vacated it can be demolished for the new parking area. They are looking at being moved by the end of November.

### **FHWA – Funding**

Everyone is asked to emphasize when they talk to their US Congressmen that the region and state need a good long term sustainable transportation bill. Mr. Roberts noted that if you look at the funding and expenditures of the District over the past 12 years it is operating at the same amount of money today as it was operating with 12 years ago. This is something that has affected the entire District especially since MAP-21 redistribution of funding has reduced funding in the rural areas.

It was noted that a Grow America initiative is in the works but the issue is how the plan will be funded and it is not a long term plan. The Department of Highways has requested that congress ensure any funding plan extension approvals go to the end of the construction season.

Ms. Otto noted that due to reorganization she will no longer be the FHWA contact for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties as of June 1, 2015. Mr. Matt Smoker will be the FHWA contact. Mr. Roberts thanked Ms. Otto for her work with the District and MPO.

## **Construction Maps**

Mr. Pitoniak noted that statewide PennDOT has received some bad press on the Act 89 project progress. It was suggested that the media be provided the construction maps to help keep them and the public informed on the projects programmed. It was noted that because of Act 89 the District put out over 300 miles of surface treatment last year. This year the District is only able to do 111 miles. It was noted that the District is going into the rural areas with local media. And Mr. May is working with the larger stations to work on a construction report similar to the weather report. Mr. Long noted that a website is being developed for access to track Act 89 project progress. It was also note that it is getting more difficult to break out the funding splits since the federal funding has gone down and Act 89 has been utilized to cover that reduction. There are concerns across the Commonwealth about being able to fund the remaining Decade of Investment projects.

## **Harrison Avenue Bridge**

Mr. Pocius noted that communication was key in overcoming issues with the Harrison Avenue Bridge project over the past weekend. Mr. Pocius applauded the cooperative effort coordinated by PennDOT to include the press the supervisors and local police and support and emergency services support. Mr. Roberts thanked Mr. Pocius and everyone involved in the cooperative effort. Both Mr. Roberts and Mr. Pocius look forward to the continued cooperation and open communications as the project unfolds. It was noted that open communications behind the scenes makes a major project like the Harrison Avenue Bridge to run smoothly and give good press for everyone involved. This communication also halted the battleship grey color purchase and brought the appropriate color scheme for the Harrison Avenue Bridge.

## **Meeting Schedule**

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. and the next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the LLTS Coordinating Committee meeting was made by John Pocius, seconded by Robert Fiume and the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION  
STUDY MEETING - COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
April 29, 2015

	<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT AND NO PROXY</u>	<u>PROXY PRESENT</u>
<u>PENNDOT</u>			
George J. Roberts, P.E., Chairman	X		
James Arey, Central Office			X
<u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u>			
George Kelly			X
James Wansacz (James Rodway – Permanent Proxy)		X	
<u>LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION</u>			
Nancy Snee, Secretary	X		
<u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u>			
Joseph Yannuzzi, Mayor - (Dominic Yannuzzi – Permanent Proxy & Committee Vice-Chair)			X
<u>CITY OF SCRANTON</u>			
William Courtright, Mayor (John Pocius – Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>CITY OF WILKES-BARRE</u>			
Thomas M. Leighton (Attilio “Butch” Frati – Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u>			
Robert Fiume	X		
<u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LUZERNE COUNTY</u>			
Norm Gavlick	X		
<u>AVIATION REPRESENTATIVE</u>			
Barry Centini		X	
<u>*PENNSYLVANIA NORTHEAST REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY</u>			
Larry Malski		X	
<u>*FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION</u>			
Camille Otto	X		
<u>*FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)</u>			
Timothy Lidiak		X	
<u>*FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION</u>			
Lori Pagnanelli		X	
*Non-Voting Members			

Non-Members Present:

Steve Pitoniak, LLTS Tech Chair, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission

Chris Chapman, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission

Mary Malone, Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, TAC

Steph Milewski, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA), TAC

Denise Corcoran, ARCIL, TAC

Mark McClanan, County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS)

Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0, Planning

Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0, Planning

John Frankosky, PennDOT District 4-0, Planning

Anna Fuhr, PennDOT District 4-0, Administration

James May, PennDOT District 4-0, Community Relations

John Arcangelo, PennDOT District 4-0, Portfolio Manager

Rob Watts, McCormick Taylor (attending LRTP meeting)

Matt Long, PennDOT Central Office (attending LRTP meeting)