

**LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 17, 2016**

Members of the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Committees:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee meeting, held on February 17, 2016 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 (LLTS) Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, October 21, 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 Hazleton Mayor Jeffrey L. Cusat stating that Mr. Dominic Yannuzzi will serve as his permanent proxy; a letter of proxy from Mr. James Arey stating that Mr. Dean Roberts will serve as his proxy; a letter of proxy from Wilkes-Barre Mayor Anthony George stating that Mr. Attilio “Butch” Frati will serve as his permanent proxy; and a letter appointing Mr. Lee Puskar Interim Director of the Luzerne County Planning Commission as Luzerne County Planning. (All permanent proxies are listed in the committee member list 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 Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, Steve Pitoniak, submitted the required public meeting notice, which appeared in local papers.

**ITEM #1 – OCTOBER 21, 2015 LLTS COMBINED TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Copies of the October 21, 2015 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting minutes were sent out to all committee members. Mr. Roberts asked for additions, deletions or corrections. Hearing none, a motion to approve the October 21, 2015 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting minutes, was made by John Pocius, seconded by Butch Frati, and carried.

**ITEM #2 – 2015-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) 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 2015-2018 TIP, which included:

- Advanced the construction phase for SR 118 over Harvey’s Creek in Luzerne to bid project early – MPMS # 93001
- Added Federal Aid Paving for an AC conversion obligated on the previous TIP for State Routes 3002 and 307 in Lackawanna and State Route 118 in Luzerne – MPMS # 95433
- Increased the construction phase on Keyser Avenue in Lackawanna for additional drainage, excavation and rock slope protection work order processing – MPMS # 8212
- Added construction phase to the West Pittston Local Earmark in Luzerne to Federal Fiscal Year 2016 – MPMS # 74749
- Advancing the construction phase of the Main Street Corridor project (Phase III) in Lackawanna and reducing project to current estimate

- Increased construction phase on the South Valley Parkway in Luzerne to match low bid amount, the Notice to Proceed date was January 1, 2016 – MPMS # 9234

Mr. Fisher noted that the TIP changes were modifications not amendments and would not require a vote. Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – the 2016-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Adoption.

### **ITEM #3 – 2016-2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN ADOPTION**

Mr. Pitoniak noted that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) needs to be updated every five years. A number of focus meetings were held with stakeholders, Transportation Forums and public meetings were held in Lackawanna and one in Luzerne Counties. Along with the LRTP, LLTS looked at a number plan updates including the Public Participation Plan and the Limited English Proficiency Plan, the Non-Discrimination Plan (Title VI) and the Congestion Management Plan.

Ms. Cindy McCormick of the McCormick Taylor reiterated the plans that were reviewed and updated. It was noted that input was received from the Transportation Issues Forum, the Congestion Management Process and PennDOT's Asset Management program. This input was utilized for project planning and scoring (rating) to be included in the plan. Criteria includes economic vitality, system preservation and safety. System Preservation and safety made up 50% of the project scoring criteria. Once the projects were scored prioritized and then fit into the plan within fiscal constraints. Projected finances for the plan into 2040 were estimated to be flat rates because of fiscal constraints and inflation costs for years of expenditure as well as the FAST Act not yet being passed. The plan is updated every five years to maintain cost estimates and project timelines as inflation and fiscal constraints change.

Mr. Pitoniak noted that there was an eleven-member subcommittee that ranked nearly 300 projects. Projects were ranked electronically using 35 different criteria for the rankings. The projects were ranked by merit and costs was not looked at until working within fiscal constraints. Prioritized projects were primarily projects that focused on system preservation criteria and performance based criteria; many bridge projects were added to the plan utilizing the TIP, Twelve Year Plan (TYP) and Decade of Investment (DOI). Highway projects were not identified in the out years of plan because of the constant changes in roadway conditions and needs.

Mr. Pitoniak noted that the plan includes a "Wish List" of projects that did not fit into the fiscal constraints, but are listed in the plan to ensure they remain part of project process.

Mr. Williams asked if projects were prioritized within the four-year periods within the plan. It was noted that the projects are identified based on the year of funding but they are not prioritized at that level on the plan.

Mr. Pocius noted that the West Lackawanna Avenue Bridge project in Scranton was still missing from the Long Range Plan although it was already chosen as part of the project list especially with the most recent down-posting to the structure. It was noted the timing to add the project to

the system was a lockout time, and the project will be submitted again to be included on the plan. Ms. McCormick will ensure this project is included in the final document.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adopt the 2016-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan with the inclusion of the West Lackawanna Avenue Bridge project, was made by George Kelly, seconded by Dominic Yannuzzi, and carried.

#### **ITEM #4 – FIXING AMERICA’S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION (FAST) ACT**

Mr. Smoker handed out copies of his presentation on the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act attached to these meeting minutes. Mr. Smoker noted that the Act covers six modes of transportation that are being administered under USDOT. The following websites were provided as resources for more information on FAST Act: USDOT FAST Act website – <https://www.transportation.gov/fastact>; FHWA FAST Act website – <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact>; and Federal Transit Administration FAST Act website – <http://www.fta.dot.gov/FAST.html>. It was noted that Guidelines for funding, which under the FAST Act are available to non-profit organizations for safety projects, are not in place yet. It was noted that more information comes out it will be distributed to the MPO and the Department. Questions can be submitted directly to Mr. Smoker regarding FAST Act.

Mr. Pitoniak asked on the screening alternatives if the Linking Planning and NEPA screen and processes are up-to-date. It was noted that most alternative screenings are for the larger projects with high environmental impacts, which this MPO has not been involved with yet (the South Valley Parkway was mentioned as a larger project that if it were starting brand new today it would be subject to the screening alternatives).

It was also noted that the performance based funding that requires a statewide goals to be met, it does not depend on individual MPO or RPO area performance. Also, guidance has not come through on earmarks and any flexibility in funding use.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – the State Budget Update.

#### **ITEM #5 – STATE BUDGET UPDATE**

Dean noted that the Planning Partners have had a conference call regarding the growing rate of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) fund. It was noted that from the motor licensing fund, PSP is at \$755 million, with a nearly 8 % increase for next year to \$815 million. It was noted that the Motor License Fund grows at approximately 0.87% - that discrepancy in growth over a long term is a big concern, for the Department as well as legislature.

It was noted that with this continued increase there will be no construction funding available for the Long Range Transportation Plan in ten years. It was also noted that Secretary Richards did provide three scenarios and budget impacts at the legislative hearings.

Travel bans have been lessened, and the fall Planning Partners meeting has been approved for attendance.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – TAP Applications and Review Process.

#### **ITEM #6 – TAP APPLICATIONS AND REVIEW PROCESS**

Mr. Pitoniak noted that the MPO received six TAP applications (four in Lackawanna, two in Luzerne) by the January 7, 2016 deadline. Following the normal process the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will be meeting for project presentation on March 2, 2016 at 01:30 in the Lackawanna County EMA building all are welcome to attend. The projects are mainly pedestrian projects, sidewalks and trails. The MPO receives a funding allocation for TAP project and projects that cannot be funded through the MPO allocation go to a state review to possible be funded through the statewide allocation for TAP projects.

Mr. Chapman noted that the project presentations should run ten minutes each. The four projects in Lackawanna are the Walk Blakely Borough project, Keystone College Community Gateway project, North State Street Safe Pedestrian Corridor project, and the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail project portion in Dickson City. The two projects in Luzerne are the Wilkes University Pedestrian Safety Improvement project and the Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails (GHRT) project. The TAC will score each project and to meet the appropriate submission dates and email ballot will be done for the LLTS Technical and Coordinating Committees approval and adoption of the application submissions.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – Incorporating Safety into the Pennsylvania Planning Process.

#### **ITEM #7 – INCORPORATING SAFETY INTO THE PENNSYLVANIA PLANNING PROCESS**

Mr. Smoker handed out copies of his presentation on Incorporating Safety into the Pennsylvania Planning Process attached to these meeting minutes. Mr. Smoker noted that the presentation is more of proposal for the MPO to better incorporate safety throughout the planning process. Now is a good time for LLTS to begin safety reviews of projects that have been outlined on the Long Range Transportation Plan.

It was noted that this initiative can be connected with TIP and safety funding. It was also noted that PennDOT did put together a “Safety Bootcamp” that helped show the role of planners in safety coordination and this will be added to the MPO work plan.

It was noted that increased crash data outside of upcoming project parameters prompted the MPO to work with a developer and the Department to ensure safer access to the planned development. Issues include land use parameters are generally dictated by the municipalities who may not see the flip side of the increase revenue from taxes from a new development but also the increase in traffic congestion from bring the population into the area. Inclusion of not

only the Traffic Safety Engineer, and the MPOs but also the Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) Engineers would be beneficial in maximizing the safety considerations for projects.

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

### **ITEM #8 – OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **FHWA Recertification Review**

Dean noted that the LLTS FHWA Recertification Review is scheduled for May 25 and 26, 2016. Mr. Smoker will be sending out the FTA notification letters.

#### **Draft 2017 Twelve Year Plan (TYP)**

Draft program was developed including carryover projects from the 2015 TIP, the Decade of Investment (DOI) projects and the latest financial guidance. The draft 2017 TYP was reviewed line by line with the LLTS MPO in the same process the LRTP was reviewed. The draft 2017 TYP is available for review and comments should be provided to Mr. Pitoniak, Mr. Puskar or Ms. Bishop to be addressed and set for public comment by the LLTS July meetings.

#### **Structurally Deficient (SD) Bridges**

Mr. Roberts noted that Pennsylvania still has a huge structurally deficient problem. The Governor has set a goal to repair / replace 1,800 bridges including the 558 P3 bridges over last year and in the next three years. The District goal is now 125 out of that number, not including the P3 structures. Completing 25 to 30 structures each year will ensure the District meets their goal to reduce SD Bridges, but throughout the year more structures become structurally deficient and this becomes a circular battle.

#### **Meeting Schedule**

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.  
The next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2016 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 Dominic Yannuzzi, seconded by George Kelly and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION  
STUDY MEETING - COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
February 17, 2016

|                                                                                          | <u>MEMBER<br/>PRESENT</u> | <u>ABSENT AND<br/>NO PROXY</u> | <u>PROXY<br/>PRESENT</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>PENNDOT</u>                                                                           |                           |                                |                          |
| George J. Roberts, P.E., Chairman                                                        | X                         |                                |                          |
| James Arey, Central Office                                                               |                           |                                | X                        |
| <u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u>                                                                 |                           |                                |                          |
| George Kelly                                                                             |                           |                                | X                        |
| Vacant                                                                                   |                           | X                              |                          |
| <u>LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION</u>                                                |                           |                                |                          |
| Lee Puskar, Interim Director                                                             | X                         |                                |                          |
| <u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u>                                                                  |                           |                                |                          |
| Jeffrey L. Cusat, Mayor - (Dominic Yannuzzi<br>– Permanent Proxy & Committee Vice-Chair) |                           |                                | X                        |
| <u>CITY OF SCRANTON</u>                                                                  |                           |                                |                          |
| William Courtright, Mayor<br>(John Pocius – Permanent Proxy)                             |                           |                                | X                        |
| <u>CITY OF WILKES-BARRE</u>                                                              |                           |                                |                          |
| Anthony George, Mayor<br>(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>                                                           |                           |                                |                          |
| Carl Beardsley                                                                           | X                         |                                |                          |
| <u>*PENNSYLVANIA NORTHEAST REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY</u>                               |                           |                                |                          |
| Larry Malski                                                                             |                           | X                              |                          |
| <u>*FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION</u>                                                   |                           |                                |                          |
| Matthew Smoker                                                                           | X                         |                                |                          |
| <u>*FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)</u>                                             |                           |                                |                          |
| Timothy Lidiak                                                                           |                           | X                              |                          |
| <u>*FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION</u>                                                  |                           |                                |                          |
| Lori Pagnanelli                                                                          |                           | X                              |                          |

\*Non-Voting Members

Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Meeting Technical Committee Members Present:

Steve Pitoniak, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission, Tech. Comm. Chair  
Susan Hazelton, P.E. PennDOT Assistant District Executive for Design  
Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office Planning

Non-Members Present:

Denise Hatcher Area Agency for Aging Luzerne County Mature Worker Program  
Larry West, Aide to Senator Elisabeth Baker  
Chris Chapman, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission  
Richard Williams, Luzerne County Council  
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  
Michael Taluto, PennDOT District 4-0 Community Relations  
John Arcangelo, P.E. PennDOT District 4-0 Portfolio Manager  
Cindy McCormick, McCormick Taylor