

**LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 20, 2013**

Members of the Technical Committee:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Technical Committee meeting, which was held on February 20, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 233 in 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 Technical Committee was held on February 20, 2013 in Conference Room 233 of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation District Office in Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

Steve Pitoniak, Chairman of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:05a.m. Mr. Pitoniak asked for a self-introduction by each person in attendance. (NOTE: Attilio "Butch" Frati is a permanent proxy for Thomas Leighton, Mayor of Wilkes-Barre, Stephen Mykulyn is a permanent proxy for Barry Centini, Aviation Representative of Lackawanna County; Alan Baranski is a permanent proxy for Jeff Box, Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA); Ralph Sharp is a permanent proxy for Joe Yannuzzi, Mayor of Hazleton, and John Pocius is a permanent proxy for Christopher Doherty, Mayor of Scranton. Jennifer Honick has replaced Kurt Kempter (COLTS) on the Technical Committee for Lackawanna County. Chris Belleman, Assistant Luzerne County Engineer will be the temporary proxy for Joseph Gibbons, Luzerne County Engineer; George Kelly, Lackawanna County Director of Economic Development, replaced Mr. Harry Lindsay on the Lackawanna Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee; Gerard Babinski will serve as proxy, to replace Mr. David Elmer, P.E. until the District Bridge Engineer's position is filled.

Mr. Pitoniak stated for the record that in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Law and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Coordinating Committee Secretary, Adrian Merolli, submitted the required public meeting notice, which appeared in local papers for general circulation.

### **ITEM #1 – APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2012 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Copies of the November 28, 2012 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Technical Committee Meeting minutes were emailed to all members of the committee. Mr. Pitoniak asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections. Mr. Pitoniak entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2012 Technical Committee Meeting; Mr. Pocius made the motion, Mr. O'Brien seconded and the motion carried.

### **ITEM #2 2013-2016 TIP MODIFICATIONS**

Mr. Pitoniak addressed the 2013-2016 TIP Modification. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre MPO Fiscal Constraint Table FFY 2013 documents were in front of them for review.

Ms. Bishop discussed a few key TIP Modifications.

- Project SR 4016 over Shickshinny Creek was increased construction as updated estimate.
- Project Luzerne County Bridge Preservations construction increase for updated estimate.
- Received \$420,000.00 for the All Weather Pavement Markings for Central Office line item.
- Project 96394 - Glenburn Pond Pike Repair had to add construction in 2013 for repair work to the pipes that were part of the Lackawanna Trail Project. The money came from the Lackawanna Trail Project - almost 1.4 million dollars.
- Project 67085 - Township 437 College Ave., Marcomis Creek and Main Street Bridge, Moosic, PA were constructed on previous TIPs and they had to add those two phases to the 2013 TIP.
- Project 96689 – SR 4019 over I-81 funding received from Central Office \$350,000.00 to start PE on the bridge.

Ms. Bishop asked if there were any comments or questions. Mr. Pitoniak questioned the status of Birney Avenue Signals – noting that it has been on the TIP for years. Ms. Bishop reported it was advertised and bidding starts next week.

Mr. O'Brien inquired about the Moosic Street Bridge future funding. Ms. Bishop will give him a copy of the TIP; the TIP Amendment/Modifications document shows only changes that have been made, not the costs for the entire project. The whole TIP shows the Construction Funding. Mr. Pitoniak noted that modifications do not require a vote.

### **ITEM #3 TRANSIT TIP MODIFICATIONS**

Mr. Pitoniak asked if there were Transit TIP Modifications. Ms. Bishop reported no Transit TIP Modifications.

### **ITEM #4 2013-2014 UPWP (UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM)**

Mr. Pitoniak reported that the UPWP is a yearly contract between the Planning Commission and Transit Operators with Penn DOT; there are some minor changes from this year's budget. The presentation in November 2012 - concerning the Incident Management Program and the Delaware Valley money was put in the budget on the Lackawanna County side to start the process.

Ms. Snee reported Luzerne County is continuing the work tasks that are carried over from year to year, and will continue with the Local Asset Inventory Project. She is hoping to have a new staff member on board before spring 2013. She noted that everyone should have received a copy to review and if they have any questions to contact her.

Mr. Pitoniak called for a motion to approve the UPWP. Mr. Malski made the motion, Mr. Strelish seconded, and the motion carried.

### **ITEM #5 TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM & PROCEDURE**

Ms. Bishop directed to disregard and it was an oversight.

### **ITEM #6 FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW DRAFT REPORT**

Mr. Pitoniak reported April 12, 2012 was the Tri-Annual Certification Review. The review was headed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). He reviewed the process – noting they look at all documents the MPO did over the previously three years, review with members of the committee, and have an answer/question type session. The normal procedure for Certification Review usually takes six weeks to receive a draft report, then the municipalities are able to employ. He reported that the FTA did not contact them until November 2012 and that it was 5 months overdue, therefore he missed the November meeting to review the documents and to distribute. He did receive the Certification Review Report and addressed a number of the topics, but there was nothing of any major consequence and the review report was sent out to the committee.

Ms. Snee noted one corrective action that needs to be attained and that is to prepare an annual report of Obligated Projects; once the final report is received from FTA, then the MPO will have 30 days to prepare a schedule outlining when the annual obligation report will be prepared and submitted.

Overall, it was a good report and the MPO was re-certified for another three to four years. Mr. Pitoniak questioned if the certification is state wide, and asked if there are any examples from the state that they could review for the annual report. Mr. Roberts noted he will obtain examples. Ms. Noone questioned the recommendation for hiring additional staff, and is there any movement to utilize UPWP money. Ms. Snee reported they are in the process of replacing a staff member who left in the summer 2012, and have one employee who works on a part-time basis. She noted that every department has a budget and the 2013 budget is finalized, and does not foresee it changing. It is up to Luzerne County government for hiring. Mr. Pitoniak noted that the Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission hired a person in April 2012. Mr. Roberts asked if they could shift some federal money around to use for hiring additional staff. Ms. Snee is unsure if it would aid in hiring additional staff, but when the county requires paying up front, that is where the stumbling block develops. Ms. Noone asked if it is a reimbursement; whereas the county pays and then it is reimbursed through the UPWP. Ms. Snee confirmed. Ms. Noone noted due to the new Map 21 are they anticipating a greater need for staff for some of the requirements for Map 21? Mr. O'Brien suggested Mr. Pitoniak contact Mr. George Kelly and discuss whether or not they can be of assistance in this area. Ms. Snee stated it is not the position but the salary; it is very low at the county level and it is unusual that an employee will stay long term. She noted another aspect is not just hiring a new staff member but keeping them due to the salary and because their staff is small and they don't have one person who is just dedicated to transportation, etc. Ms. Noone inquired if the UPWP can be applied to supplement the salary. Mr. Pitoniak noted it depends upon the program. Ms. Bishop asked if they can increase the federal portion. Mr. Roberts reported they will not receive any additional federal money.

#### **ITEM # 7 URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT MOU**

Mr. Pitoniak noted that an adjustment to the urbanized area boundary needs to be made based on the 2010 Census urbanized area population results which affected the urbanized boundaries in Southern Luzerne County and Columbia County. Ms. Snee reported this issue was discussed at the November 2012 meeting. She noted that SEDA-COG, the RPO that handles transportation planning duties for eight counties, including Columbia County, will become an MPO now that the Bloomsburg Berwick Area has an urbanized population at 50,000. SEDA-COG prepared a Memorandum of Understanding which states that each MPO will retain transportation planning duties within the existing MPO boundaries, which for the LLTS MPO consists of Luzerne and Lackawanna counties. Mr. Baranski noted the updates on smoothing the urbanized boundaries with Schuylkill and Carbon Counties is still in progress. He hopes it will be resolved by the time of the next MPO meeting. Mr. Pitoniak called for a motion to recommend approval of the Memorandum of Understanding to the Coordinating. Ms. Snee made the motion, Mr. O'Brien seconded, and the motion carried.

#### **ITEM # 8 OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Pitoniak noted Mr. Roberts will address the Governor's upcoming budget. He briefly discussed the following: Government Transportation Plan that was proposed in the upcoming budget. Governor's plan is to build on the Five Core Principals. In Terms of

Modernization – asking for additional money to become more efficient and Customer Service Driven Plan. He is proposing to redo vehicle registration from one year to every two years, eliminate the registration license sticker, driver license re-ups from four years to every six years, dedicate a source of funding for pedestrian transit projects, and changes to the transit development local capital improvement projects.

Mr. Roberts's addressed emphasis on local roads and bridges, and when it comes to finances of it to reduce gas rate; a plan is needed.

Mr. Pitoniak – talked briefly on transit funding for merging of Lackawanna & Luzerne County Transit System into one transportation agency and to look into incorporating rail and airport as well.

Mr. Strelish stated the funding issues have to be worked out but is in the right direction to pursue.

Mr. O'Brien maintained they are committed to a regional effort to sustain and improve rail system and the metro-passenger merge will be a smarter/efficient way to pursue. He noted it is too expensive to build major highways and to have highways down as long as they have been, and needs to come up with new methods. He directed their attention to the Laurel Line - downtown Scranton to downtown Wilkes-Barre to start there, moving between metropolitan areas and building from there. He suggested to start funding immediately, and to begin the merging process. He believes the rail has great potential, and they are committed and is willing to help fund the project in order to move the efforts forward but needs PennDOT's expertise.

Mr. Pitoniak addressed a letter that he had received from Commissioner James Wansacz requesting that the MPO change their meeting dates. He noted the Coordinating Committee meets on Wednesdays, which is a conflict with the Commissioners Meetings in Lackawanna County who meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month.

Mr. O'Brien noted they would like to participate in the meetings, but Wednesdays are very difficult due to their commission meetings, and by changing the times it would allow them to attend and be more actively involved and demonstrate their support by participating.

Ms. Snee asked if the meeting needs to be moved altogether or just the time frame.

Mr. O'Brien stated their meetings begin at 10am, therefore, a time change would just be required to later in the afternoon. Their meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month.

Ms. Snee asked if the meetings were changed to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, would those dates be an issue to attend.

Mr. O'Brien confirmed the dates would not be an issue.

Ms. Bishop noted when scheduling the meetings, they need to avoid holidays and take into account the availability of the room.

Mr. Pitoniak stated they also need to coordinate with other agencies, and changing the times is easier than changing the date; and it would be up to the Coordinating Committee to set the agenda for the meeting to change the date and time.

Mr. Pitoniak told the MPO that a training session on Corridor Modernization will be held after the Coordinating Committee Meeting next week, and asked if anyone would be attending.

Also, in line with the Environmental Justice Actions they have been taking, there will be an EJ work shop at the district on March 7th.

NEPA is sponsoring a training session on Highway Occupancy Permits for local municipalities on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Pitoniak entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Strelish made the motion, Mr. Fiume seconded, and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

**ITEM #9 CLOSE THE MEETING**

**Next Meeting:**

The next LLTS Technical Committee meeting is set for Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

The next LLTS Coordinating Committee meeting is set for Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION  
STUDY MEETING  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
February 20, 2013

	<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT AND NO PROXY</u>	<u>PROXY PRESENT</u>
<u>VOTING MEMBERS</u>			
<u>PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</u>			
Debbie Noone, P.E., ADE	X		
Gerard Babinski, Acting District Bridge Engineer	X		
Dean Roberts, Transportation Planning Manager	X		
<u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u>			
Lou Norella (Permanent Proxy – Gary Cavill, P.E.)			X
<u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMISSIONER</u>			
Corey O’Brien	X		
<u>LUZERNE COUNTY</u>			
Joseph Gibbons, P.E., County Engineer			X
<u>LUZERNE COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY</u>			
Vacant			
<u>CITY OF SCRANTON</u>			
Mayor Christopher Doherty (Proxy-John Pocius)			X
<u>CITY OF WILKES-BARRE</u>			
Mayor Thomas M. Leighton (Permanent Proxy – Attilio “Butch” Frati)			X
<u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION</u>			
Steve Pitoniak, Chair	X		
<u>LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION</u>			
Nancy Snee, Vice Chair	X		
<u>PA NORTHEAST REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY</u>			
Larry Malski	X		

	<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT AND NO PROXY</u>	<u>PROXY PRESENT</u>
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NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA ALLIANCE

Jeff Box (Permanent Proxy – Alan Baranski)			X
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TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Jennifer Honick, (COLTS)			X
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TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LUZERNE COUNTY

Stanley Strelish, Director	X		
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TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – CITY OF HAZELTON

Mayor Joe Yannuzzi (Permanent Proxy-Ralph Sharp)			X
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AVIATION REPRESENTATIVES - LUZERNE COUNTY

Barry J. Centini		X	
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AVIATION REPRESENTATIVES – LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Stephen MyKulyn, P.E, Director		X	
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\*FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Christopher D. Walston		X	
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\*FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Wayne Hibeck		X	
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\*FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Tony Cho		X	
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\*Non Voting Members

Non Members Present

Jim Darr, LCTA  
 Natalie Gelb, LHVA  
 Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0  
 John Frankosky, PennDOT District 4-0  
 Peggy Voldenberg, PennDOT District 4-0