

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
July 1, 2015

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 July 1, 2015 at 10:05 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 July 1, 2015 a.m. in Conference Room 233 in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Engineering District 4-0 Office, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

Steve Pitoniak, Chairman of the Technical Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:10a.m.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for a self-introduction by each person in attendance.

Mr. Pitoniak received a letter of proxy from Douglas Hein, COLTS, Director of Grants & Finance, he will be replacing Jennifer Honick.

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, Nancy Snee, submitted the required public meeting notice, which appeared in local papers for general circulation.

ITEM #1 – APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 15, 2015 TECHNICAL/COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Copies of the April 15, 2015 Technical/Coordinating Committee Meeting minutes were distributed via email to all members of the committee. Mr. Pitoniak asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections for the minutes; Mr. Pitoniak reported no corrections/deletions. He entertained a motion to approve the April 15, 2015 minutes. Mr. Pocius made the motion, Ms. Snee seconded and the motion carried.

ITEM #2 2015-2018 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, noting all administrated actions included:

- Added two TAP Projects: Carbondale River Walk and D & L Trail, Middleburg Crossing.
- Added “ROW” phase for two slide projects – SR 1001 Slide, Luzerne County & SR 1012 Slide, Luzerne County.
- Received low bids/cost savings on: SR 2011, Section 350 - Gardner’s Creek & County Road Bridge 16 in Kingston, PA; decrease construction phase to low bid amount.
- Received low bid /cost savings on SR 524, Lackawanna County, Kennedy Creek Bridge – money back to the region; decrease construction phase to low bid amount.
- Addressed an AVL on construction phase of SR 118 & Idetown Road.
- Received cost savings on a low bid - ENH Project; Kennedy & Riverfront Park.
- Added ROW phase for two slide projects – SR 1017, Lackawanna County and SR 1021, Luzerne County.

Open for comments or questions: Ms. Snee asked what are the slide projects. Ms. Hazelton noted some of the slides are embankments supporting the roadway.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments; hearing none, the committee moved to COLTS TIP - no TIP modifications to present.

ITEM #3 – LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) UPDATE

Mr. Pitoniak noted the LRTP must be updated on a cycle basis of every five years. Due to the region, it is considered a maintenance area and will be adopted by the end of the year. He noted the last item completed was the ranking of all the projects on the current TIP, the existing LRTP, and any of the other list. When the exercises were done four/five years ago, projects were projected on a screen, discussed, and ranked. The committee will now use Decision Lenses Software – it is a program that can be accessed from your own offices/computers to rank projects; there is a meeting after the LRTP to update / prioritize ratings.

He noted there will be a presentation before the Agency Coordination Meeting (ACM) takes place in August/September 2015. The ACM committee consist of all state and federal agencies that meet once a month in Harrisburg to discuss projects and any issues that may occur or needs to be addressed. The agencies include environmental, state funding, federal, and consist of representatives from the District, MPO, and consultants.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments; hearing none, the committee moved to Participation Plan and Congestion Management Plan update.

ITEM #4 –PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE:

Mr. Pitoniak noted as part of the LRTP process, McCormick & Taylor remain the consultants; they work on all three of the plans. It was decided to go through Central Office to get them on board – to update both the Congestion Management Plan and Public Participation Plan.

He noted originally they did both Lackawanna and Luzerne counties - choose specific corridors/intersections to study and evaluate, but over the last twelve years, many of the corridors/intersections had projects developed through the CMS process such as: Keyser Ave., Scranton, PA, and Northern Boulevard, Abington, PA in Lackawanna County.

Ms. Snee noted intersection projects in Luzerne County - Main Street, Plymouth, PA was a problem until a new bridge was in place, SR 309, Wilkes-Barre Township, and all the improvements took some of the corridors and intersections of the list.

Mr. Pitoniak noted the consultants came up with a new list of corridors/intersections to study and evaluate; it is an effective system as most of them have been addressed.

He noted the Public Participation Plan has not been updated in a number of years, and Ms. Otto, FHWA requested a review on how to address the Public Participation Plan. There was a Stake Holders meeting in March 2015, and a number of issues were addressed. The consultants are currently putting together some of the best practices and getting some public participation, especially with the planning process. He noted their looking at what is being done in other MPOs and other regions; trying to get a better handle on public needs, requirements, and to get them more motivated coming to meetings.

He noted the CMS, Public Participation Plan, and LRTP will be completed in the same time frame— late fall - early winter 2015.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments; hearing none, the committee moved to Green Light Go Program and ARLE Program Updates.

ITEM #5 – GREEN LIGHT GO PROGRAM AND ARLE PROGRAM UPDATES:

Green Light Go Program:

Mr. Roberts noted the Green Light Go Program - projects were prioritized, and submitted to Central Office to the Review Committee. They have made their recommendations to PennDOT upper management, and the selected projects will be notified this summer.

ARLE Program:

He noted the ARLE Program is a grant program where money is supplied by people running red lights in Philadelphia PA. They were accepting applications for the program up until the deadline- June 30, 2015, and selection process will be done in summer 2016.

Mr. Pitoniak questioned if the MPOs will be involved in the selection or review process of any ARLE projects.

Mr. Roberts is unsure; MPO is an ineligible entity that can apply for ARLE grants.

He noted within the next few weeks a draft schedule for the program update - General Procedure Guidance will be shared electronically with all the partners to comment on.

Mr. Pitoniak noted on June 30, 2015 - WebEx meeting on Procedural Guidance Committee; one of the problems that both procedural and financial are having is on the federal end, no budget-continuing resolutions, and the federal highway is not coming out with any guidance or on a timely manner.

Mr. Dean noted State Transportation Commission (STC) public comment period closed the end of May 2015 – noting 56,300 customers statewide, over 15,600 transportation issues discussed for the LLTS and MPO, and 486 surveys completed.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments - Green Light Go or ARLE Program.

He noted the city of Scranton recently passed the resolutions of the first round for the Green Light Go Program, their moving forward, and were the only applicants in Lackawanna County.

Mr. Pocius noted their currently utilizing - ARLE Grant; it was originally for a signal in the City of Scranton South Side but decided it was too feudal to try to do a total replacement. They wrote the Department, and was allowed to switch and install a signal on Main Avenue / Parker Street, which was an inadequate signal. He noted they recently got through the consultant selection process to do the design, but did not have enough money, therefore, supplementing to make the overall project work. He noted the project is to add a left turn arrow at South Washington Avenue and Elm Street. The District is currently working on a project to update and place new signals from Eynon Street to the 1300 block of Main Avenue; the next two intersections completed were an enhancement project for Providence Square.

He noted it is an excellent opportunity and the flexibility to switch to a more worthwhile project that will be successful; all that is required is to write a letter to the Department and make your case of a worthy project.

Mr. Pitoniak noted Parker Street is a very dangerous intersection.

ITEM #5 – OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Pitoniak noted the Media Cable Barriers are currently going up along US-6, and their trying to work out some type of training for Emergency Responders to have a program in place. He did receive some information out of Central Office.

Next Meeting:**Meeting Schedule**

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. and the next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Pitoniak for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the LLTS Technical Committee meeting was made by Ms. Snee, seconded by Mr. Frati; the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY MEETING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
July 1, 2015

	<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT AND NO PROXY</u>	<u>PROXY PRESENT</u>
<u>VOTING MEMBERS</u>			
<u>PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</u>			
Susan Hazelton, P.E., ADE-Design		X	
Gerard Babinski, 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>			
Larry Plesh, County Engineer	X		
<u>LUZERNE COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY</u>			
Vacant			
<u>CITY OF SCRANTON</u>			
Mayor William Courtright (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) (Proxy for Alan Baranski – Kate McMahon)		X
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TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Douglas Hein, (COLTS)	X	
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TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LUZERNE COUNTY

Norm Gavlick, Interim Executive 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

Matt Smoker	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

Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0
 John Frankosky, PennDOT District 4-0
 Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0
 Peggy Voldenberg, PennDOT District 4-0