

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING
COMMITTEE MEETING
July 15, 2015

Members of the Coordinating Committee:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting, held on July 15, 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, July 15, 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 – APRIL 29, 2015 LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Copies of the April 29, 2015 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study 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 April 29, 2015 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee meeting minutes, was made by Steve Pitoniak, seconded by George Roberts, 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 2015-2018 TIP, which included:

- Added two TAP projects: Carbondale River Walk in Lackawanna and D&L Trail Middleburg Crossing in Luzerne
- Added right-of-way phase for two slide projects: SR 1001 and SR 1012 both in Luzerne
- Adjusted for low bid on SR 2011 Gardners Creek in Luzerne and County Road Bridge 16 in Kingston – cost savings will be returned to the region
- Adjusted for low bid on SR 524 Kennedy Creek Bridge in Lackawanna – cost savings will be returned to the region
- Addressed an Accrued Unbilled Cost (AUC) on SR 118 and Idetown Road
- Adjusted for low bid on the enhancement project Kennedy and Riverfront Park in Luzerne Lackawanna – cost savings will be returned to the region
- Added the right-of-way phase on two slide projects: SR 1017 in Lackawanna and SR 1021 in Luzerne

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 Long Range Plan and TIP updates.

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

Mr. Pitoniak noted that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update is in process. Mr. Pitoniak discussed project ranking using the Decision Lens. Committee members were able to access the Decision Lens from their individual offices for project ranking. The MPO will be reviewing the rankings at the meeting set later today. It was noted that the description detail in the Decision Lens system were vague and knowing the projects beyond what was included in the Decision Lens was helpful for ranking purposes.

Decision Lens

When looking at the details of projects for the Decision Lens; details were vague for example a project description would be drainage improvement (no indication if it required roadway cutting or pipe cleaning, etc.) or intersection improvement (no indication if it was signal, signing or widening, etc.). Municipalities were not listed in many instances. Bridge project locations were not always correct in the mapping application, a project with no railway involvement showed rail access. Bridge information was also vague concerning the level of service the structure needed and if it was a rehab or replacement project. It was noted that rectifying these and other anomalies will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. It was also noted that it was tedious to return to where you left off. The results of the ratings will be discussed to ensure any anomalies in the rankings are addressed. The funding types will be broken out for the projects on the Twelve Year Plan (TYP).

It was also noted that other planning organizations use the Decision Lens on more specific rankings for more specific funding types (CMAQ, TAP and SPC) but they do not use the Decision Lens to rank their Long Range Transportation Plan projects. One issue is the number of subcategories.

TIP Update

Dean noted that the public comments for the State Transportation Commission Survey were sent out for the Lackawanna-Luzerne MPO. There were 486 commenters with 880 total comments on projects. Some comments were no comment or that there were some complaining about drug issues in the area. Most comments revealed the survey is a useful tool to look into.

Procedural Guidance

A General Procedural Guidance for the 2017 TIP Update has been sent to the planning partners. It is open for comment by all the planning partners until July 20, 2015. The financial guidance

work group is looking to release financial guidance to the planning partners via conference call in early August 2015.

Currently there are not many changes in being made to FHWA financial guidance one change includes a proposed freight component and the basis data has not yet been determined.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next item of business – Public Participation and Congestion Management Plan Update.

ITEM #4 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

It was noted that the Public Participation Plan has not been updated since 2007. The consultant has been acquired to help move this process forward The MPO is looking at creating an independent website (currently the MPO website is run via the Luzerne County website), with three separate administrators (Lackawanna County Planning, Luzerne County Planning and PennDOT). The website will incorporate more of the items that FHWA and the federal government are look at which included access for the visually impaired and hearing impaired to make it more interactive. The website will have a translation program.

ITEM #5 – GREEN LIGHT GO AND ARLE PROGRAM UPDATES

Green Light Go Program

Dean noted that the Green Light Go committee in Central Office has reviewed project submissions and has provided the Executive Staff with recommendations. Selected projects will be notified later this summer.

Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Program

The application period for the Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Program was from June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015. If there is another round for ARLE projects the application will be June 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016. The ranking and screening process is still underway. Funding for this program comes from the fines that are generated from current projects in place. Guidance on the application is online and the funding opportunities for projects is expanding beyond the red light enforcement to items such as signing. Red light enforcement citations are handled like speeding and parking infractions.

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

ITEM #6 – OTHER BUSINESS

Edella Road / P3 Program

Mr. Roberts noted that the SR 4019 Bridge (Edella Road over I-81) in Lackawanna is under repairs to open the bridge until it can be replaced next year under the P3 program. There are 29 bridges on the P3 program in District 4. Ten bridges will be completed this year and the remaining 19 are scheduled to be completed over the next two years. Within the LLTS MPO there are three bridges: SR 4019 Bridge (Edella Road over I-81) in Lackawanna; SR 115 Bridge in Luzerne and the Ramp Over I-80 in Luzerne.

Cable Median Barrier

Mr. Pitoniak noted that with the Cable Median Barrier being installed on the Casey Highway he has been working with Mr. Gary Pezak, volunteer fireman and Assistant Maintenance Services Manager for PennDOT District 4, in getting training for first responders on the use of it.

Rockwell Avenue Bridge

Mr. Pocius noted that the plans to change the Rockwell Avenue Bridge Replacement to utilize a new caisson system have been approved. Through a cooperative effort with DEP, the project can move forward with the expense or time needed for de-watering and contamination remediation that would have been needed under the original plans.

It was note that almost every project has unforeseen conditions regardless of how meticulous a project area is reviewed and scoped. On a \$7 billion program, there have \$331 million in project cost increases due to unforeseen circumstances that does not necessarily attributed to projects delays as reported lately on the news. One example would be the rock cut project on SR 309 in Luzerne. The review teams did all the necessary core borings and scoping that could be done for the project. Once the project was underway the soil seams were found and could not have possibly been reached in the project review process.

Mundy Street and Spring Street Improvements

Ms. Snee noted that Mundy Street and Spring Street improvements were on the list of projects on the LRP to be ranked and asked for clarification on what the project entailed. It was noted that this project may have come from the public input. Spring Street is Business 309 with a tight turning radius onto Mundy. A heavily congested area that could use improvements.

Coal Street Extension Project

Ms. Snee asked regarding the Coal Street Extension project where it currently come to a T, it is currently two left turn lanes and a single right turn lane. It was note when the Turkey Hill comes in the intersection will change to a single lefts only turn lane, a straight only through lane and a single rights only lane.

Federal Funding

Mr. Smoker noted that the current extension of MAP-21 expires July 31, 2015. There will be no authorization for FHWA or USDOT unless congress does another extension. An extension will require congress to add monies to the highway trust fund because August 1, 2015 the fund will be in the red and the federal agencies will be in default. One of the Transportation Committees is working on an extension through the end of the calendar year, but there is still concerns on how this will be funded. Discussion ensued regarding ideas that are being introduce or considered for funding increases which included the United States to begin exporting oil which has happened since the seventies energy crisis. It was also noted that other states are struggling with aging infrastructure and funding needs.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is a combined Technical Committee and Coordinating Committee meeting, which is scheduled for October 21, 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 George Roberts and the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY MEETING - COORDINATING COMMITTEE
July 15, 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>			
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			

Non-Members Present:

Frank Paczewski, State Transportation Commission
Steve Pitoniak, LLTS Tech Chair, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission
Chris Chapman, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission
Susan Hazelton, PennDOT Assistant District Executive for Design
Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office Planning
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, PennDOT District 4-0, Portfolio Manager