

**LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY COORDINATING**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**June 4, 2014**

Members of the Coordinating Committee:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study (LLTS) Coordinating Committee meeting, held on June 4, 2014 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, June 4, 2014 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; a letter of proxy from Mr. James Arey that Mr. Dean Roberts will serve as his proxy via conference call and a verbal notification from Ms. Nancy Snee that Mr. Attilio "Butch" Frati will serve as her proxy. It is noted Ms. Snee provided a letter of proxy for Mr. Frati. (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 – FEBRUARY 26, 2014 LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Copies of the February 26, 2014 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee meeting minutes were sent out to all committee members. Mr. Roberts asked for additions, deletions or corrections. Mr. Pitoniak noted that on page 4 the number of task forces should be four not three. Mr. Roberts asked for further additions, deletions or corrections. Hearing none, a motion to approve the February 26, 2014 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee meeting minutes as noted, was made by John Pocius, seconded by Steve Pitoniak, and carried.

#### **ITEM #2 – 2013-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) MODIFICATIONS & TRANSIT TIP MODIFICATIONS**

##### **2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications**

Copies of the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) modifications were sent out to all committee members. Mr. Fisher noted that the modifications were all administrative actions and would not require a vote. The TIP modifications were listed on the report Fiscal Constraint Table FFY 2013 STWD Items TIP Rpt # OTH712a from May 12, 2014 at 11:32 a.m. Mr. Fisher noted on page three, four and five the report listed the updates made to account for the Act 89 funding. On page six in addition from the Act 89 funding Districts also received safety funding for cable median barriers/guide rail on the Casey Highway in Lackawanna and for high friction surface project on State Route (SR) 171 in Lackawanna County. On page eleven and page fourteen shows the beginning of the design for three new projects (SR 3006 over Pond Creek in Luzerne, SR 4037 over Salem Creek in Luzerne and SR 438 over Elm Brook in Lackawanna).

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next item of business the Draft 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**ITEM #3 – DRAFT 2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Copies of the Draft 2015 Transportation Improvement Program were sent out to all committee members. Ms. Bishop noted that the first four years of the TIP were listed in the report FFY 2015 Scranton/W-B TIP, and the second four years of the TIP were included in the report 2015-2026 Twelve Year Program 2nd Four years of the TYP. In programming the Draft 2015 TIP any projects remaining on 2013 TIP were loaded onto the Draft 2015 TIP. Funding from the Decade of Investment (DOI) and the Act 89 funding allowed for additional paving and bridge preservation projects. Projects considered to be “carryover” projects (projects that will be bid for construction between now and this next TIP cycle) will be fully obligated in this federal fiscal year. TIP funding for those projects could be used to cover shortfalls on projects currently on the TIP that are not yet fully funded. The public comment period for the Draft 2015 TIP runs from June 18, 2014 and end on July 23, 2014.

Mr. Pitoniak noted that he did not see the submission for Air Quality Conformity. Dean Roberts noted that because of the classification changes from the 2010 census the EPA no longer looks at the 1997 Air Quality standards for the area because they no longer apply. This reclassification does not require an updated Air Quality Conformity analysis.

Dean Roberts also noted that the Transit Authorities (Hazleton Public Transit (HPT), Luzerne County Transit Authority (LCTA) and the County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS)) have their TIP projects for the next four years entered into the Multimodal Project Management System (MPMS) for this TIP. As the committee reviews the Transit TIPs one item of note is the funding designation. The PennDOT’s Bureau of Public Transit requested that state funds be listed as “Other” unless the funds are a grant for a specific project. The designation of “Other” for state funding will be changed to “State” as grants are realized for specific projects.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next item of business the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application Evaluation / Ranking.

**ITEM #4 – TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)  
APPLICATION EVALUATION / RANKING**

Mr. Pitoniak noted that all the applicants for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) attended the LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) for their projects to reviewed and ranked. The committee originally received ten applications (one in Lackawanna County did not qualify and deemed ineligible per Central Office review). This left nine applications; two from Lackawanna and seven from Luzerne).

Two-thirds of the committee was in attendance for project ranking. Projects could receive a total score of 40 points and using the guidelines to review and rank project for TAP funding. The

application scores were averaged for final ranking because some committee members recused themselves from the projects they were involved with. The top ranked projects are: the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) River Walk project in the Carbondale ranked number one for the area. Two other projects that were ranked tied for second were the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) DL project in lower Luzerne County (an at grade trail crossing with railroad involvement); and Pittston City Pedestrian Enhancements. Mr. Pitoniak noted that as a large planning organization LLTS did receive a separate fund to use on these projects. Also noted was that the LHVA River Walk project's estimated cost surpassed the Lackawanna-Luzerne two year allocation for TAP projects. Since all the projects are also eligible for a state-wide allocation for TAP projects. The Technical Committee recommended that these projects and rankings be forwarded as the recommended projects for funding in the LLTS Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area to be supplemented by the statewide allocation.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion for the Coordinating Committee to adopt and submit the Transportation Alternatives Program Application Evaluation / Ranking as presented, was made by Butch Frati, seconded by Bob Fiume, and carried.

### **ITEM #5 – OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Commuter Services**

Mr. Pitoniak noted that Commuter Services' dollar amount they have been requesting to do business with and within the LLTS region through CMAQ funds is a fixed amount and non-negotiable. As of yet no memorandum of agreement or contract has been received for review or approval. Emails continue from Commuter Services stating that their lawyers are working on an agreement or contract and the LLTS Committee should be receiving something soon. Also noted was that an option being explored is using CMAQ funding to hire an individual to do the work for both counties depending on what programs Commuter Services is offering for this area.

#### **Lackawanna Intermodal Center**

Mr. Fiume noted that the COLTS Intermodal Center project is out for bid; with a bid opening date of July 1, 2014; and the groundbreaking in August.

#### **Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning" Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)**

FHWA announced that the MAP 21 "Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning" Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was published in the Federal Register on Monday June 2, 2014 for a 90-day public comment period. While Map-21 continued many previous provisions, many rules are new to MAP-21 such as Performance-based Planning and programming.

#### **Long Range Plan**

Mr. Pitoniak noted that the changes to the LLTS Long Range Plan are coming due, and with the changes in the Air Quality Conformity requirements, LLTS has gained time to work on the update completion. The LLTS MPO will utilize a statewide contract open end agreement with McCormick Taylor to update the LRP. Funding for the LRP will come off the top of the

dedicated funding of the Unified Planning Work Plan (UPWP) and will be distributed through the Department's payment process with the open end agreement.

### **Pedestrian and Bicycle Consideration**

Mr. Roberts noted as indicated by Mr. Paczewski, that Luzerne County has passed a resolution asking the Department to take into consideration pedestrian and bicycle traffic in all projects. It was noted that this consideration will be taken on all projects within the LLTS MPO area.

### **Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Funding Program**

Mr. Roberts noted that the Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Funding Program is now open for grant applications. The program is open to local authorities, MPOs, Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs), county planning organizations and Commonwealth agencies. The intent is to look at relatively low cost projects that improve the safety of the mobility of the traveling public. These projects can include traffic signals, roadway improvements, signalized intersections, school zones, guide rail and roadway safety. There is approximately \$4.3 million in funding currently available.

### **Additional Funding**

Mr. Roberts noted that the District was fortunate to receive additional funding for the Interstate 84 Mill Fill project in Lackawanna County from Tigue Street to Mount Cobb, because of its high score on the International Roughness Index (IRI). The funding for the Interstate 81 paving just completed from the Central Scranton Expressway to the Luzerne County line was provided through an exchange of earmarks. Mr. Roberts noted that the District has been fortunate to receive additional funding from Harrisburg for more paving. The District will be receiving another \$34 million for the six counties covered by the District. This funding will allow the District to add 94 miles of paving to the program.

### **Interstate 81 near Pittston**

Mr. Pitoniak asked if there was an update on the Interstate 81 deteriorating pavement sub-base near Pittston as reported on television. It was noted that paving cores were taken and that the District is waiting on the analysis information from Central Office. Repairs would need to be funded from the Interstate Maintenance TIP but funding is limited and the next pavement project for Interstate 81 has preliminary engineering in the last three year of the Twelve Year Program.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the Coordinating Committee meeting was made by John Pocius, seconded by Bob Fiume and the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION  
STUDY MEETING - COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
June 4, 2014

	<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT AND NO PROXY</u>	<u>PROXY PRESENT</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>			
Vacant - (Nancy Snee – Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u>			
Joseph Yannuzzi, Mayor (Dominic Yannuzzi – Permanent Proxy)		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>			
Stanley Strelish		X	
<u>AVIATION REPRESENTATIVE</u>			
Barry Centini		X	
<u>*PENNSYLVANIA NORTHEAST REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY</u>			
Larry Malski		X	
<u>*FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION</u>			
Dan Walston		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 Transportation Advisory Committee  
Members Present:

Nina Waskevich, AAA North Penn

Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Meeting Technical Committee Members Present:

Steve Pitoniak, Lackawanna County Planning Commission  
Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office

Non-Members Present:

Frank Paczewski, Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission  
Chris Chapman, Lackawanna County Planning Commission  
Susan Hazelton, PennDOT District 4-0, Design  
Kevin Atkins, PennDOT District 4-0, Portfolio Management  
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  
John Docalovich, PennDOT District 4-0, Planning  
Victoria Roberts, PennDOT District 4-0, Planning  
Mike Taluto, PennDOT District 4-0, Community Relations