

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
October 1, 2014

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 October 1, 2014 at 10:20 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 October 1, 2014 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 10:20a.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; John Pocius, P.E. is a permanent proxy for William Courtright, Mayor of Scranton.

Mr. Pitoniak noted Larry Plesh, Luzerne County Engineer, was appointed as their representative - Lackawanna/Luzerne Transportation Study Technical Committee; Norm Gavlick, Interim Executive Director of Luzerne County Transportation Authority, replaced previous representative on the committee.

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 JULY 23, 2014 TECHNICAL/COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Copies of the July 23, 2014 combined Technical/ Coordinating Committee Meeting minutes were distributed via email to all members of the committee.

Mr. Pitoniak questioned any additions, deletions, or corrections for the minutes, none received. He entertained a motion to approve the July 23, 2014 minutes of the combined Technical/Coordinating Committee Meeting; Mr. Baranski made the motion, Ms. Snee seconded and the motion carried.

ITEM #2 2013-2016 TIP MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Pitoniak noted the 2013-2016 TIP Modifications; Mr. Fisher handed out a packet with TIP changes; noting they were emailed prior to the meeting. He asked everyone to review the packet; if any questions, he’s available during or after the meeting to discuss any issues.

He reviewed a couple highlights as follows:

- Advanced two projects to bid early –paged 1 & 4 (SR 115 Rock Fence & County Road Brg. 16)
- Received seven low bids. (Pages 4, 7, 15, & 21).
- Began design on six new slide projects. (Pages 22 & 23).
- Addressed two Accrued unbilled costs as part of the packet in addition to the other fiscal changes. (Pages 6 & 12).
- No Amendments – measure of actions only.

Ms. Snee questioned which projects started early; Mr. Fisher noted advanced County Road 16 Brg. 1, Kingston PA and 115 Rock Fence, Luzerne County.

Mr. Pitoniak noted Amendments doesn’t require an action; opened up for questions - none received. TIP Modifications –No one in attendance from LCTA & COLTS; no modifications.

ITEM #3 COMMUTER SERVICES PROGRAM

Mr. Pitoniak reported in December 2013 – Commuter Services presented a package to the MPO to provide services within Lackawanna/Luzerne counties. Noting over the summer, in discussions with the group, there were a number of questions primarily related to the cost. They were looking for \$350,000.00 to do the work in each county. At that time, they had further discussions and are non-negotiable. NEPA working with the group to get them involved; Commuter Services is looking to provide service as a whole Northeastern package. He noted the funds are limited, since they have been reclassified and unsure what the status of the funds will be in the future to place Commuter Services currently under contract; they would have to move projects off that have already been committed. The uncertainty in the future regarding the new Transportation Bill, and is unsure how much funds will be received. There is no further information with the exception that they understand if there's no contract with them due to financial issues; there's still the possibility to return to them in the future if funds do become available.

Mr. Pitoniak entertained a motion from the Committee recommending to the Coordinating Committee not to agree to a contract with Commuter Services; Ms. Hazelton made the motion, Mr. Pocius seconded and the motion carried.

ITEM #4 CONGESTION CORRIDORS & INTERSECTIONS CANDIDATES FORM

Mr. Pitoniak noted in the process updating the Congestion Management Plan, which hasn't been updated in over ten years, in conjunction with the Long Range Transportation Plan; it was a good idea to do both at the same time.

The first phase is Congestion Management Plan – a meeting was last month with the committee and ideas were presented. Ms. Snee emailed a form to everyone on the committee, looking for suggestions for congested corridors and intersections.

Mr. Pitoniak reviewed briefly the process; noting the plan was done ten years ago. They reviewed a number of corridors in both counties and isolated intersections for congestion. The plan they came up with was based on the criteria on determining what congestion was and possible remedies to fix the congested areas. In Lackawanna County many of the areas were done as models or demonstrations over the years and have been updated - Main Avenue, Scranton PA is in the process of getting signal system work done; Keyser Avenue was one of the congested corridors and a significant encumbrance to traffic roadway. They have widened the road and new signal system in place. He noted there were a number of projects that came out of the congestion plan, and have been studying those areas over the years. Currently, the congestion has been reduced or remains constant, and their looking at candidates for future studies.

Ms. Snee reported many corridors that were originally in their plan were similar to Lackawanna County. They had projects done that eliminated the problems and improvements have been made as part of other projects. There just a few intersections left and corridors that were going to stay on the list. She emailed a form to complete with any suggestions, once received it can then be taken to the next meeting on the Congestion Management. She noted the subcontractor for this part of the plan intends to send a map of various areas throughout both counties to see if they blend with the problem areas that have already been noted. It will give them a basis for adding more corridors and intersections to the plan. She noted bus drivers for the three transit systems would have ideas of problem intersections and congestion corridors that they may run into daily. She requested a response back to either herself or Mr. Pitoniak via email; Mr. Pitoniak noted their open to suggestions.

Mr. Pocius reported - Davis Street corridor between exit ramps off I-81 to the intersections of Davis Street and Main/Union St., Taylor PA. At peak times, especially in the afternoon, traffic has been backed up from Taylor to Minooka PA, and it's a continuous steady stream of cars.

He noted on Davis Street, seems to be the signal lights that tie up traffic - congested corridor at various time throughout the day during peak times heading towards I-81 in the morning and exiting in the afternoon coming west.

Mr. Pitoniak will add the corridor to the list; it wasn't a corridor that was studied in past noting heavy traffic.

Mr. Pitoniak stated their open to any suggestions in the upcoming weeks; and urged to talk to neighbors or friends that may have some insight; looking for input.

ITEM #5 OTHER BUINSESS

Mr. Pitoniak reported the meeting for Long Range Transportation Plan – currently looking at the Nov19th or 20th. There is a poll survey out and within the next week will have a final date, to keep the dates available, and will be looking for input from many different sources. Once a date is confirmed, he will notify everyone.

Mr. Pocius noted APC Conference, Hershey PA is held on those dates - November 19th to 21st.

Ms. Hazelton confirmed the dates.

Ms. Otto suggested not waiting until December or January.

Mr. Pocius asked if it can be held earlier; Mr. Pitoniak noted it would be an issue having it earlier due to Planning Partners Meeting/PA Planning Association Meeting. He will wait to receive the results from the poll before making a decision.

Mr. Pitoniak questioned any information on the DBE invoices that were sent out to the MPOs.

Mr. Roberts noted they were to meet with their contractor section to discuss a strategy going forward; he hasn't received any information.

Mr. Pitoniak noted all MPOS and RPOS across the state received an invoice of \$2500.00; Lackawanna/Luzerne County was split in half to pay for the expense of fulfilling the DBE data base requirements that the state has to do. An invoice was received with no warning after all the budgets were put together, and many questions were raised.

Ms. Snee asked if it is taken out of the UPWP funds, which task would it come under.

Mr. Roberts noted Administration – bids can be moved around and applied to one of the task.

Mr. Pitoniak noted it was \$2500.00 invoice for service that will not be used.

He will keep everyone posted.

Mr. Pitoniak asked if there were any other business

Mr. Roberts noted letter on New Tip 2015 starts October 1st – Ms. Snee confirmed.

He noted they have been receiving many questions concerning the TAP Program at state wide level; currently there's some coordination going on new route projects. Ms. Snee noted two applicants for the TAP funding locally - Wilkes University and City of Pittston. They were awarded funding through the Multimodal Transportation Fund.

Mr. Roberts confirmed it was the first round of Intermodal and now there is second round; were those projects also TAP projects? Ms. Snee confirmed.

Mr. Pitoniak noted the first two projects were funded - the trail in Dennison Township and River Walk, Carbondale PA.

No other business noted.

ITEM #6 CLOSE THE MEETING

Next Meeting:

Mr. Pitoniak noted future meetings - their considering January 7, 2015, Technical Committee Meeting and Coordinating Committee Meeting, January 21, 2015 – tentative dates; if the dates need to be changed; he will notify everyone.

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

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY MEETING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
October 1, 2014

	<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

MEMBER
PRESENT

ABSENT AND
NO PROXY

PROXY
PRESENT

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA ALLIANCE

Jeff Box
(Permanent Proxy – Alan Baranski)

X

TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Jennifer Honick, (COLTS)

X

TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LUZERNE COUNTY

Norm Gavlick, Interim Executive Director

X

TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – CITY OF HAZELTON

Mayor Joe Yannuzzi
(Permanent Proxy-Ralph Sharp)

X

AVIATION REPRESENTATIVES - LUZERNE COUNTY

Barry J. Centini

X

AVIATION REPRESENTATIVES – LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Stephen MyKulyn, P.E, Director

X

*FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Camille Otto

X

*FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Wayne Hibeck

X

*FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Tony Cho

X

*Non Voting Members

Non Members Present

Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0
John Frankosky, PennDOT District 4-0
Kevin Atkins, PennDOT District 4-0
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0
Peggy Voldenberg, PennDOT District 4-0
James May, PennDOT District 4-0
John Alv, LCTA

