

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING
October 15, 2014

Members of the Coordinating Committee:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting, held on October 15, 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, October 15, 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 10:00 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. Norm Gavlick that Mr. John Alu 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 – JULY 23, 2014 LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COMBINED TECHNICAL & COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Copies of the July 23, 2014 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Combined Technical and 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 July 23, 2014 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting minutes was made by Nancy Snee, seconded by John Pocious, and carried.

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

2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications / Amendments

Copies of the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) modifications were sent out to all committee members. Mr. Fisher highlighted the modifications to the 2013-2016 TIP, which included:

- Advancing two projects to bid early – SR 115 Rock Fence and County Road Bridge 16 – both in Luzerne
- Adjusted the construction phase for the low bid amounts on seven projects (six in Lackawanna and the SR 115 Rock Fence in Luzerne)
- Added the design phase for six new slide projects
- Addressed two accrued unbilled costs (Eighth Street – Abrahams Creek Bridge in Luzerne and SR 435 / SR 690 in Lackawanna)

Mr. Fisher noted that the modifications were all administrative actions and would not require a vote. Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next item of business the Commuter Service Program.

ITEM #3 – COMMUTER SERVICES PROGRAM

Mr. Pitoniak noted that the Commuter Services Program was reviewed at the Technical Committee meeting. In summary the program would coordinate with transit authorities to optimize ridership, routing and efficiency with larger employers and developers. It was noted that the main concern was funding. Commuter Services requires approximately \$350,000 per year from the CMS allocation. The LLTS CMS allocation is very thin there are more projects for that category of funding than there are funds. To accommodate the Commuter Services program; projects currently in line for CMS funding would have to be removed from the program. These projects would include Park-N-Ride and signal projects that have been on the program for years that are finally in line for funding. The Technical Committee recommends that the Coordinating Committee not go into plans to contract with Commuter Services. It was also noted that NEPA MPO (Pike, Carbon, Schuylkill and Monroe Counties) is looking at moving forward with contract with Commuter Services and that could be a case study for LLTS to look at in the future. An additional concern was the change in the re-designation of the area for air quality requirements and the lack of a new transportation bill may cause a loss or shift in CMS funding detrimental to the LLTS program.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion for the Coordinating Committee to not agree to contract with Commuter Services, was made by Steve Pitoniak, seconded by George Roberts, and carried.

ITEM #4 – CONGESTION CORRIDORS & INTERSECTIONS CANDIDATES FORM

Ms. Snee noted that this for updating the congestion management program and was originally contracted to create a base line 15 years ago. In updating the long range plan the MPO also wants to update the congestion management program to determine if updates to the baseline are needed. The MPO just received a map of the counties with VC ratios of certain areas that may need to be looked at again. A form was sent out for input from the committee on what areas would be good to revisit or look at for this program. Wilkes-Barre City was the only return submission. The MPO will meet with the consultant again after the Long Range Plan kickoff meeting to determine what corridors need to be looked and make the program more viable for the MPO. Mr. Pitoniak noted that since first review 15 years ago, a number of key corridors have been upgraded and the need to review corridors is not as evident today. Mr. Pocius noted that an excellent corridor to review would be the Davis Street Corridor from Interstate 81 Ramp to Main Avenue in Taylor because of the congestion buildup at peak hours on the ramps and Pittston Avenue.

Mr. Arey asked where the data for the VC ratios is being generated from. It was noted that the latest Roadway Management System (RMS) data from PennDOT Central Office was being used.

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

ITEM #5 – OTHER BUSINESS

Election of Officers

As noted in the July LLTS meeting minutes the election of officers was revisited. And, a motion to nominate Dominic Yannuzzi as the Coordinating Committee Vice-Chairman was made by Nancy Snee, seconded by James Arey and carried. Also, a motion to make Nancy Snee Coordinating Committee Secretary formally, was made by George Roberts, seconded by Steve Pitoniak and carried.

MPMS MAP IQ – Multi-Modal Project Management System (MPMS)

Mr. Long presented MPMS MAP IQ, the application that allows people to visual planning and programming data as well as other asset inventory information. Mr. Long noted changes to the system, including more legend driven applications with more drop-down menu selections, as well as the addition of Google street view to aide Bridge Inspectors to verify the structure they are reviewing. Programs that can be viewed through MPMS IQ include: the Decade of Investment (DOI), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the 12-year Program, the Interstate TIP and every project PennDOT has had since the seventies. Also available for review are the project let dates, the project phases, as well as project improvement types including the different types of improvements for bridge work. The program also includes Highway Occupancy Permits (HOP); driveways, utilities and the miscellaneous permits. Bring the HOP projects to the same application as the TIP projects will help coordination work completed and work projected without undoing the former when different projects coincide in the same locations.

It was noted that there are two versions of this application (internal – PennDOT staff only and external – Public and Planning Partners). The dual access is to keep competitive bidding for HOP projects since those applications can be viewed by authorized PennDOT staff throughout the application process. The link for external customers is www.dot7.state.pa.us/MPMS_viewer. Mr. Long reviewed the available information for review which not only includes the aforementioned programs but also; mapping of maintenance projects current and planned, operational (International Roughness Index (IRI) and the Overall Pavement Index (OPI)), and bridge data which has been a useful tool for Right-to-Know requests, the environmental resources can be used for pre-design. Mr. Long reviewed these and other applications both internal and external. This application will allow review of each project the phases it is in the type of funding it has and other details; which are not only useful for the planning organizations but also helpful to any project manager or assistant new to a project. Mr. Long noted that this is a dynamic application and updates to maintenance operations as well as updates and improvements are ongoing. It was noted that this application can layer Google maps but the video logs will remain as a tool with Planning and Programming. Mr. Arey noted that this will allow users to see the impacts of bridges posted and structurally deficient bridges that affect the shipping of goods and large loads and where the funding (Act 89, MAP-21, etc.) is going throughout the area.

Mr. Long noted a route through PennDOT's website for access to MPMS IQ for external users: from the PennDOT website (www.dot.state.pa.us), click on PennDOT Organizations, click on Bureaus & Offices, click on Center for Program Development, click on MPMS IQ. Mr. Long noted that the Department's IT Division is working on simplifying the entire PennDOT website, adding that the Press Office noted statistics that if a user must drill down beyond to clicks for an application they are apt to quit instead of utilizing the online tools to retrieve the information they are looking for.

Mr. Long showed an example of a search within District 4-0 and noted that the map showed all items across the state with the Area of Interest (AOI) shaded. Reports for each search only encompass the area of interest outlined in the search parameters. Type 10 maps are still in progress for addition to the application.

It was noted that the database for MPMS IQ is update regularly, the RMS data is updated weekly, the Bridge Management System (BMS2) is updated daily and the MPMS data is updated nightly. MPMS IQ also has a Posted and Bonded Viewer which is helpful for businesses like the lumber and gas industries.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next item of business – Turnpike Long Range Transportation Plan.

Turnpike's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

LLTS Mr. Joe Sutor, Capital Planning Manager for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) along with Troy Truax of Michael Baker presented information on the Turnpike's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). And, The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) is preparing an update to its 20-year Long Range Plan and is seeking inputs from PennDOT District 4-0 and the Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO on the region's long range planning and transportation improvement program needs having implications on the PTC system. Inputs will be obtained through a facilitated discussion led by the PTC's consultant team and the discussion will focus on the following topics:

- Major projects
- Congestion and commerce
- Goods and service movements
- Decade of Investment projects
- New access points and coordinated improvements with adjacent roadways
- Interstate tolling
- Technology advancements (e.g., Autonomous Vehicle Technology, etc.)
- Emergency preparedness and incident response
- Communications

Discussion outcomes will be used to provide inputs on the PTC's long term capital planning needs and relevant policies. The Long Range Plan is scheduled for completion by summer 2015. To aide in the PTC's planning the MPO and Committee are asked to provide information on the following:

1. When is your next LRP update?

2. How is the Turnpike considered during your LRP or TIP planning process? Do PTC representatives participate?
3. Are there any major projects on your existing Plan or current Plan Update that would impact the Turnpike (i.e., bridge replacements over Turnpike, upgrades to crossroads served by interchanges, etc.)?
4. Are there any identified Decade of Investment projects in your region/ district that would impact the Turnpike that are not currently on any plan?
5. Are there Turnpike interchanges in your region/district with congestion or safety issues on the crossroads for which there are no current planned actions?
6. Do you have access management plans or do you know of any land use planning initiatives, comprehensive plans or proposed developments that could impact interchange areas?
7. Is the Turnpike considered in your intermodal planning (transit connections, inland port connections, park and ride facilities, trail facilities)?
8. Are potential Turnpike Expansion plans other than mainline reconstruction/widening (e.g., Scranton Beltway initiative in Lehigh Valley) included in your planning process?
9. Are you aware of any proposals for additional Turnpike Interchanges or significant reconfiguration of interchanges in your region/district? Are they included in any current plan or planning process?
10. Are you aware of issues with the Turnpike in your region/ district that come out during planning /public involvement meetings (noise, air quality, emergency preparedness and incident response, communications, etc.)?
11. Other questions or comments are welcome.

Information should be submitted to:

- Secretary Nancy Snee at Nancy.Snee@luzernecounty.org
- Brian St. John, P.E., P.T.O.E. of McCormick Taylor at bstjohn@mccormicktaylor.com
- Troy Truax, A.I.C.P. of Michael Baker at Troy.Truax@mbakerintl.com.

Committee members are asked to carbon copy each on information provided.

Mr. Long asked if the PTC considering bring Linking Planning and NEPA to the forefront of the LRTP with environmental concerns and project prioritization. It was noted that currently, the PTC LRTP is more focused on more global needs of unconstrained versus financially constrained needs for the Turnpike in terms of the capital focus areas. Since the PTC is not funded through FHWA the draft plan will not be focused on listing of projects and prioritization of projects as traditionally done by PennDOT and the Planning Partners. The NEPA process is utilized once a specific projects are identified.

Mr. Pitoniak noted that the District is working with the Turnpike on byways in the Clarks Summit to Wyoming Valley area and asked if the Turnpike is considering looking beyond these locations and adding interchanges. It was noted that this is where communication with PennDOT and the Planning Partners to determine needs from the Turnpike as well as impacts to the Turnpike. Allowing protocols for planning projects akin to these type of projects. It was noted that the counties do have studies for certain intersections and

alleviating congestion and truck traffic at interchanges that could be added to the Turnpike system. These projects would require partnering for funding.

It was noted that the Scranton Beltway will need to be added to the MPO Long Range Plan, other projects that could be considered that may impact the Turnpike include: the intersection of Route 315 and Oak Street where the Wyoming Valley Turnpike Interchange ties in; as well as the Decade of Investment project for widening the interstate bridge in that area coupled the Airport / I-81 Interchange project that have direct impacts to the Turnpike.

PennDOT Engineering District 4 Assistant District Executive for Design

Mr. Roberts congratulated Ms. Hazelton for becoming the Assistant District Executive for Design here in the District

Kick-Off Meeting for the LLTS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Mr. Roberts noted that the kick-off meeting for the LLTS LRTP will be either December 3, 2014 or December 4, 2014 and will be finalized shortly.

FHWA Funding and Other Funding Programs

Dean noted that as of October 15, 2014 the Department is operating under the 2015 program and that the FHWA STIP binding letter is available for review with recommendations in moving forward. Mr. Arey other funded programs include the Green Light Go program that works with municipalities on addressing safety issues and signals across the Commonwealth. Also, the Department is looking at a local bridge bundling program, which not only works with municipalities but also comes as the Bureau of Municipal Services is being reorganized that brings a new set of challenges to Programming. The Public-Private Partnership program (P3) continues for proposals submitted, which requires a review of nearly a pallet of information prior to public view.

News Articles

Ms. Snee reminded everyone that articles are still needed for the LLTS MPO newsletter "Connections".

Meeting Schedule

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. and the next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for January 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 Steve Pitoniak and the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY MEETING - COORDINATING COMMITTEE
October 15, 2014

	<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>			
Barry Centini		X	
<u>*PENNSYLVANIA NORTHEAST REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY</u>			
Larry Malski	X		
<u>*FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION</u>			
Camille Otto		X	
<u>*FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)</u>			
Timothy Lidiak		X	
<u>*FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION</u>			
Lori Pagnanelli		X	
*Non-Voting Members			

Non-Members Present:

Steve Pitoniak, LLTS Tech Chair, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission

Frank Paczewski, Pennsylvania Transportation Commission

Joe Sutor, Pennsylvania Turnpike

Jeff White, McCormick Taylor

Troy Truax, Michael Baker Jr. Inc.

Alexis Williams, Michael Baker Jr. Inc.

Steve Sartori, Pennoni Associates

Chris Chapman, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission

Michele Sparich, Luzerne County Planning Commission

Lee Puskor, Luzerne County Planning Commission

Seth Leitzel, PennDOT Central Office

Dean Roberts PennDOT Central Office

Matt Long, PennDOT Central Office

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

Mike Taluto, PennDOT District 4-0, Community Relations

Lonell Shalkowski, Civil Engineer Transportation, PennDOT District 4-0