

**LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY COMBINED**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 21, 2015**

Members of the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Committees:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting, held on October 21, 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, October 21, 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; a letter of proxy from Mr. Louis Norella stating that Mr. Joseph Gillott will serve as his proxy; and a letter of proxy from Mr. Norm Gavlick stating 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 1, 2015 LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Copies of the July 1, 2015 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Technical Committee meeting minutes were sent out to all committee members. Mr. Pitoniak asked for additions, deletions or corrections. Hearing none, a motion to approve the July 1, 2015 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Technical Committee meeting minutes was made by John Pocius, seconded by Nancy Snee, and carried.

**ITEM #2 – JULY 15, LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Copies of the July 15, 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 July 15, 2015 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee meeting minutes, was made by John Pocius, seconded by Butch Frati, and carried.

**ITEM #3 – 2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROCESS**

Mr. Arey noted that currently the schedule is being reviewed as the districts need to relay priorities to the MPO by October 30, 2015. With the recent financial guidance update, the Department is will be working with the MPO to final the 2017 TIP update by the end of November. Looking at Structurally Deficient (SD) Bridges and the International Roughness Index for the regions roadways to ensure the TIP aligns with MAP-21 and performance based asset management. It was also noted that the TIP needs to reflect funding that is being allocated for the National Highway System and the percentage of dollars for SD Bridges.

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the State Transportation Committee Survey Results Overview.

**ITEM #4 – STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS OVERVIEW (2017 TWELVE YEAR PROGRAM PUBLIC OUTREACH)**

Mr. Paczewski noted that in the past, the State Transportation Commission (STC) would travel around the state to meet with the public for reporting and data collection. This year the commission used a survey format to reach out to the entire state and modernize the process. The survey questions were derived from the Pennsylvania 2015 Performance Report. The information collection process started in April of this year and was open for input for six weeks. The initial kickoff meeting had 130 attendees and 5,300 respondents to the survey were received statewide.

Mr. Paczewski shared the data comparison information for the MPO and the statewide survey results. Statewide the consensus of top priorities were roadway improvements, roadway. The 2017 Twelve Year Program Public Outreach results are available online at the STC website <http://talkpatransportation.com/>.

Mr. Pitoniak noted that this format brings a better overall result for transportation needs, because the input was not project specific driven.

**ITEM #5 – 2015-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) MODIFICATIONS AND TRANSIT AMENDMENTS**

**PennDOT District 4-0 Modifications**

Copies of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) modifications were sent out to all committee members. Mr. Fisher noted that a number of fiscal adjustments at end of the Federal Fiscal Year which closed September 30, 2015. It was noted that there were a significant amount of minor modifications listed. It was also noted that all were administrative actions and were for information purposes only.

**Luzerne County Transit Authority (LCTA)**

Mr. Alu noted that LCTA had two TIP amendments for vehicle wash upgrades (vehicle lift and wash bay upgrade).

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Technical Committee recommend that the Coordinating Committee adopt the Luzerne County Transit Authority TIP amendments as presented, by Nancy Snee, seconded by John Pocius, and carried.

Mr. Roberts asked for further questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adopt the Luzerne County Transit Authority TIP amendments as presented, was made by Robert Fiume, seconded by Steve Pitoniak, and carried.

## **ITEM #6 – LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) UPDATE**

Mr. St. John noted that the STC input has been incorporated in the LRTP as well. It was noted that the LRTP is out for public comment, and the public comment period ends November 12, 2015. Mr. St. John reviewed activities to date which included: project scoring, developed draft plan using the decision lens, in the public comment process and the public meetings are set for the first week of November, after those meetings there will be formal adoption meetings for the Technical and Coordinating Committees.

Mr. St. John recapped the project scoring and showed the list of projects in the draft LRTP document. Revisions may need to be made to the project listing to encompass the revised financial guidance that was recently released.

Public Meeting Schedule: November 4, 2015 at Luzerne County Courthouse at 04:00 p.m. and November 5, 2015 at the Lackawanna County Emergency Management Building at 01:00 pm.

The Draft LRTP is on the MPO website:

[http://www.luzernecounty.org/uploads/images/assets/county/departments\\_agencies/planning\\_commision/2015-2040/2015-09-23%20LACK-LUZ%20LRTP1.pdf](http://www.luzernecounty.org/uploads/images/assets/county/departments_agencies/planning_commision/2015-2040/2015-09-23%20LACK-LUZ%20LRTP1.pdf)

The document has an executive summary in the beginning and the first three chapters cover the comprehensive information of the plan. Chapter four focuses on the conditions of region, transportation analysis, changing traffic, IRI, Structurally Deficient (SD) bridges and all the data information for the region. The final piece of the document is the list of candidate projects which shows where the projects fall in the out years where the project funding may be available. All items are still considered draft until the public comment period is over. It was noted that the project list can be commented on and a project addition request would be considered a comment on the project listing not a formal submission. The list also reflects the projects that fall outside the fiscal constraints as well.

Mr. Pioniak noted a brief summary of the project rankings for the LRTP. It was noted that bridge projects were ranked separately from highway and enhancement type projects. Then the projects were fit into the fiscal constraints based on the maintenance of the system and rehabilitation. Projects in the out years fell outside the fiscal constraints. The LRTP is a twenty year focus. Out year projects will make eventually make it to the Twelve Year Program and then to the Transportation Improvement Program which is updated every two years. Priority shifts and emergency events do affect the schedule of projects and all three programs are dynamic plans that change with these needs.

Everyone is encouraged to share the public meeting information and have more public input on the LRTP document. Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to Other Business.

## **ITEM #7 – OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Travel Ban**

Mr. Arey noted that with the budget impasse there has been travel ban for PennDOT employees. It was noted that all state agencies have been tasked to use conference calling for meetings that would otherwise require travel for attendance. PennDOT has been tasked with keeping travel to a minimum and base any travel on mission critical or public safety concerns. Mr. Pitoniak noted that the Agency Coordination Meeting next week for the LRTP presentation will be done via conference call and / or web meeting.

### **Nancy Snee**

Mr. Roberts noted that Ms. Snee is retiring as Director of the Luzerne County Planning Commission December 3, 2015. This is her last meeting on the LLTS Technical and Coordinating Committees. It was noted that second to Mr. Pitoniak; Ms. Snee is the longest serving member on these committees. Mr. Roberts thanked Ms. Snee for her hard work and dedication to the program and congratulated Ms. Snee on her retirement on behalf of the LLTS committees and PennDOT staff. Ms. Snee noted that the Luzerne County Planning Commission does not have a replacement for her to date. And, she will certainly continue to participate as a public entity with the MPO.

### **County of Lackawanna Transit (COLTS)**

Mr. Fiume noted that the ribbon cutting and opening of the new COLTS Intermodal center is planned for November 20, 2015 and announcements will be coming out soon.

### **Harrison Avenue Bridge**

Mr. Pitoniak asked if the Harrison Avenue Bridge project was on schedule. It was noted that project is on schedule and that there is a scope of work adjustment being considered to replace the mountable curb that was removed for traffic controls with a high/glare screen concrete barrier for a higher level of safety for the motoring public.

### **Cable Median Barrier**

Mr. Pitoniak noted that the cable median barrier training for emergency responders went well which covered the most of the responders who handle the southern portion of the Casey Highway. A second session will be held next year for the emergency responders who handle the northern portion of the Casey Highway. It was noted cable median barrier is also set to be installed on portions of the interstate and training for the emergency responders in that area will need to be scheduled.

### **North Scranton Expressway**

Mr. McGurl noted that recently a car drove off the North Scranton Expressway in the vicinity of the Euclid Avenue. The car was wedged between the barriers for the Expressway and the Railroad. This was the second accident of this type that Mr. McGurl was aware of and he asked that PennDOT look at the installation safety controls that would prevent this type of accident from happening again.

### **Federal Funding**

Mr. Smoker noted that the continuing resolution for MAP-21 expires October 29, 2015. Congress needs to adopt a full transportation bill or do another continuing resolution to get to the full transportation bill. In addition, the debt ceiling issues as well only having partial funding for the transportation appropriation (funded until December 11, 2015) prolongs delays.

### **Meeting Schedule**

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.  
The next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Roberts asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the LLTS Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting was made by Bob Fiume, seconded by Butch Frati and the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION  
STUDY MEETING - COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
October 21, 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			

Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Meeting Transportation Advisory Committee  
Members Present:

Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association  
Janet Sweeney, Pennsylvania Environmental Council  
Linda Melvin, Sierra Club

Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Meeting Technical Committee Members Present:

Steve Pitoniak, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission, Tech. Comm. Chair  
Doug Hein, County of Lackawanna Transit System  
Lawrence Plesh, P.E. Luzerne County Engineer  
Attilio “Butch” Frati – Permanent Proxy for City of Wilkes-Barre Mayor Thomas Leighton  
Steve Mykulyn, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Airport  
Joe Gillott, Greenman – Pedersen, Proxy  
Susan Hazelton, P.E. PennDOT Assistant District Executive for Design  
Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office Planning, via conference call

Non-Members Present:

Frank Paczewski, State Transportation Commission  
Chris Chapman, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission  
John Alu, Luzerne County Transit Authority, Proxy  
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, P.E. PennDOT District 4-0, Portfolio Manager  
Brian St. John, McCormick Taylor