

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COMBINED TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
October 4, 2017

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 4, 2017 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 (LLTS) Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 in Conference Room 233 of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation District Office in Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

Mr. James Arey, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, called the meeting to order at 09:58 a.m. and asked for self-introductions. Mr. Arey received a letter of proxy from Mr. George Roberts stating that Ms. Susan Hazelton will serve as his proxy; a letter of proxy from Mr. George Kelly stating that Mr. Steve Pitoniak will serve as his proxy; a letter of proxy Mr. Robert Fiume stating that Mr. Douglas A. Hein will serve as his proxy; and a letter of proxy from Mr. Alan Baranski stating that Ms. Kate McMahon will serve as his permanent proxy on the Technical Committee. (All permanent proxies are listed in the committee member list attached to these minutes.)

Mr. Arey stated for the record that in accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Law and Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, Steve Pitoniak, submitted the required public meeting notice, which appeared in local papers.

ITEM #1 – JULY 19, 2017 LLTS COMBINED TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Copies of the July 19, 2017 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting minutes were sent out to all committee members and are available on the LLTS website. Mr. Arey asked for additions, deletions or corrections. Hearing none, a motion to approve the July 19, 2017 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting minutes was made by John Pocius, seconded by Doug Hein and carried.

ITEM #2 – CURRENT TIP MODIFICATIONS

Copies of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications were sent out to all committee members. It was noted that many of these were end of the federal fiscal year movements; the federal fiscal year ended September 30, 2017. Mr. Fisher highlighted some modifications, which included:

- Advancing the construction phase of MPMS 93032 - SR 2035 over Mud Run Creek and MPMS 93033 - SR 2036 over Mill Creek (both in Luzerne) to bid the project early and decrease to the PS&E estimate
- Advancing the construction phase of MPMS 93040 – SR 3034 over Nescopeck Creek in Luzerne to bid the project early and decrease to the low bid amount
- Moving de-obligations into the reserve line item - additional funds to the region to utilize this federal fiscal year. Funding comes from freed up federal funds that were obligated on previous TIPs
- Advancing the construction phase of MPMS 93027 - SR 2035 over Meadow Run in Luzerne and decreasing to the bid amount. This project bid early.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications continued:

- CE cleared on MPMS 94567 - SR 348 Intersection Improvement in Lackawanna. Adjusting the Final Design, Right of Way and Utility phases to the estimated and agreement amounts to obligate.
- Adjusting preliminary engineering and final design amounts for the following MPMS numbers to process the agreement:
 - o MPMS 68918 - SR 118 over Tributary Huntsville Reservoir in Luzerne
 - o MPMS 68933 - SR 239 over Branch of Huntington Creek in Luzerne
 - o MPMS 100508 - SR 1005 over Becker's Creek in Luzerne
 - o MPMS 96722 - SR 1044 over Abraham's Creek in Luzerne
- Advancing the preliminary engineering phase of MPMS 102866 - SR 3013 Main Street Signals in Lackawanna
- Adjusting preliminary engineering and final design amounts for the following MPMS numbers to process the agreement:
 - o MPMS 67409 - SR 3007 over Little Wapwallopen Creek in Luzerne
 - o MPMS 67333 - SR 3040 over Tributary Nescopeck Creek in Luzerne
 - o MPMS 67329 - SR 4016 over Reyburn Creek in Luzerne
- Decreasing construction phase of MPMS 102002 - PA 115 Edge Line Rumble in Luzerne to low bid amount
- Advancing the construction phase of MPMS 67396 - SR 3004 over Forge Creek in Luzerne and decreasing to the low bid amount.
- Year-end cashflow adjustments to utilize all the FFY2017 funds remaining in Lackawanna and Luzerne

Mr. Fisher noted that the TIP changes were modifications not amendments and would not require a vote.

Transit Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications

Ms. Bednarek noted that Luzerne County Transit Authority (LCTA) did make additions for their communications program through an administrative action. It was also noted that the Hazleton Public Transit (HPT) took administrative actions to purchase Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) busses.

Mr. Arey asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – Upcoming TIP Projects.

ITEM #3 – UPCOMING TIP PROJECTS

Mr. Butch noted upcoming projects with let dates through December 2017.

- MPMS 106372 - Signal Safe Updates in Throop and Dunmore Boroughs in Lackawanna with an estimated let date of October 19, 2017. The project includes Dunmore, Cypress and Sanderson Streets traffic light updates and other safety improvements. Mr. Pitoniak noted that this project is one of the congestion management projects a couplet of with a connector road with no left turning lanes. It has been on the program for a number years one corner has an out of business gas station where a new convenient store has been proposed so more changes to the area will be realized as the area develops.

Upcoming Projects continued:

- MPMS 89012 - Cross Valley Expressway north and southbound ramp improvements with an estimated let date of October 19, 2017.

Mr. Arey asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – Transit Consolidation Study.

ITEM #4 – TRANSIT CONSOLIDATION STUDY

Mr. Pitoniak noted that the MPO had the first meeting with the consultant on the Transit Consolidation Study. The consultants laid out their proposal for the update for the study. The original study was done about six years ago. It was noted that the study was done with the Lackawanna and Luzerne County Transit Authorities and that Hazleton Public Transit had opted out of the study at that time. Several changes from the first study implemented by the two transit agencies include joint ticketing, route changes and crossing county borders. The consultants provided a work program for the update and the MPO also outlined that it would like to see interim and long term measures for improvements. The next meeting with the consultant will be later this month or early next month. As the data is compiled a final report should be out mid-winter or early spring (2018). Currently, Hazleton Public Transit has joined in the Transit Consolidation Study update. It was also noted that the MPO also wants the study update to look at the best practices of other transit consolidations like the one in Lancaster where two authorities working under one umbrella but still separate.

Mr. Arey asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – Scranton and Wilkes-Barre Downtown Bicycle Network Study.

ITEM #5 – SCRANTON AND WILKES-BARRE DOWNTOWN BICYCLE NETWORK STUDY

Mr. Butch noted that Lackawanna County on behalf of the MPO applied to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Department for Community and Economic Development (DCED) for Walk Works and other funding applications to start for the study of both downtown networks. It was noted that the study would concentrate on the central business district (CBD) networks of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre with the goal of expanding it throughout the MPO area. This would be a type of pilot project since these networks are the most densely populated.

Mr. Arey asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – PennDOT Connects.

ITEM #6 – PENNDOT CONNECTS

PennDOT Connects is the Secretary’s initiative for planning to get the Department out early, often and in process to collaborate with municipalities and interest groups on forthcoming TIP and TYP projects. Regional meetings have been held in Lackawanna County and continue to be held in Luzerne County. It was noted that almost two thirds of the municipalities in Lackawanna

County have attended one of the regional meetings for PennDOT Connects because projects often go beyond one municipality's boundaries. An individual meeting was held with Scranton because it is such a large community. Many of the conversations brought to light several immediate concerns of the municipalities and helped open the lines of communication between the local entities and PennDOT. Future meetings will ensure absent municipalities' participation and bring the scope of upcoming transportation projects to the forefront. The immediate concerns included maintenance items (downed trees, safely mobilizing plows in the winter, etc.). The County of Lackawanna is planning to use the map of PennDOT Connects to help address these issues that are prevalent in the region through additional meetings with municipal first responders, road masters and public works entities.

Mr. Arey noted that each District is required to present to the Executive Staff in Harrisburg on what they are doing differently since initiating PennDOT Connects in their region and provide information on progress and practices. It was also noted that going out to discuss projects and having those discussions spill over into local maintenance is a good start especially in opening the lines of communication. But, the program is not an open checkbook for all new improvements, it is a tool to capture issues in design phases ahead of time to hopefully reach cost savings as well as provide a design that would allow for improvements to be easily added by a municipality after a state project has been completed in their locality. Moving forward and thinking about future projects and what they mean to a community and its needs. The Districts and Planning Commissions have worked diligently to get the program up and running for 2017 and are now working on 2019. Mr. Arey noted that the MPO is moving forward in a positive direction and needs to document their efforts to contact and schedule these meeting noting the municipalities who have not participated or have been unresponsive. Hoping that those municipalities that do not participate will see benefits other municipalities are having and join the conversation. It was noted that from the statewide perspective several municipalities appreciated the opportunity to talk to PennDOT representatives. Mr. Pitoniak noted that these individuals put faces to telephone numbers. Mr. Arey noted that although PennDOT does have a Municipal Services Division, this effort is through the planning channels of PennDOT. Mr. Fisher noted that many municipalities are not aware of the planning processes and that this program has educated them on the planning process and TIP processes.

Mr. Butch noted that Luzerne County met with several municipalities resulting in the two presentations at the last LLTS meeting. Items that came out of some of the meetings were concerns that school districts need to be more involved, context sensitive designs having project completion leaving some of the aesthetics of item such as stone arches and utilization of existing structures for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. It was noted that future meetings are scheduled and that some municipalities are not meeting because projects are not planned in their area yet.

Mr. Pocius noted that the PennDOT Connects meeting with the City of Scranton was held in the city's Department of Public Works Office; and it was held as an open discussion of projects. Discussed were the city's wants and needs and looking at these prior to designing a project to realize savings that would not happen if these wants and needs had to be retrofitted into a completed project or a finished project design. And through the sharing of this information municipalities should try to embrace this opportunity and benefits that come with the PennDOT Connects program.

Mr. Arey asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – Transportation Alternative (TA) Set Aside Funding.

ITEM #7 – TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE (TA) SET ASIDE FUNDING

Mr. Butch provided a list of the projects that have been slated for the Transportation Alternative (TA) Set Aside Funding.

Lackawanna Projects

- Archbald Borough Safe Sidewalks
- Pedestrian Bridge Connector: Trail to Steamtown
- Lackawanna River Heritage Trail – Marvine Section
- Main Street Dickson City Improvement Project
- Keystone College Pedestrian and Trail Connections

Luzerne Projects

- Newport Township Transportation
- Sugar Notch Alternate Transportation Enhancements
- White Haven Borough Main Street Connector Project
- City of Pittston North Main St Streetscape Project
- Plains Township Health, Safety & Wellness Trail
- Wilkes University Pedestrian Safety Improvements
- Larksville Transportation Enhancement
- Kingston Forty Fort Bike Path
- Updated Bus Stop Signage for Safety and Wayfinding

Currently, November 15 and November 29, 2017 are the dates being looked for the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to meet to review and score the projects. The meeting will be hosted in Luzerne County. Mr. Pitoniak noted that these projects will be ranked and utilize the additional funding that remained from the 2013-2017 program that can be brought into this year's two-year cycle with a small reserve. This funding was discussed at the last LLTS meeting. It was noted that the Department has a project in Archbald on Main Street and Kennedy Drive.

Mr. Smoker asked what the MPO's TA Set Aside funding allocation was for this round. It was noted that the allocation amounts are available but the report was just recently released so the numbers will be available shortly.

Mr. Arey asked for further questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – 2018-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

ITEM #8 – 2018-2020 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

The MPO recently received the planning priorities letter for the 2018-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) from the Department. The UPWP has been changed from running by

the state fiscal year to a two-year program. The UPWP is the contract with the Department to undertake transportation planning. Although nothing out of the ordinary stood out from the priority letter, one item of consideration is supplemental funding and the bicycle initiatives that may become a part of the base document, as well as the TIP and TYP updates. The UPWP will be adopted at the next MPO meeting series in January 2018.

Mr. Arey asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – Airport Master Plan.

ITEM #9 – AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

Mr. Beardsley noted that the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport has been going through a Master Plan update (map attached to these minutes from the presentation that can be found at [AVP Master Plan Update Presentation](#)) over the past year and a quarter. The last step taken towards completion of the update was having a public workshop to provide the community an opportunity to see the improvements the airport is planning. Among the improvements, the airport is concentrating on the growth of passenger boarding, which is a good problem as the airport thrives but also requires additional parking. A recent push for change comes about from the influx of customers coming in from New York State to take flights out of AVP and the airport wants to ensure proper services are provided to encourage future use of the facility as repeat customers. Another improvement in the update is developing airport property. Not just hangars and cargo ports on the facility but also development parcels that surround the airport. Some parcels are close to the airfield by below the airfield elevations so development would not affect flight paths in or out of the airport. Also, to develop the taxi-way to full length to better service a planes access and utilization of the departure point on the runway.

Mr. Pitoniak asked about the increase of passengers and the boarding bridge situation with new jets coming in to the airport. Mr. Beardsley noted that the airport passenger boarding is up 15% from last year. Bring the airport to the most boarding it has had in the history of the airport; and to address this growth airport passenger amenities need to be updated. 15% growth is not expected every year but if projected growth continues it will go beyond predictions in the master plan by the year 2020. An issue is that of the eight gates there are two downstairs (Gate 1 and Gate 2) in the terminal building which are normally used for smaller turbo-prop airplanes - 34 seats. Airlines are currently phasing these out and with the growth at the airport; they are looking to replace the turbo-prop airplanes with 50-seat jets and have all planes utilize gates 3 through 8 where the boarding bridges are.

Mr. Pocius asked if the security entrance and restaurant location changes still part of the plans. Mr. Beardsley noted that it is moving forward and the is being done at night and should be completed by the end of this year. It will be functioning but the final updates to have the aesthetics in place will be at the end of the first quarter in 2018.

Mr. Arey asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, the committee moved to the next order of business – Fall Planning Partners' Meeting.

ITEM #10 – FALL PLANNING PARTNERS’ MEETING

Mr. Dean Roberts reminded the committees that the Fall Planning Partners’ meeting will be held October 16 through October 18, 2017 at the Ramada in State College.

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

ITEM #11 – OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Schedule

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

The next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Route 11 Bridge - Fort Jenkin Bridge Over the Susquehanna

Ms. Hazelton noted that the Route 11 Bridge over the Susquehanna also known as the Fort Jenkins Bridge is a concrete multi-span structure is currently rated as structurally deficient (SD). Route 11 is also a National Highway System (NHS) route. With the performance metrics, this structure is high priority structure, and is number one in Luzerne County for the department’s bridges and it is number three in the District. Many years ago, this committee talked about Water Street Bridge which is a second bridge crossing over the Susquehanna. Water Street Bridge is a county owned structure. The Fort Jenkins Bridge is currently funded on the program; the Water Street Bridge was deferred off the Long-Range Plan (LRP). The District would like to initiate a study for the complex including the Water Street Bridge with the TIP update and once the study is complete, determine what can be done. Past options for the bridges included combining the structures, eliminating one structure as a redundancy or would it be best to repair both. Congestion is high around both structures with one way traffic on one side and a historic district on the other side. This will be a major undertaking and it was noted that with the county ownership of the Water Street Bridge; Luzerne County would have to participate in a local match. It was noted that the study phase would be funded from the state side but it would cover the traffic movement and studies across and around both structures. Mr. Pedri noted that the Water Street Bridge is a major thoroughfare in the county and that addressing congestion and the safety of the public the county fully supports moving forward with this project. Further conversations will be held with the TIP update on getting the study phase started with the concurrence of the committee and getting the Water Street Bridge on the LRP.

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Mr. Smoker asked where the region was with its State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) update schedule. It was noted that the Department is updating estimates and let dates. It was also noted that the MPO typically waits until after the Fall Planning Partner meeting to ensure it incorporate any final guidelines provided. Meetings will be set throughout November and December to discuss carryover projects, what is available for upcoming projects and their estimates lay them out over the years. The MPO will adopt updates at the January committee

meetings. Mr. Pitoniak asked if the Decision Lens was still available for the LRP and TIP updates. It was noted that once the carryover projects are loaded and see what capacity is available the Decision Lens may not be a viable tool. Also, technology changes may restrict the program use.

FHWA Final Rules - Performance Metrics

Mr. Smoker noted that FHWA had rolled out the final rulemaking for the Performance Metrics. All information has been disseminated to the regional offices and a presentation of the rules and requirements will be given at the upcoming Planning Partner's meeting. There is a lot of information that details the requirements to meet the performance measures which are geared mainly towards interstate and the NHS roads, along with safety performance measures for all roads.

Adjournment

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the LLTS Technical Committee meeting was made by Susan Hazelton, seconded by John Pocius and carried.

Mr. Arey asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the LLTS Coordinating Committee meeting was made by Butch Frati, seconded by John Pocius and the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY MEETING - COORDINATING COMMITTEE
October 4, 2017

<u>COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u>	<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT & 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
Patrick O'Malley		X	
<u>LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION</u>			
C. David Pedri, County Manager – (James Ferry – Permanent Proxy)	X		
<u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u>			
Jeffrey L. Cusat, 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>			
Anthony George, Mayor – (Attilio “Butch” Frati – Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u>			
Robert Fiume			X
<u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LUZERNE COUNTY</u>			
Norm Gavlick – (Kathy Bednarek – Permanent Proxy)			X
<u>AVIATION REPRESENTATIVE</u>			
Carl Beardsley	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	
<u>*SENATOR BLAKE’S OFFICE (LACKAWANNA)</u>			
Larry West, Regional Director	X		

*Non-Voting Members

Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Meeting Technical Committee Members Present:

Steve Pitoniak, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission, Tech. Comm. Chair
Susan Hazelton, P.E., PennDOT District 4-0 Design, Proxy for George Roberts
Dean Roberts, PennDOT Central Office Planning
Gerard Babinski, PennDOT District 4-0 Bridge
Doug Hein, County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS)
Daniel Butch, Luzerne County Planning and Zoning
Tanis Manseau, Luzerne County Planning and Zoning
Kathy Bednarek, Luzerne County Transit Authority, Permanent Proxy for Norm Gavlick
Attilio "Butch" Frati, City of Wilkes-Barre, Permanent Proxy for Mayor Anthony George
Kate McMahon, NEPA for Alan Baranski, Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA), Permanent Proxy for Jeff Box

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

Joyce Zaykowski, City of Wilkes-Barre
Aaron Whitney, SLIBCO

Non-Members Present:

Joe Corcoran, Executive Director, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority
Jim Brady, STV Incorporated
Steve Wilver, Larson Design Group
Julianne Lawson, P.E. PennDOT District 4-0 Design
Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0 Planning and Programming
Steve Fisher, PennDOT District 4-0 Planning
John Frankosky, PennDOT District 4-0 Planning and Programming
Anna Fuhr, PennDOT District 4-0 Administration