

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING
COMMITTEE MEETING
January 21, 2015

Members of the Coordinating Committee:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting, held on January 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, January 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 10:20 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. John Pocius that Mr. Michael Mecca will serve as his proxy. Mr. James Arey attended the meeting via conference call. (All permanent proxies are listed in the committee member lists attached to these minutes.)

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 – OCTOBER 15, 2014 LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Copies of the October 15, 2014 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 October 15, 2014 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Combined Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting minutes was made by Dominic Yannuzzi, seconded by Steve Pitoniak, and carried.

ITEM #2 – 2015-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) MODIFICATIONS

Copies of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) modifications were sent out to all committee members. Mr. Fisher highlighted the modifications to the 2013-2016 TIP, which included:

- Adding a railroad project on SR 2041 Middleburg Road – Luzerne with Central Office funding
- Advanced SR 106 over Tunkhannock Creek – Lackawanna to bid early
- Added preliminary engineering phase on Main Street Corridor Phase III – Lackawanna
- Added final design phase of Federal Aid Paving on SR 29 in Luzerne County
- Addressed accrued unbilled costs for preliminary engineering on the Valley View Business Park project (it was noted that this is was for balancing to close the project)
- Advanced construction phase of SR 309 over SR 1013 in Luzerne to bid early
- Added construction phase of Federal Aid Paving on SR 11 in Lackawanna County
- Added construction phase of I-81 off ramp at Exit 175 (also known as the Mericle Ramp)

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 Wilkes University Gateway Project Presentation.

ITEM #3 – WILKES UNIVERSITY GATEWAY PROJECT PRESENTATION

Chip Prescott, Vice President General Counsel for Wilkes University and Michael Wood, Vice President for External Affairs for Wilkes-University presented the University's plan for the Gateway project. The University receive a TAC grant and from the CFA Multi-Modal Funds. Transportation funds are being used because the project will enhance pedestrian and vehicle safety. The presentation included a rendering of the finished project which includes, speed tables / raised crosswalks on South Main and South Franklin Streets; an entrance way for vehicles on River Street to ease congestion and complement an upcoming PennDOT project on River Street. It was noted that the project is primarily for safety. The TAP funding will cover the lighting, sidewalk and curb improvements and the Multi-Modal Funds would cover the remainder of the project. It was noted that the University needs \$2,567,500 to complete the entire project. They have received \$600,000 from the Multi-Modal funding and the have set aside additional moneys to cover the need match funds for the entire project. All stages of the project are shovel ready.

It was noted that the University needs to contact the District Permits Unit to ensure the Highway Occupancy Permits are in place and that the University's designer is working with our Traffic Unit to ensure the speed tables and other changes are viable on state owned and federal aid roadways. The University will resubmit the project as a continuing project for the next round of Multi-Modal funding. Mr. Michael Simonson of the City of Wilkes-Barre who attended for Butch Frati noted that the City supports the University in this endeavor as it is a central hub for not only the students and faculty but also local businesses. It was noted that eventually the University will also be adding a way-finding network throughout its grounds as well as at key places around the Gateway project. The current round for Multi-Modal funding application deadline is July 31, 2015.

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

ITEM #4 – OTHER BUSINESS

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Ms. Snee noted that there is a Long Range Transportation Plan Update meeting following the LLTS Coordinating Committee meeting. Noting that the MPO is in the beginning stages of the update. Mr. Pitoniak noted that the MPO is in the data collection phase and that this is not a total revamping of the original plan it is just an update. Looking at data from the transit agencies and TIP updates. Mr. Rob Watts of McCormick Taylor noted that they will be reviewing where they are in the LRTP and the vision that was cast for the LRTP and how projects are scored and how to update the process. Ms. Snee noted that they will also discuss updating the public participation plan and making it a part of the LRTP process.

Green Light Go Program

Mr. Arey noted the Green Light Go program information can be found on the website <http://www.dot.state.pa.us>. It is a municipal signal partnership program to improve safety,

mobility and reduce congestion and improve efficiency of signals statewide. PennDOT project element is looking at the corridors (Critical Corridor – has over 10,000 annual Average Daily Traffic (ADT) and a Designated Corridor – has less than 10,000 ADT per year). 50% match for the local grant component. The first year of the program was focused on the capital side including: LED upgrades and signal retiming. The second year will focus on maintenance including: technology and adaptive signals. The first year there was \$10 million statewide and in 2014-2015 fiscal year there is \$25 million statewide. Many of the project from the first year that were not successfully chosen will be rolled into this year's funding round. Applications for 2014-2015 funding are due February 27, 2015.

Scranton 40-signal project did attain funding from the first year and other projects in the area have been rolled over as candidates for this year's funding. Mr. Roberts reiterated that the funding applications must come from the municipalities with a 50% funding match. It was also noted that municipalities would take the lead on Designated Corridors (< 10,000 ADT) and that the Department would initiate work on Critical Corridors (> 10,000 ADT). Types of work include: study and removal of unwarranted signals; traffic signal retiming; development of detour or special operations plan; LED replacement; asset management; traffic signal operations and traffic signal maintenance.

Mr. Pitoniak noted that Lackawanna County is working with the City of Scranton through the Highway Planning portion and Asset Inventory portion of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to inventory their assets. To provide information on what the signals have so the City can move forward with the Green Light Go program. The City will also be submitting applications for this round of funding for three Critical Corridors (intersections) found during the asset inventory process.

Secretary of Transportation

Mr. Roberts noted that the new Governor has appointed Leslie Richards as the new Acting Secretary of Transportation. It was noted that she will be considered acting until she has been confirmed by the Senate. Former Secretary Barry Schoch, P.E. has been asked to stay on as a special advisor to the Governor's Office. Ms. Richards has worked in planning and engineering for at least 20 years. She is the vice-chair for the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. She is the vice-chair for the DVRPC the largest MPO in Pennsylvania in the Philadelphia area.

Meeting Schedule

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. and the next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for April 29, 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 Nancy Snee, seconded by George Roberts and the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY MEETING - COORDINATING COMMITTEE
January 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>			
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

Chris Chapman, Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission

Michael Wood, Wilkes University

Chip Prescott, Wilkes University

Michael Simonson, City of Wilkes-Barre

Rob Watts, McCormick Taylor (attending following meeting (LRPT) came in early)

Kevin Atkins, PennDOT District 4-0, Portfolio Manager

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