

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC MEETING AND
THE COMBINED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING
July 23, 2014

Members of the Coordinating Committee:

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Public Meeting for the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program and of the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study (LLTS) Combined Technical Committee and Coordinating Committee meeting, held on July 23, 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 Combined Technical Committee and Coordinating Committee was held on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 in Conference Room 233 of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation District Office in Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Steve Pitoniak, Chairman of the Technical Committee, called the Public meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked for any objections to his running both the Technical and Coordinating Committee meetings in the absence of the Coordination Committee Chairman Mr. George Roberts and no formal elections for standing vacancies. Hearing no objections, Mr. Pitoniak called the Public meeting to order.

PUBLIC MEETING – JULY 23, 2014

It was noted the purpose of the Public Meeting is to give the public a chance to comment on the draft FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which includes: highway and transit elements; TIP and STIP amendment procedures; and public participation.

It was noted that the public meeting was advertised in the Scranton Times, Citizens' Voice and the Hazleton Speaker. Mr. Pitoniak asked if any members of the public would like to share their comments on the draft FY 2015-2018 TIP. Hearing none, Mr. Pitoniak asked the represented transportation agencies if they had received any public comments on the draft FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). No comments were received by PennDOT, Lackawanna or Luzerne Counties.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for further questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made to adjourn the July 23, 2014 public meeting by Nancy Snee, seconded by Larry Malski, and the meeting was adjourned and the Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Combined Technical Committee and Coordinating Committee Meeting was called to order.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY COMBINED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Pitoniak noted that voting for each item will be done by the Technical Committee first and a second vote will be taken by the Coordinating Committee. Mr. Pitoniak asked for self-introductions. Mr. Pitoniak received a letter of proxy from Mr. George Roberts stating that Ms. Susan Hazelton will serve as his proxy on the Coordinating Committee; a letter of proxy from Mr. John Pocius (permanent proxy for Scranton Mayor William Courtright) stating that Mr. Dave Osborne will serve as his proxy on each committee and a letter of proxy from Corey O'Brien stating that Mr. Gerard Hetman will serve as his proxy on the Technical Committee. (Permanent proxies are also listed in the committee member lists attached to these minutes.)

Mr. Pitoniak 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 Snee, submitted the required public meeting notice, which appeared in local papers.

**ITEM #1 – MAY 21, 2014 LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Copies of the May 21, 2014 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 May 21, 2014 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Technical Committee meeting minutes was made by Nancy Snee, seconded by Butch Frati, and carried.

**ITEM #2 – JUNE 4, 2014 LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Copies of the June 4, 2014 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating 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 June 4, 2014 Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Coordinating Committee meeting minutes was made by Bob Fiume, seconded by James Arey, and carried.

**ITEM #3 – 2013-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)
MODIFICATIONS / AMENDMENTS & TRANSIT TIP MODIFICATIONS**

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

Copies of the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) modifications / amendments were sent out to all committee members. Ms. Bishop reviewed the TIP modifications/amendment which included:

- Cable Median Barrier – increase current estimate for construction using Safety-De-Obligation
- Increased state funding for bridges in (State Route (SR) 11 over Spring Brook, Bridge Preservation projects in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties). The funding is from the LLTS Bridge Reserve Line item. The change needed to be made since these projects had Act 44 funding which is no longer available.
- Reduce construction funding on SR 438 over Tunkhannock Creek in Lackawanna for low bid amount
- Reduce construction funding SR 3019 over Lackawanna River in Lackawanna for low bid amount
- Shift construction funding from fiscal year 2016 to fiscal year 2014 for earlier bid on Eighth Street Bridge over Abrahams Creek in Luzerne and on SR 1010 Bridge over Abrahams Creek in Luzerne
- Increase construction funding for the Scranton CBD Network to process work orders
- Add paving allocation (\$9,948,000) to the TIP for the Surface Treatment Program
- Increase Highway Improvement Safety Program funding (approximately \$1.1 million) to add a federal de-obligation item
- Add funding to the construction phase of the All Weather Pavement Marking project to meet the low bid

- Advance construction funding from safety funds for the Exit 7 Improvements in Lackawanna for bid at the end of August
- Move construction funding from fiscal year 2016 to fiscal year 2014 on SR 6006 Bridge over SR 107 in Lackawanna to bid in July
- Add preliminary engineering phase to SR 309 over SR 2004, the railroad and the Susquehanna River in Luzerne for consultant analysis
- Increase construction funding on SR 309 Rock Cut project to process work orders
- Increase construction funding in fiscal year 2014 on SR 438 in Lackawanna to process work orders
- Add construction phase for lights and gates on the railroad project SR 2032 Foote Avenue in Luzerne County
- Shift Act 89 funds for low bid adjustment to fiscal year 2014 for construction in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.

Transit TIP Modifications / Amendments

It was noted that the June 6, 2014 email ballot for the Hazleton Public Transit needs to be reaffirmed by the Coordinating Committee.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion for the Coordinating Committee to reaffirm the June 6, 2014 email ballot for the Hazleton Public Transit was made by Butch Frati, seconded by Bob Fiume and carried.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments on the 2013-2016 TIP Modifications / Amendments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Technical Committee recommend that the Coordinating Committee adopt the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications / Amendments, by Lou Norella, seconded by Nancy Snee, and carried.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for further questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Coordinating Committee adopt the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modifications / Amendments, by Dominic Yannuzzi, seconded by Jim Arey, and carried.

ITEM #4 – APPROVAL OF THE 2015-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT

Copies of the Draft FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program which included both Highway and Transit elements, the Memorandum of Understanding – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s Statewide Procedures For 2015-2018 STIP and TIP Modifications, and Public Participation Plan have been available for public inspection at the following locations:

- PENNDOT District Office
- Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission
- Luzerne County Planning Commission
- Scranton Public Library
- Osterhout Free Library
- Greater Hazleton Public Library
- Carbondale Public Library

- Office of Amilcar Arroyo, C & P Promotions, Hazleton
- NAACP, Wilkes-Barre
- LLTS MPO website

These aforementioned documents were put on public display on June 18, 2014 and the required public review time-period ended July 23, 2014. The documents were also emailed and made available to the committee members. As noted in the Public Meeting minutes in this document; no comments, verbal or written, were received by PennDOT or the MPO.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Technical Committee recommend that the Coordinating Committee adopt the FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program as presented, by Jen Honick, seconded by Larry Malski, and carried.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for further questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Coordinating Committee adopt the FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program as presented, by Bob Fiume, seconded by Susan Hazelton, and carried.

ITEM #5 – SELF-CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION

A copy of the Self-Certification Resolution was emailed to all committee members.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Technical Committee recommend that the Coordinating Committee adopt the Self-Certification Resolution, by Ralph Sharp, seconded by Susan Hazelton, and carried.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for further questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Coordinating Committee adopt the Self-Certification Resolution, by Butch Frati, seconded by Jim Arey, and carried.

ITEM #6 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S STATEWIDE PROCEDURES FOR 2015-2018 STIP AND TIP MODIFICATIONS

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Statewide Procedures For 2015-2018 STIP and TIP Modifications sent to all committee members.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Technical Committee recommend that the Coordinating Committee adopt the Memorandum of Understanding – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Statewide Procedures For 2015-2018 STIP and TIP Modifications, by Nancy Snee, seconded by Jen Honick, and carried.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for further questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Coordinating Committee adopt the Memorandum of Understanding – Pennsylvania

Department of Transportation's Statewide Procedures For 2015-2018 STIP and TIP Modifications, by Bob Fiume, seconded by Jim Arey, and carried.

ITEM #7 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

A copy of the Public Participation Plan was sent to all committee members. It was noted that new requirements from the FHWA regarding the participation and input from the elderly as part of the Public Participation Plan are being addressed and the changes will be made in the future to meet these requirements.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Technical Committee recommend that the Coordinating Committee adopt the Public Participation Plan as presented, by Ralph Sharp, seconded by Larry Malski, and carried.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for further questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Coordinating Committee adopt the Public Participation Plan as presented, by Susan Hazelton, seconded by Bob Fiume, and carried.

ITEM #8 – COMMUTER SERVICES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mr. Pitoniak noted that Commuter Services had done a presentation for a shared Commuter Carpooling and Vanpooling Plan for the LLTS region back in December 2013. Since that time, the LLTS MPO has been in communication with Commuter Services discussing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or contract to bring the services into this region. This program would be funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. The LLTS CMAQ funding for the 2013-2018 TIP is at \$3.7 million. Commuter Services requires between \$325,000 to \$350,000 per year to start and maintain the program in our area. Currently, the CMAQ program within LLTS is fully allocated for signals, bike lanes, park-n-rides, etc. Adding the commuter program would require moving or reducing projects currently allocated CMAQ funding. LLTS received a copy of the MOU Commuter Services has with the MPO Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA) and although the cost is not negotiable; Commuter Services has offered to reduce their 4-year commitment requirement to a 2-year commitment. Mr. Pitoniak opened this item for discussion.

Mr. Baranski reiterated that LLTS did receive a copy of the MOU given to NEPA and it is under review with NEPA's transit subcommittee to ensure issues with transit and community coordination are addressed, as well as, being reviewed for protection clauses for the MPO by their legal counsel for items like early termination fees, etc. Mr. Baranski recommended that both MPO's look at the MOU jointly, especially with cross jurisdiction with the motoring public crossing the MPO boundaries. NEPA will be discussing this option at their September meeting.

Mr. Frati asked what services would be made available to the MPO. Ms. Snee noted that Commuter Services creates ride sharing opportunities from employment centers. It was noted that Commuter Services provides car-pooling, van rides and coordinates with transit providers to provide transportation to large employment centers, industrial parks and longer commutes. It was also noted that although transit authorities currently part of a Commuter Services program

highly praise the program; proponents of projects currently funded under CMAQ may not find the pros of the program sufficient enough to support putting off those projects in order to fund the Commuter Services plan.

Ms. Hazelton noted that for LLTS the projects currently funding by CMAQ that would be affected include: the Dunmore CBD project and five park-n-ride projects along the interstate system (Tigue Street, Dunmore; Route 307, Covington; Route 940, White Haven; Route 309 Butler and Route 3007, Dorrance).

It was noted that if LLTS rejects the Commuter Services plan, it can look at adopting the plan sometime in the future as funding becomes available or projects are reprioritized by the MPO. Other concerns include that fact that LLTS Air-Quality has been reassigned and as part of that reassignment, the MPO may not be able to maintain the higher level of CMAQ funding. The MPO will look at the MOU and table the decision on utilizing Commuter Services until the October meeting.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Technical Committee recommend that the Coordinating Committee table the Commuter Services discussion until the October meeting, by Butch Frati, seconded by Jen Honick, and carried.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for further questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the Coordinating Committee table the Commuter Services discussion until the October meeting, by Jim Arey, seconded by Bob Fiume, and carried.

ITEM #9 – FEDERAL-AID SYSTEM ADDITIONAL REQUEST – WRIGHT TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY

Wright Township has requested that the LLTS MPO acknowledge and endorse their pursuit of getting three roads (Park Road, Rock Ledge Drive and Forest Drive) added to the federal aid system and designated as K-Routes. It was noted that the township would need to pursue the analysis and have the proposal submitted to FHWA once it was complete. The Technical Committee will inform the township that the LLTS endorses its request to take the proposal to FHWA.

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion was made that the LLTS endorse Wright Townships request to add Park Road, Rock Ledge Drive and Forest Drive to the federal aid system and re-designate them as K-Routes, by Ralph Sharp, seconded by Nancy Snee, and carried.

ITEM #6 – OTHER BUSINESS

Paving Program

Ms. Hazelton noted that prior to Act 89, the District originally had a paving program cover 24 miles funded through the TIP at \$6.8 million. With Act 89, the District will be able to cover 128

miles with \$52 million. The construction season maps have been updated and distributed. Some of the paving projects are ongoing and some will carry over into next spring.

Highway Trust Fund

Mr. Arey noted that the house passed the bill that would extend MAP-21 until May 2015 and the bill is still in the Senate for a vote. The Department is prepared with a list of projects that will be affected if the bill does not pass. Ms. Otto noted that the Highway Trust Fund itself will crest in mid-August below the amount needed to supply the appropriation. MAP-21 expires November 2014 and this will begin showing when payments need to be delayed.

Election of Officers

It was noted that the Process for the Election of Officers will be reviewed. Since several retirements and changes in personnel both the Technical and Coordinating Committees will hold an election of Officers at their respective October meetings.

News Articles

Ms. Snee reminded everyone that articles are still needed for the LLTS MPO newsletter "Connections". Mr. Fiume noted that an article could be the Groundbreaking for the COLTS intermodal center in August.

Meeting Schedule

The next Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. and the next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Pitoniak asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, a motion to adjourn the LLTS Combined Technical Committee and Coordinating Committee meeting was made by Bob Fiume, seconded by Larry Malski and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY MEETING - COORDINATING COMMITTEE
July 23, 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> | | | |
| Vacant - (Nancy Snee – Permanent Proxy) | | | X |
| <u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u> | | | |
| Joseph Yannuzzi, Mayor (Dominic Yannuzzi – Permanent Proxy) | | | 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> | | | |
| Stanley Strelish | | 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 | | | |

LACKAWANNA-LUZERNE TRANSPORTATION
STUDY MEETING - TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
July 23, 2014

| | <u>MEMBER PRESENT</u> | <u>ABSENT AND NO PROXY</u> | <u>PROXY PRESENT</u> |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>PENNDOT</u> | | | |
| Susan Hazelton, P.E. | X | | |
| Gerard Babinski, P.E. | X | | |
| Dean Roberts, Central Office | X | | |
| <u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u> | | | |
| Lou Norella | X | | |
| (Gary Cavill – Permanent Proxy) | | | |
| Corey O’Brien | | | X |
| <u>LACKAWANNA COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION</u> | | | |
| Steve Pitoniak, Chair | X | | |
| <u>LUZERNE COUNTY</u> | | | |
| Lawrence Plesh, P.E. County Engineer | X | | |
| <u>LUZERNE COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY</u> | | | |
| Vacant | | X | |
| <u>LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION</u> | | | |
| Nancy Snee, Vice Chair | X | | |
| <u>CITY OF HAZLETON</u> | | | |
| Joseph Yannuzzi, Mayor | | | X |
| (Ralph Sharp – Permanent Proxy) | | | |
| <u>CITY OF SCRANTON</u> | | | |
| William Courtright, Mayor | | | X |
| (John Pocius – Permanent Proxy) | | | |
| <u>CITY OF WILKES-BARRE</u> | | | |
| Thomas M. Leighton | | | X |
| (Attilio “Butch” Frati – Permanent Proxy) | | | |
| <u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u> | | | |
| Jennifer Honick | X | | |
| <u>TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE – LUZERNE COUNTY</u> | | | |
| Stanley Strelish | | X | |
| <u>AVIATION REPRESENTATIVE – LUZERNE COUNTY</u> | | | |
| Barry Centini | | X | |
| <u>AVIATION REPRESENTATIVE – LACKAWANNA COUNTY</u> | | | |
| Stephen Mykulyn, P.E. | X | | |

| | <u>MEMBER PRESENT</u> | <u>ABSENT AND NO PROXY</u> | <u>PROXY PRESENT</u> |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>PENNSYLVANIA NORTHEAST REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY</u> | | | |
| Larry Malski | X | | |
| <u>NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA ALLIANCE</u> | | | |
| Jeff Box (Alan Baranski – Permanent Proxy) | | | X |
| <u>HAZLETON PUBLIC TRANSIT</u> | | | |
| Renee Craig | | x | |
| <u>*FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION</u> | | | |
| Camille Otto | X | | |
| <u>*FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)</u> | | | |
| Tony Cho | | X | |
| <u>*FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION</u> | | | |
| Wayne Hibeck | | X | |

*Non-Voting Members

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

Mary Malone, Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce

Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study Meeting Technical Committee Members Present:

Gerard Hetman, Lackawanna County Commission proxy for Commissioner Corey O’Brien
David Osbourne, City of Scranton, Proxy for John Pocius

Non-Members Present:

Chris Chapman, Lackawanna County Regional Planning
Kyle Wind, Scranton Times
Ario D’Amato, Alfred Benesch Intern
Kevin Atkins, PennDOT District 4-0, Project Portfolio
Marie Bishop, PennDOT District 4-0, Planning
John Frankosky, PennDOT District 4-0, Planning
Anna Fuhr, PennDOT District 4-0, Administration
Victoria Roberts, PennDOT District 4-0, Planning
Mike Taluto, PennDOT District 4-0, Community Relations
Amin Amin, Civil Engineer Transportation, PennDOT District 4-0
Gery Pawelzik, Civil Engineer Transportation, PennDOT District 4-0