

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

**FROM: ADRIAN MEROLLI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

RE: 2013-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: May 28, 2012

I am writing to inform you that the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program, more commonly referred to as the TIP, is on display for public review and comment. The TIP lists the highway/bridge, interstate, and transit projects for Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties for which federal and/or state funding has been authorized.

Federal and state regulations require that the TIP be put out for public review and comment before being adopted by the Lackawanna/Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization, or MPO. The MPO decides which transportation projects (those using federal and/or state funds) get funded and constructed in the 2-county area. The MPO is slated to adopt the 2013-2016 TIP at the July 18, 2012 Coordinating Committee meeting at the PENNDOT 4-0 Building in Dunmore.

Executive Order #12898 requires that special efforts be made to reach out to diverse and minority segments of the area population. Therefore, we are sending you this letter to bring your attention to the documents that are available for review so you can pass the information on to your community. The public comment period runs from May 30 to June through July 3, 2012.

The TIP and related documents are on display at the following locations:

Luzerne County Planning Commission,
Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission
PENNDOT District 4-0 Headquarters in Dunmore

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Osterhaut Free Library in Wilkes-Barre
Hazleton Area Public Library
El Mensajero Office
Scranton Public Library
Carbondale Public Library

Electronic copies of the documents are available for review on the MPO Web Page which can be accessed by going to the Luzerne County Courthouse web site, clicking on “Departments and Agencies” and clicking on “Planning Commission”; clicking on “MPO Web Page” in upper right corner; clicking on “Plans and Documents”.

Among the other documents that are out for display are the TIP Amendment procedures and the Air Quality Report. The MPO follows the TIP amendment procedures when making changes to the TIP once it is adopted. The Air Quality Report considers the impacts of transportation on the ozone levels, and other pollutants, and how those levels affect the air quality in the MPO region. The Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO region is currently designated as a marginal non-attainment area.

Anyone interested in learning more about the transportation planning process, and the TIP in particular, is invited to attend the **public meeting** on the TIP, which will be held prior to the MPO Technical Committee meeting, at **10:00 AM on July 11, 2012** in **Conference Room 223 at PENNDOT District 4-0 Headquarters in Dunmore**. If you cannot make the meeting, or need transportation to the meeting, please feel free to contact our office at 825-1564. The District 4-0 office is handicapped-accessible. Those with hearing disabilities can call: 963-4953.