



PennDOT District 4-0 Opens New Maintenance Facility

On February 17, PennDOT District 4-0 officially opened its new county maintenance facility in Hanover Township, Luzerne County. The new facility replaces the long-standing maintenance building and garage on PA Route 115 in Bear Creek Township.

The 80-year old Bear Creek garage was in need of major structural repairs that prevented the entire building from being fully used over the past few years.

Transportation Secretary, Barry Schoch, participated in the grand opening ceremony of the \$9.4 million new facility which is located on a 12-acre, mine-reclaimed site which Earth Conservancy sold to the Commonwealth for \$730,000.

The new garage contains state-of-the-art equipment and uses a Variable Air Volume (VAV) heating/cooling system which provides air at a constant tem-

perature for the office and administrative areas of the building. The VAV also has rooftop mounted energy recovery units that sense outside temperatures and infuse tempered fresh air into the system. This helps reduce loadings on both the heating

and cooling equipment.

The garage and shop areas will utilize natural gas-fired radiant heat which heats objects (trucks, floors, etc.) rather than air. This helps reduce heat loss when overhead doors are opened.

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Transportation Secretary, Barry Schoch, (center) cuts the ribbon on the new maintenance facility in Hanover Township while PennDOT and state representatives look on.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport Experiences Ridership Increase

In 2011, the number of passengers using the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport was 464,560 which is the largest number since 1999, according to statistics released by Airport Director, Barry Centini, at a recent Airport Authority Board meeting.

Centini attributes the increased traffic to out-of-state employees associated with the Marcellus Shale industry.

In addition to releasing the passenger statistics, Centini also announced that several flights will be upgraded from small capacity planes to larger ones.

On March 4, United Express will upgrade two daily flights to Newark from 37 seats to 50 seats. Similarly, US Airways upgraded a morning flight to Charlotte from 67 seats to 80 seats. The afternoon flight from the airport to Charlotte will also see an increase in the number of seats from 50 to 67.

The increased passenger capacity of the airplanes has resulted in a decrease in the number of flights taking off and landing at the airport. In December of 2010, the number of take-offs was 885 which represents a 22.1 percent decrease from the amount of take-offs in December of 2010.

New Tower

The airport will lose approximately \$224,000 per year rental fee from the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) once the FAA starts using its new tower in August of this year.

Unfortunately, the FAA will not contribute any funding toward the demolition of the tower located in the old terminal building. Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties will be responsible for funding the demolition, which is expected to cost about \$1 million.

Once the tower has been demolished, the space will provide increased parking capacity.

Traffic Incident Management Workshop Held

Focus 81, PennDOT, NEPA Alliance, and the I-81 Multi-State Corridor Coalition held a Traffic Incident and Responder Safety Workshop on Monday, October 26, 2011 at the Lackawanna County Center for Public Safety in Jessup. The multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional interactive workshop was attended by personnel from PennDOT, the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), Lackawanna County, Luzerne County and several local fire and ambulance companies that respond to traffic incidents along the I-81 interstate corridor in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This no-cost workshop, presented by Jack Sullivan, CSP, CFPS from the Emergency Responder Safety Institute, featured an overview of the safety hazards present at roadway incidents and a series of best practices designed to help protect



Traffic Incident Management/Responder Safety Workshop Attendees

emergency response personnel, save lives, prevent injuries, and clear incidents quickly to resume normal traffic flow. The workshop also focused on accidents involving emergency personnel struck by

vehicles while working emergency scenes on all types of roadways, and provided recommendations on how to protect personnel at the incident scene.

The goal of the workshop was to create awareness of a rapidly-growing safety hazard, to encourage the development of training and safe operating procedures to safeguard personnel, other motorists, and the victims of the original incident while operating on roads and highways, and to provide for safe, quick clearance to restore traffic flow as soon as possible. In addition, the training helped to promote communication and coordination among individuals responding to traffic incidents along the I-81 corridor.

Submitted by Kate McMahon, Government Services Specialist, NEPA

I-81 Multi-State Corridor Coalition Meeting Held

The I-81 Multi-State Corridor Coalition Northern Public Safety Work Group held an organizational meeting on Monday, October 26, 2011 at the Lackawanna County Center for Public Safety.

Representatives from PennDOT, New York State DOT, Pennsylvania State Police, New York State Police, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and local jurisdictions attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to increase information-sharing and decision-making among agencies, as it pertains to incident response and management following vehicular or weather-related incidents along the I-81 Corridor in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties.

Submitted by Kate McMahon

I-81 Corridor Coalition Northern Public Safety Meeting Attendees



Broad Street Corridor Project Update

The Broad Street Corridor Project in Hazleton City and West Hazleton Borough is progressing thanks to the mild winter weather. This has helped the project make up for lost time due to the rainy spring and fall weather.

Pat Fritsky, Project Manager, said "Right now we are concentrating on underground drainage work."

She went on to say that the upcoming

construction season should be a busy one, and she hopes the project will be back on track to the point where the predicted completion date of 2013 will be met.

There are several blocks in downtown Hazleton and West Hazleton where sidewalks, trees, and lights have been installed. These areas serve as examples of what the Broad Street Corridor project will look like upon completion.



New sidewalks on Broad St. in Hazleton

PNRRA Reached Major Economic Development Milestones in 2011

The Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority (PNRRA) attained several milestones in 2011 related to economic development in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Authority accomplished its regional mission by acquiring the final 6 miles of the Pocono Mainline between East Stroudsburg and the Delaware Water Gap from Norfolk Southern for \$1.5 million. This brings the total of PNRRA-owned track and right-of-way to just under 100 miles. The acquisition also provides the Authority and its contract private operator, the Delaware-Lackawanna Railroad, with ownership of its all-important interchange connection with the Norfolk Southern Railway at Slateford, PA.

The Slateford interchange provides over 20 rail-dependent industries, which employ over 2,000 people, with a major economic advantage because it provides the option of

shipping by 2 Class I railway direct interchanges with the Canadian Pacific in Taylor Borough or in Slateford.

The acquisition of the 6-mile mainline also completes the public ownership requirement for the Scranton-Hoboken passenger rail line project.

The PNRRA rebuilt Bell's Bridge in Monroe County last year. The reconstruction was done with new steel members to provide a safe and efficient upgrade for the new, and heavier, rail cars which the rail industry is using nationwide.

New rail, ties and stone were upgraded on the Carbondale Mainline to the tune of \$486,000. The upgrade was done to better handle the increasing rail shipments to the existing shippers and the new Linde Transload Rail Yard located in the Carbondale Rail Yards Industrial Park.

Signal upgrades were done on the Carbondale Mainline as a result of a PennDOT grant of over \$224,000.

The PNRRA annual carloads, the most important economic indicator, increased by 4.25%, bringing the total to 7,037. According to Larry Malski, PNRRA President, "This is a tremendous growth rate from our first full year of operation in 1986 when we handled 563 revenue carloads. With more and more freight being handled by the rail industry in the United States, and with new industries and jobs looking to locate along PNRRA's 100-mile regional railroad system, the rail industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania has once again become a growth industry."

Submitted by Larry Malski, PNRRA President

PennDOT District 4-0 Opens New Maintenance Facility (Continued from page 1)

The heating units have many benefits including low initial cost, individual thermostat controls, and ease of replacement.

The contrast in heating cost savings between the two facilities is significant.

Monthly heating costs for the Bear Creek facility were more than \$10,000 per month last year compared to \$3,000 per month so far this year for the new facility.

The Bear Creek maintenance building was located on the top of a mountain in the eastern part of Luzerne County. The new facil-

ity is located near the geographic center of the county. Secretary Schoch pointed out that the central location provides better access to I-81 and the South Crossvalley Expressway, and improved service to all roadway users.

Residents can contact their local PennDOT office by phone at 826-2386 or by stopping by the new facility located at 381 Main Street in Hanover Township.

Information and photos submitted by James May and Michael Taluto, District 4-0 CRC and Safety Officer



Interior of new maintenance facility

LTAP Provides Useful Training to Local Municipalities

Does your municipality have posting/bonding, drainage, plowing, or winter maintenance questions? Need help calibrating winter equipment or estimating road restoration project costs? If so, the Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP) offers the individualized services of technical experts to your municipality at no charge. LTAP provides one-on-one expert assistance with these and other maintenance and safety issues, either in-

person or via telephone or e-mail.

When asked about the effectiveness of LTAP, Judy Lizza of Chichester Township, Delaware County responded, "Do tech assists work? You bet. At no cost to the municipality, you are able to get a quality solution from an expert. Having someone else look at the problem may result in an answer that is outside the box of what you were thinking. Bringing

fresh, expert eyes to a problem is always an excellent idea."

To request technical assistance for your municipality, use one of the following options:

Web Site: www.ltap.state.pa.us

Telephone: 1-800-FOR-LTAP (367-5827)

E-Mail: LTAP@state.pa.us or



**LACKAWANNA/LUZERNE METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Published By: Luzerne County Planning Commission
 Contact: Nancy Snee
 Telephone: 570-825-1564
 E-Mail: nancy.snee@luzernecounty.org

MPO Web Page Link:
http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/departments_agencies/planning_commission/lackawannaluzerne-metropolitan-planning-organization

PENNDOT District 4-0 Web Site:
www.neparoads.com



Upcoming LTAP Courses

The following LTAP courses have been scheduled:

Asphalt Roads: Common Maintenance Problems - Carbon County

March 6, 2012 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Carbon Co. Emergency Management Services Building

1264 Emergency Lane

Nesquehoning, PA 18240

Telephone: 570-325-3097

Equipment and Worker Safety - Lackawanna County

March 20, 2012 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Carbondale City Hall

1 N. Main St.

Carbondale, PA 18407

Telephone: 570-282-4633

Road Surface Management - Monroe County

April 3, 2012 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Monroe County Public Safety Center

100 Gypsum Rd.

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Telephone: 570-992-4113

Work Zone (Temporary) Traffic Control Wayne County

April 10, 2012 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

PPL Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center

126 PPL Drive (off US Route 6)

Hawley, PA 18428

Telephone: 570-253-7076

Principles of Paving - Schuylkill County

April 26, 2012 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Schuylkill Community Education Center

1-7 W. Centre St.

Mahanoy City, PA 17948

Telephone: 570-773-1270

Bridge Maintenance & Inspection - Pike County

April 26, 2012 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

556 Route 402, Suite 1

Telephone: 570-226-8220

Bridge Maintenance & Inspection - Pike County

May 1, 2012 Time: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Pike County Conservation District Office

556 Route 402, Suite 1

Hawley, PA 18428

Telephone: 570-226-8220

For more information on upcoming LTAP courses, contact Kate McMahon, NEPA Alliance, at 655-5581