

**Lackawanna Luzerne Metropolitan Planning Organization
2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program
Public Comment and Environmental Justice Efforts**

Comment Period

The public comment period began on June 11, 2018 and ended on July 16, 2018. Legal advertisements were placed in the Scranton Times Tribune and the Wilkes-Barre Citizen's Voice newspapers, the largest circulation newspapers in both counties, on July 3rd. During that time no public comment was received by either the Lackawanna or Luzerne County Planning Commissions or PENNDOT on the documents.

Public Display

The Transportation Improvement Program and supporting documentation were available for review at the following libraries:

Scranton Public Library, Main Branch-Scranton
Carbondale Public Library, Carbondale
Hazleton Area Public Library, Hazleton
Osterhout Free Library, Kingston
Pittston Memorial Library, Pittston

Other repositories for the documents were:

Hazleton One Center, Hazleton
Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission Office, Scranton
Luzerne County Planning Commission Offices, Wilkes-Barre
PENNDOT District 4-0 office, Dunmore

The documents were also available electronically on the LLTS website at:

<http://www.lltsmpo.com>.

Documents on Display

The following documents were available for public display and comment:

1. Lackawanna-Luzerne County (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre TIP) FFY 2019-2022 State Transportation Improvement Program and TIP Modification Procedures.
2. The Lackawanna Luzerne 2019-2022 Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report.

3. Lackawanna-Luzerne County (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre TIP) FFY 2019-2022 Highway and Bridge Transportation Improvement Program with public narrative.
4. Lackawanna-Luzerne County FFY 2019-2022 (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre TIP) Public Transit Transportation Improvement Program Documents for the County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS), Hazleton Public Transit (HPT) and the Luzerne County Transit Authority (LCTA).
5. Lackawanna-Luzerne County Interstate Transportation Improvement Program FFY 2019-2022 (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Area) with public narrative.

Additional Outreach

The following Native American Tribes that have an interest in projects in the LLTS Area were also contacted:

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Delaware Nation of Interest

Delaware Tribe

Eastern Shawnee Area of Interest

Oneida Indian Nation

Onondaga Nation

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

Shawnee Tribe

Tuscarora Nation

Other Public Participation

In 2017 the Scranton Area Foundation and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia inaugurated a transportation equity council for the Scranton metropolitan area. The Transportation Planning Equity Council met on a quarterly basis as a group through 2017 and 2018 as well as in various sub-committees dealing with such areas as National Models and Best Practices, Mass Transit in NEPA and Alternative Transit Options.

The group has expanded through the entire MPO and now includes other northeast counties including Monroe, Wayne and Wyoming. The group's mission statement and guiding principles include:

“All Northeast Pennsylvania residents feel part of a thriving region thanks to a comprehensive and equitable transportation system that creates and expands opportunities. Life is better because everyone has access to possibilities.”

- *Access to the region’s transportation systems is front and center in every community and economic development plan as well as every health and workforce conversation.*
- *An interconnected and collaborative transportation system that has been built on partnerships.*

Both the Lackawanna and Luzerne County Planning Commissions as well as the County of Lackawanna Transit System and the Luzerne County Transportation Authority are on the committee and staff has served as co-chairs of the various sub-committees.

Among the accomplishments to date include working with the Institute for Public Policy at Wilkes University in conducting surveys of transit customers and non-customers on the system, working with Geisinger Hospital on a demonstration project to get clients to their facilities in Danville and Scranton and working with the Federal Reserve on the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia recently published report, “[Getting to Work on Time: Public Transit and Job Access in Northeastern Pennsylvania](#),” in which they "explore the extent to which public transit in Northeastern Pennsylvania connects low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents to opportunity employment, which pays above the median wage and doesn't require a four-year degree."

In addition, a roundtable workshop was held in Scranton in October, 2017 attended by over 100 representatives of providers and service agencies from throughout the state and nation