

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

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

RE: 2009-2012 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: JUNE 10, 2008

Enclosed for your review and comment is the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program, more commonly referred to as the TIP. The TIP lists the highway/bridge projects for Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties that will be undertaken during the four-year period 2009-2012. The transit TIPs list the projects that will be undertaken by the Luzerne County Transit Authority (LCTA), County of Lackawanna Transportation System (COLTS) and Hazleton Public Transit for the same 2009-2012 period.

Please note that by the word “undertaken” we do not mean constructed. “Undertaken” in this context means that the process to construct will be started. In general, there are three phases to highway/bridge projects – engineering (preliminary and final design), right-of-way, and construction. Each of these phases can take several months or even years to complete. Therefore, rarely, if ever, do projects get constructed within four years.

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 2009-2012 TIP at their July 15, 2004 meeting at PENNDOT 4-0 headquarters in Dunmore.

Also enclosed in the packet are copies of the TIP Amendment procedures. The MPO uses these procedures to make changes to the TIP once it is adopted.

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The packet also contains the Executive Summary of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. This document considers the impacts of transportation on the ozone levels in the 2-county area and how those levels affect air quality.

Anyone interested in learning more about the transportation planning process, and the TIP in particular, is invited to attend the MPO Technical Committee meeting on July 9, 2008 at PENNDOT District 4-0 headquarters in Dunmore.

If you cannot make the meeting and have questions, please feel free to contact Adrian Merolli or Nancy Snee at 825-1564. E-mail submissions or questions can be sent to Nancy.Snee@luzernecounty.org.