

Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiatives Grant Program

The Lackawanna-Luzerne Transportation Study (LLTS) received fifteen applications for funding through the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiatives Grant Program (PCTI) in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Area. Ten of the applications were received from Luzerne County with five from Lackawanna County.

The Lackawanna County applications with dollar amounts were:

Archbald Trail and Sidewalk Improvements	\$459,009
Carbondale Enterprise Drive Enhancement	\$220,038
Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail Phase 1	\$1,247,000
Cedar Ave. Improvement Project	\$1,432,420
Olyphant Borough Pedestrian/Bicycle Enhancements	\$845,000

The applications from Luzerne County included:

West Wyoming Eight Street North Side Sidewalk	\$295,400
Back Mountain Trail Miles 1 & 2	\$300,000
Broad Street Corridor Decorative Crosswalks	\$661,250
Wilkes-Barre Streetscape Phase V	\$1,500,000
Exeter Borough Route 11 Improvements	\$414,895
Pittston Riverfront Streetscape & Trail	\$1,500,000
Salem Township Pedestrian Safety Improvements	\$499,573
Conyngham Borough Study Only	\$40,000
Butler Twp. Tr. 309 Study	\$75,000
Upper Main/Union Sidewalks & Curbing Luzerne Borough	\$295,000

The initial review of the applications was completed by the LLTS Transportation Advisory Committee members who ranked each application with high, medium or low designations for each of the eighteen criteria listed as part of the application process and refined by both county planning commission staffs. For the high category, three points were awarded, for medium two points and for low one point. Applications could thus have a point total of from 54 to 18. After correcting the application totals for projects that were not ranked by some members, a composite score was obtained and the projects ranked from highest to lowest for both counties combined.

The draft project rankings along with the rationale for selection were then submitted to the LLTS Technical Committee for review. The committee debated how many applications to forward on for approval. Since the amount of funds statewide this year totaled \$24 million which is considerably less than the \$64 million from the last round which was able to fund only 24 projects statewide, the committee decided to put its support behind two construction projects and one study hoping that would carry more weight with the state committee. Since the West Wyoming and Back Mountain projects tied and the monetary difference was less than \$5,000 both projects would be forwarded on to PENNDOT. The following projects were approved for submission to the LLTS Coordinating Committee: *Construction Projects*- 1st- Archbald Trail and Sidewalk Improvements; 2nd (tied)- West Wyoming Eight Street North Side Sidewalk and Back Mountain Trail Miles 1 & 2. *Study Project*- Conyngham Borough Study Only for a total request of \$1,094,409.

The Coordinating Committee met on November 3rd and forwarded the four applications as ranked by the Technical Committee to PENNDOT for further consideration.