

RESOLUTION R-2023-09
LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

*A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Lackawanna County to
Produce Joint Transportation Studies; and Authorizing a \$150,000
Total Budget Over Two Years for a Project Consultant*

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties is due to update its (1) Transportation Corridors Congestion Management Study, (2) Public Transit and Human Services Coordination Study, (3) Public Participation Plan, (4) Non-Discrimination Plan, and (5) Limited-English Proficiency Plan per State and Federal laws; and

WHEREAS, the MPO has an existing grant contract in place with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration guaranteeing reimbursement of the vast majority of personnel (90%) and consultant contract costs (100%) borne by Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties for developing these products; and

WHEREAS, these documents have traditionally been developed/updated by MPO staff directly employed by the Luzerne County Department of Planning and Zoning and the Lackawanna County Department of Planning and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the two Counties have traditionally engaged an expert consultant to help staff produce these documents in past years; and

WHEREAS, the Luzerne County Department of GIS and Mapping has developed a high capacity of providing expert map-making services; and

WHEREAS, Council has already appropriated \$100,000 to the Luzerne County Department of Planning and Zoning to pay a consultant and interdepartmental partners for work they conduct during Fiscal Year 2023 to help develop these products; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$50,000 appropriation will be sought from Council for Fiscal Year 2024 by the Luzerne County Department of Planning and Zoning in order to secure the remainder of funding envisioned necessary to pay a consultant and interdepartmental partners for their help toward finishing/publishing these studies by the June 2024 deadline; and

WHEREAS, it is prudent to utilize expertise and service capacity already existing within the County Administration to the maximum extent possible before resorting to engagement with outside consultants; and

WHEREAS, the Luzerne County Department of Planning and Zoning wishes to engage with the Luzerne County Department of GIS and Mapping, and pay them a proportion of monies made available, so the maps needed as part of these studies will be generated in-house.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council hereby authorizes \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2024 on top of the \$100,000 already appropriated for Fiscal Year 2023 so the Luzerne County Department of Planning and Zoning can guarantee the total two-year project budget of \$150,000 can be promised to pay the Luzerne County Department of GIS and Mapping (smaller portion) as well as an outside consultant (larger portion) via contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council authorizes the Administration to enter into a cost-sharing agreement with Lackawanna County so that all project expenses are borne on a 50%-50% basis between the two Counties. Luzerne County will take the lead in fronting expenses. Luzerne County staff will subsequently secure reimbursement for paying the consultant (half from PennDOT; and the other half from Lackawanna County, who will then get their half reimbursed by PennDOT).

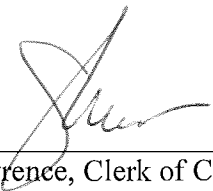
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council hereby commits the local match required for the project (the 10% of County staff hours not reimbursable by PennDOT).

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Luzerne County Council held on February 14, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE (11-0)

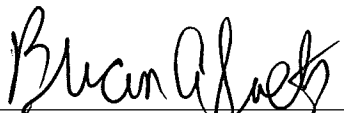
YES: Bienias, Lescavage, Lombardo, McDermott, McGinley, Mitchell, Perry, Radle, Thornton, SJ Urban and Wolovich

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

Attest: 
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

By: 
Kendra Radle, Chair

LUZERNE COUNTY MANAGER

By: 
Brian Swetz, Acting County Manager