

COLTS buses to start calling their stops

Technology will keep tabs on vehicles and make announcements.

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The County of Lackawanna Transit System is about to embark on a major technology upgrade.

The COLTS board voted unanimously Tuesday to award a \$834,078 contract to Avail Technologies, State College, for a new automated vehicle-location system that Executive Director Robert Fiume said will help the agency better monitor and manage its operations.

Mr. Fiume said the system will allow COLTS to track and map its buses in real time while also providing information about ridership. The system will automatically trigger audio and

visual announcements on COLTS buses to alert riders of upcoming stops, he said.

Avail is expected to start installing the system in March, with completion by the end of the year, he said.

On a second unanimous vote, the board awarded a \$197,000 contract to Lyons Industries Inc., Ebensburg, to restore a former Scranton Transit Co. trolley car for the Electric City Trolley Museum.

COLTS acted as the pass-through agency for a Federal Transit Administration grant that will help pay for restoration of the 109-year-old car, known as No. 324.

No. 324 is one of only three surviving trolley cars known to have operated in Scranton. It spent almost six decades as part of a North Pocono diner until it was rediscovered in 2000.

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