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# LOCAL

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## Transit hub pacts inked

### COLTS awards \$7.5M in work on downtown site

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The County of Lackawanna Transit System is ready to build its intermodal transportation center, 19 years after it proposed the downtown Scranton hub.

With a minimum of fanfare, the COLTS board Thursday awarded five contracts totaling \$7.5 million for construction of the center in the 100 block of Lackawanna Avenue.

meeting. "It was a lot of hard work. Thanks to all."

A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled Aug. 1 at 11 a.m., with construction to start as soon as PPL Electric Utilities and the Scranton Sewer Authority wrap up utility work at the site, COLTS Executive Director Robert Fiume said.

COLTS awarded the general construction contract to Lobar Inc., Dillsburg, after apparent low bidder Guandel Construction Group Inc. pulled its bid of \$5.77 million. Lobar submitted the next lowest bid at \$6.22 million.

COLTS solicitor Joseph DeNaples said Scranton-based Guandel withdrew on July 9, the day after the bids were opened, after realizing it had failed to bid certain items contained in the specifications.

The other four construction contracts went to the low bidders: electrical, Urban Electrical Contractors Inc., Dunmore, \$851,000; heating, ventilation and air conditioning, Robert P. Harrington Inc., Scranton, \$247,000; plumbing, O&M Multi-Trade Inc., Jessup, \$164,900, and fire protection, S.A. Communate Co. Inc., West Lawn, \$48,988.

The intermodal center, which carries a total price tag of \$12.4 million, will serve as a hub for COLTS buses, commercial buses and taxis.

It will be built on the south side of Lackawanna Avenue on what is now the State Office Building parking lot. COLTS is acquiring the site through a land swap with the state Department of General Services, which will get property on the north side of the street for a new parking lot for state employees.

Initially proposed by COLTS in 1995, the intermodal project has been plagued by delays.

The project came to a halt in 2006 when the original bill authorizing the land exchange bogged down in the Legislature. It was further delayed in 2008 after the Federal Transit Administration ordered COLTS to repay \$907,000 for violating federal law by failing to advertise for the design work for the center.

"This is just a huge milestone," a relieved Mr. Fiume said after the board awarded the construction contracts.

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