

Groundbreaking Held for New Intermodal Transit Center



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Nearly 20 years after the idea was first proposed, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new intermodal transit center.

The facility will be located on Lackawanna Avenue, on the site of a current parking lot, next to the Scranton State Office Building.

"This is going to be great for economic development, not only for the city of Scranton but for Lackawanna County and the whole region," COLTS Executive Director Bob Fuime said.

Artist renderings show what the new facility would look like.

It will be a place where all modes of transportation will meet, from COLTS and Martz buses to taxis.

"Combining the transit and taxi and inner-city buses is a thing that federal and state governments have been trying to do for years and we're finally accomplishing it," Ted Patton, Martz Vice President of Corporate Traffic said.

"It took a long, yeah, a while," John Fenick of Scranton said.

Bus passengers like John Fenick of Scranton say the new facility would make waiting for his ride a little safer.

"It's good to have it this way, that way I don't have to cross the street when I get off the bus," Fenick said.

The new transit center will be located in a site accessible for passenger rail service, if it ever comes back to Scranton.

Officials think the chances are good, seeing as work is underway at the Lackawanna Cut-Off site in New Jersey.

"The key though is that it's under construction and the federal government considers it a project-started," Larry Malski, president of the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority said. "Once they start a project, they usually continue funding it and funding will take a while but the key is, it's under construction."

The pricetag for the new intermodal transit center in Scranton is \$12.6 million. If all goes according to plan, it would open next fall.

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