

October 2

Intermodal back on agenda

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Go Lackawanna Editor

SCRANTON – Officials with the County of Lackawanna Transit System said they will not let history repeat itself as a new process seeking architectural, engineering and related services begins again for the Intermodal Transportation Center and Martz parking lot.

COLTS issued legal advertisements regarding the request for proposals on Sept. 22 and 23, and a copy of the RFP was posted to www.coltsbus.com under "Business Opportunities" on Sept. 26. The intermodal site is located at the intersection of Lackawanna Avenue and Cliff Street, directly across from the Martz Trailways station at 23 Lackawanna Ave., Scranton.

The new center will be designed to incorporate all modes of public transportation in one climate-controlled facility, COLTS Executive Director Robert Fiume said Tuesday.

"We will also be set up for possible rail service," Fiume noted.

"The costs will be different, and the design should be a little different," he said, adding that COLTS would lean towards a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification, which was not considered in prior plans.

Fiume said the current batch of proposals, due by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 26, will comply with the Brooks Act, a law regarding the federal government selection of architects and engineers.

The agency is committed to doing "everything by the book," according to COLTS Communications Director Gretchen Wintermantel, after previous plans lost federal funding and became part of a criminal investigation into county government.

COLTS' original contracts were terminated at the request of former Lackawanna County Commissioner Robert Cordaro in 2005, providing all work to Clarks Summit-based Highland Associates. The violation of a bidding process forced COLTS to return \$907,345 in funding to the federal government.

Cordaro and fellow former commissioner A.J. Munchak were convicted in June on various counts including bribery over programs receiving federal funds. The men are tentatively set to be sentenced on Oct. 31.

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