

*Times-Tribune - page A3  
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# COLTS finishing new route plan

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Gamblers will still be able to take the bus to Mount Airy Casino Resort twice a week when the County of Lackawanna Transit System restructures its routes later this year.

COLTS is close to finalizing the first major alterations to its route structure in more than 15 years after reviewing public input on a series of changes recommended by its consultant in April, executive director Robert Fiume said Tuesday.

"We are pretty much at the end," he said after a meeting of the COLTS board. "We are in the process of answering the last few questions that we have."

Although the complete list of changes will not be

announced until the final tweaks are made, Mr. Fiume said COLTS is pulling back on a couple of the recommendations made by Pittsburgh-based Clear View Strategies, which spent more than a year analyzing the agency's 26 routes.

The consultant suggested COLTS scrap its twice-daily, five-days-a-week route to Mount Airy because of low ridership. Mr. Fiume said the service to the Monroe County casino will be preserved, although it will be cut back to two days a week.

The service to the casino also served as a connection for county riders to the Monroe County Transportation Authority bus system, which provided access to other parts of Monroe County. Similarly, Clear View rec-

ommended eliminating bus service to McDade Park. COLTS will maintain the service but only on a seasonal basis, with buses running to the park from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Mr. Fiume said.

COLTS is aiming to implement the new routes in the fall, probably after October, he said. A public education campaign to familiarize riders with the restructured routes will start at least a month before the changes take effect.

In other business, the COLTS board gave its approval for the agency administration to enter into negotiations with Lyons Industries Inc., Ebensburg, for the rebuilding of a former Scranton Transit Co. trolley car for the county's Electric City Trolley Museum.

Mr. Fiume said COLTS is acting as the pass-through agency for a \$196,000 federal transportation grant that will help pay for the restoration of the 108-year-old car, known as No. 324.

One of only three surviving trolley cars known to have operated in Scranton, No. 324 spent almost 60 years built into a North Pocono diner until it was rediscovered in 2000 by Jack Carling, a member of the Electric City Trolley Museum Association.

Mr. Carling thanked the COLTS board for its assistance in finally getting the restoration under way.

"You are a part of history today," he said.

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