

Keep transit hub on track

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood declared last week that the long-delayed "intermodal" transit hub planned for downtown Scranton will be built, even though about \$3 million originally granted for the project has been reallocated.

That's terrific news for the city because the project is a worthy one.

Planned for a site just west of the state office building on Lackawanna Avenue, the hub will serve County of Lackawanna Transit System buses, intercity buses and one day, ideally, the restoration of passenger rail service between Scranton and the New York City area.

The project ran off the track largely due to the corruption within a former administration in Lackawanna County. Federal authorities demanded the return of nearly \$1 million in design money after the administration illegally awarded the contract without appropriate bids.

With the project stalled, the Department of Transportation moved the grant money to projects that were ready to go.

COLTS and U.S. Sen. Bob Casey have done a good job of convincing Mr. LaHood and his team that the corruption and delays are past tense. The secretary's vow to see the project to completion well serves the region's economy.

It's vital now for COLTS to reward Mr. LaHood's confidence and commitment by keeping the project squarely on schedule. Second chances are hard to come by; third chances don't come at all.

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