

# COLTS OKs land deal for transportation hub

*Price to be released after documents are signed.*

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STAFF WRITER

The County of Lackawanna Transit System on Tuesday approved the acquisition of approximately 3 acres of land in downtown Scranton as part of its intermodal transportation center project.

The COLTS board agreed to enter into a deed in lieu of condemnation with F&M Realty Co. for the parcel at 23 Lackawanna Ave. where the Martz Trailways terminal is situated.

The purchase price was not immediately disclosed. COLTS solicitor Timothy Hinton said the figure, which was negotiated after both sides got appraisals on the property, will be released once the doc-

Under an agreement with the state, the agency is acquiring the F&M property and an adjacent parcel on the north side on Lackawanna to replace the parking for state employees.

COLTS has filed a condemnation action in county court to acquire the other property, a roughly 1-acre parcel at 25 Lackawanna Ave. that is owned by Steamtown Mall Partners LP.

The meeting included no discussion by board members or Executive Director Robert Fiume of the COLTS' senior citizen ridership figures.

Working with a state Department of Transportation consultant, COLTS dramatically reduced its senior ridership total for fiscal 2010-11 amid questions about the accuracy of numbers it originally provided to PennDOT.

A similar issue at the

Luzerne County Transportation Authority recently prompted PennDOT to seek repayment of \$3.16 million in excess state aid it received for senior riders.

Mr. Hinton said there has been no indication from PennDOT that it is looking at ridership numbers for prior years or that any action against COLTS is pending.

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