

# Intermodal transit center advances

*Facility to be built on Lackawanna Avenue in Scranton.*



**Online**  
See architectural plans for center

**BY JIM LOCKWOOD**  
STAFF WRITER

A long-delayed intermodal transit center for Scranton advanced Wednesday when the city planning commission preliminarily accepted a land development plan.

The commission, consisting of Chairman James Thomas and members Jay Murphy, Ev Jones and Betsey

Moylan, voted 4-0 to accept a final land development plan by the County of Lackawanna Transit System for a transit center building to be constructed on a parking lot on Lackawanna Avenue, and for a replacement parking lot to be constructed across the street.

In development since the 1990s, a \$12.6 million inter-

modal center would be built on the south side of Lackawanna Avenue on what is now the parking lot for the State Office Building. COLTS would replace the parking for state workers by acquiring on the northern side of Lackawanna Avenue a Scranton Mall Partners parcel and an adjacent property owned by F&M Realty Co. that is home to a Martz bus terminal.

To obtain final commission approval, COLTS still must satisfy several hurdles, such as obtaining easements, property and utility requirements, to name a few, city planner Don King and engineer John Pocius told the commission. Still, they and commission members generally gave the plan good reviews.

"Looks good. Looks fantastic," Mr. Thomas said of the plan for an intermodal center. "It's something that's been in the works for 10 years."

"Ten years plus," replied COLTS Executive Director Robert Fiume.

The intermodal center would be a hub for COLTS buses, commercial buses and taxis. It would also serve train riders if passenger rail service between Scranton and metropolitan New York is restored.

After years of delay, the center "is moving forward very quickly now," Mr. Fiume said. "This center will enhance the downtown and benefit the residents of Scranton, Lackawanna County and Northeast Pennsylvania at large. This will be a

true intermodal center."

COLTS hopes to have construction start in summer, Mr. Fiume said.

The transit center building, which would have a green roof, would be a modern, indoor facility with a waiting area, public restrooms, a family changing room, and rooms and operating spaces for both COLTS and Martz. The facility would allow for bus transfers to occur in a secure area.

In a companion matter, the commission voted 4-0 to conditionally approve a COLTS minor subdivision plan involving a swap and combination of lands on the northern side of Lackawanna Avenue for the replacement parking lot for the State Office Building. COLTS filed a declaration of taking in county court earlier this month to condemn those properties.

In other matters:

■ The commission voted 4-0 to conditionally approve a minor subdivision of James and Joanne Corbett, to reallocate three lots at Birney Avenue and Sanders Street. The subdivision will allow for the razing of an existing home on one of the lots and construction of a new home there, Mr. Pocius said.

■ The commission noted the recent resignation of longtime member John Kennedy. Mr. Thomas said of Mr. Kennedy, "I'm sorry to see him go. He was an asset to the board."

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