

COLTS to take property through eminent domain

BY DAVID SINGLETON
STAFF WRITER

The County of Lackawanna Transit System will use eminent domain to secure access to another property near the Mall at Steamtown needed for the downtown intermodal transportation center.

A second declaration of taking filed this week in county court seeks to acquire temporary and permanent easements on a 2,684-square-foot parcel that is part of the roadway leading from Lackawanna Avenue to the parking garage at the western end of the mall. The land is owned by

Steamtown Mall Partners L.P. COLTS solicitor Timothy Hinton said a temporary easement is necessary for construction of the \$12.6 million intermodal center, which will be built on land along Lackawanna Avenue now occupied by the State Office Building parking lot.

The permanent easement will let buses use the first 20 to 30 feet of the mall entrance road to access the intermodal center site, Mr. Hinton said. COLTS will maintain that portion of the roadway, he said.

COLTS filed a similar declaration of taking last month

to acquire a one-acre property on the opposite side of Lackawanna Avenue.

The parcel, also owned by Steamtown Mall Partners, is currently occupied the Tom Hesser Nissan dealership. COLTS will use the land to replace State Office Building parking lost when the center is built.

The intermodal center will become the downtown hub for COLTS buses, commercial buses and taxis. COLTS expects to advertise for construction bids for the project this spring.

Contact the writer:
dsingleton@timeshamrock.com

Times-Tribune
3/6/14
page A4