



County of Lackawanna Transit System

Executive Director:
Robert Fiume

Authority Members:
Michael Dougherty
Martha Dougher
Carmen Libassi, chairman
Gregg Nieto
Larry Wynne

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Contact: Gretchen M. Wintermantel
(570) 346-2061, ext. 1217

COLTS Says ‘No’ To Funding Cut Proposed by State Legislators

Scranton, Pa. – The County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS) stands to lose 35 percent, or \$2.45 million, of its operating income if a proposal from a group of state representatives to balance the budget becomes law. This projection is based on a news release from PennDOT.

The proposal slashes \$357 million from the Public Transportation Trust Fund and \$120 million from the state’s Multimodal Transportation Fund. These cuts would have a catastrophic effect on every transit agency in the Commonwealth.

Specifically, the group of 18 representatives called for cuts that could result in between 30 percent and 50 percent in state operating assistance provided to transit systems in this fiscal year.

“We would face tough decisions about severe cuts in service, dramatic staff reductions, and layoffs,” said Bob Fiume, Executive Director. “The ability of people to get to work, school, and medical appointments, and do necessary activities like grocery shopping, would be drastically affected. This would be a devastating blow to the community.”

The so-called “Taxpayers Budget,” which guts 41 state funds, was announced last week by Rep. Dan Moul and 17 fellow GOP legislators.