

COLTS advances natural gas station plan

Approves purchase of land

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A proposed compressed natural gas station in the Keyser Valley moved a bit

closer to reality Tuesday.

The County of Lackawanna Transit System board voted 3-0 with two members absent to authorize buying 2 acres of land and paying for an easement necessary for the station near its headquarters off North Keyser Avenue.

In March, the state Department of Transportation

announced an \$84.5 million, 20-year deal with Chicago-based Trillium CNG to design, build, finance and operate compressed natural gas fueling stations at 29 public transit agencies across the state. The agencies expect to use the fuel for buses, but COLTS is one of seven planning to let the public fuel up, too.

Trillium remains on schedule to open the station here next year, COLTS Executive Director Robert Fiume said.

The transit agency wants to buy the 2 acres from NSR LLC, a limited liability company based at 700 N. Keyser Ave., the home of Bolus Freight Systems Inc., a trucking company. The agen-

cy needs an easement through a property owned by the Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad, now the Reading & Northern Railroad, a Schuylkill County-based railroad with customers in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming and six other eastern counties.

Mr. Fiume and attorney Joseph DeNaples, one of

COLTS' solicitors, said COLTS has not negotiated a price for the land and easement. NSR bought 6.6 acres near COLTS headquarters on North-South Road in July 2006 for \$60,000 from several Bolus family members and a Bolus family trust.

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