

# Lackawanna Transit Center in Scranton Complete

## \$12.4 Million Multi-Modal Center Has Been 25 Years in the Making

By Eric Deabill | [edeabill@pahomepage.com](mailto:edeabill@pahomepage.com) (mailto:edeabill@pahomepage.com)

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A project that began with an idea 25 years ago is now a reality in Lackawanna County.

Federal, state and local officials came together Friday morning in Scranton to celebrate the opening of the brand new Lackawanna Transit Center.

The facility is located at 30 Lackawanna Avenue. It is right next to the Scranton State Office Building and just down from the Mall at Steamtown.

The new transit center is really a multi-modal facility.

Starting next month, it will be the new spot where people can get on a county bus, get on a Martz bus or a taxi all in one location.

"I don't drive," Esther Wigley of North Scranton said.

Esther Wigley of North Scranton relies on public transportation.

While bundled up Friday, she really hates waiting outside for a COLTS bus along Wyoming Avenue when it's raining.

She says the bus shelters don't do much good.

"It's terrible because it leaks, the back of it. The water comes down and it comes down on top of you!" Wigley said.

Enter the brand new Lackawanna Transit Center, just a few blocks away on Lackawanna Avenue which is now complete.

Starting December 7th, the dry, indoor facility will be where most public buses originate from.

Martz Trailways will also operate out of the building.

"After the new year, this will be the main hub and every bus will leave out of here," COLTS Executive Director Bob Fiume said.

The new transit center will provide riders with real-time arrival and departure information, seating and bathrooms.

It will also give bus drivers space.

"We can actually have a place now where we can sit and eat a meal or take a break," COLTS bus driver David Kaczmarek said.

Another benefit to the new location is just how close it is to the rail tracks in Scranton in case passenger rail service ever returns to the city.

Funding for the \$12.4 million project has been the biggest obstacle.

From federal officials trying to pull a grant to years of delays, some COLTS officials questioned whether this day would ever come.

"There were times actually when we thought this may be dead in the water and we just overcame those bumps," Fiume said.

Because the bus hub location will change from the 100-block of Wyoming Avenue to the new transit center on Monday, December 7th, some bus routes may be slightly impacted.

COLTS is planning to have information on all of the routes and any changes that are needed on its website and available to the public in the coming days.

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