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COLTS Unveils First Hybrid Buses

Scranton, Pa. – The County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS) today unveiled its first four diesel-electric hybrid buses and the new colors for its bus fleet: dark blue and lime green on a silver base.

“Today marks an historic day for COLTS and our customers. With the arrival of our first hybrid buses, public transit in Lackawanna County now truly is a more environmentally friendly option for people,” said Executive Director Bob Fiume. “Hybrid technology reduces our carbon footprint and provides cost savings to COLTS because of the fuel efficiency it provides. We believe that public transit will now be an even more attractive alternative to consumers facing skyrocketing prices at the gas pumps.”

COLTS purchased these buses with \$2.2 million of federal money received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Through the purchase of these four buses, COLTS allowed the bus manufacturer, Gillig Corporation, to retain the equivalent of two full-time jobs.

“As a publically funded agency, it is intrinsically important to us to help sustain the American economy. We take pride in the fact that these vehicles were made in America by American workers,” added Mr. Fiume. In 2010, COLTS was the only public transit agency in Pennsylvania and one of only 36 in the country to receive a \$2.5 million Clean Fuels Grant through the Federal Transit Administration that will be used towards the purchase of an nine additional hybrid buses.

“These hybrid buses will provide Lackawanna County with clean transportation and help lessen our dependence on oil at a time when gas prices are spiking,” said U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA). “I am pleased the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act enabled COLTS to purchase these American-made buses to bolster our economy and keep manufacturing jobs in America.”

“Like our fleet of hybrid vehicles, the new COLTS hybrid buses are part of our commitment as a county to shrink our carbon footprint in order to reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming,” Lackawanna County Commissioners Michael J. Washo and Corey O’Brien said. “The new buses have the added benefit of lowering fuel costs at a time of continued high gas prices, which reduces costs to taxpayers. As a county, we are continuing to look for innovative ways to provide high-quality, environmentally friendly services to residents at the lowest possible price.”

Mr. Fiume was also joined by Tom Cahill, representing Congressman Tom Marino (PA-10); Rep. Ken Smith (112th District); COLTS Vice-Chairman Michael Dougherty; and COLTS Union President Mark Gifford and Vice-President Dave Kaczmarek.