

**COLTS Riders Sound Off on Proposed Changes**

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Reported by: Eric Deabill



Scranton, Lackawanna County - People who live in Lackawanna County are speaking out about proposed changes to the county's bus system.

COLTS, or the County of Lackawanna Transit System, held several public meetings on Thursday.

Officials have spent several months reviewing the county's bus routes. Some of the proposed changes involve additions to several but most people wanted to talk about the proposed eliminations.

"They want to take away service," Jackie Kehl of Scranton said.

She was one of the first people through the door.

"I'm gonna fight them on it. I am. I'm gonna fight them tooth and nail," Kehl said.

Kehl, who is in a wheelchair, says she relies on COLTS buses to take her to McDade Park. It is one of several routes COLTS is considering eliminating.

"I use the bus to get to McDade Park on a daily basis in the summertime to take my nieces and nephews. There's very few things I can do with them because of my limitations," Kehl said.

Other proposed routes that could be eliminated include the Daleville/North Pocono Route and the Monroe County via Mount Airy route. Bus company officials blame low ridership.

"They didn't advertise enough," Sylvia Tini of Scranton said. "I think the times could be changed. Instead of going everyday of the week, just go twice a week."

"As a retiree, it gives me an outlet. It gives me something to do a couple days of the week that I enjoy doing and it was very easy going up there," Charles Bowen of Dalton said.

While some were upset, others liked the proposed changes that call for increasing services to shopping areas and adding more night and Saturday services.

"I'm disabled and I don't work but I like to go out on Saturdays," Esther Wigley of Scranton said.

If you weren't able to make it to Thursday's hearings, you can submit your written comments to COLTS by May 11th.

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