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COLTS Considers Changes to Bus Lines

By Sofia Ojeda

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Some people gathered Thursday at the Mall at Steamtown in Scranton to voice their concerns on proposed changes to the county's bus system.

Some of the changes would include extending bus rides into the evening for some transit lines, adding more bus trips up to the shopping malls in Dickson City and getting rid of some routes.

People met inside a vacant store at the Mall at Steamtown in Scranton to let the County of Lackawanna Transit System know how they felt about proposed changes to their bus service.

A few of the changes would include adding and extending some routes all over Lackawanna and two routes in part of Luzerne County.

"I haven't been down to Wilkes-Barre in like 15 years, because I can't get there. I have no one to take me, so I'm really looking forward to it," said rider Esther Wigley.

Another recommendation would be to extend service from Scranton up to the shopping corridor in Dickson City, particularly Gander Mountain, Staples and Best Buy area.

"I would like to see it go down to, off the Viewmont Mall, down to Staples and then further down to Lowes," said rider Lynn Eytel.

One suggestion would eliminate a route, not the entire McDade Park bus line, but the loop it runs inside the park.

"I go into McDade Park on a daily basis all summer long with my nieces and nephews and it's the only transportation that I have to get them to the park," said Jackie Kehl.

The proposed changes come from a study done for COLTS by a company in Pittsburgh.

These changes would help make better use of the COLTS bus routes by getting rid of lines with low ridership and boost the ones with more demand.

While not everyone will be happy with some of the changes, COLTS said they will help improve the overall service to those who need it most.

"We're worried about low-income people, people who might rely on the bus because they live in low-income residential areas. We're worried about the seniors making sure we don't cut them off from anything, and we want to boost employment and get people to their jobs," said consultant Lynn Colosi.

COLTS officials hope to have the final plan approved by July. Changes could take effect in the fall.

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