



P.O. Box 496
Nicholson, PA 18446

**Nicholson Tourism Center
at the Historic Delaware, Lackawanna & Western (DL&W) Railroad Station
Feasibility Study Presentation & Discussion**

January 23, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
St. Patrick's Catholic Church Hall, Main & High Streets, Nicholson, PA 18446

Summary

The purpose of meeting was to present the results of the feasibility study of renovating the former Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Station in Nicholson, PA. The goal of the study, funded mostly in part by a PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources received grant through the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, was to determine the feasibility of renovating the historic 1849 station into a visitor's center to promote tourism, as well as a place for community events.

While attendees (a total of about 50 were in attendance, including local borough elected officials, representatives of state government elected officials, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Preservation Pennsylvania, PennDOT, and Steamtown) began arriving as early as 6:00 p.m., the public meeting began at about 6:35 p.m. with introductions by Josh Stull with the Nicholson Heritage Association. At about 6:40 p.m., Alex Belavitz with Facility Design & Development began the presentation with a background on Facility Design and Development that included discussion of other railroad and historic properties that they have been involved with.

He then turned the presentation over to Teri Ooms with The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development for the explanation of her work on the market analysis portion of the study. The market analysis consisted of interviews, a focus group, and secondary data of demographics, economy, housing, tourism, and case studies. The results indicated that there was a consensus that the railroad station should be as true to the original building, a tourism destination, a visitor and education center, and finished in time for the centennial of the Tunkhannock Viaduct, or as locals call it the Nicholson Bridge. Most importantly, the renovated station is viewed as a catalyst for economic revitalization.

The presentation was then returned to Alex, who discussed the existing conditions of the station that included many photos and a structural analysis of the building. Further, the environmental conditions, proposed interior and exterior designs, and projected total cost (\$1.4 million) were discussed.

The presentation was finished about 7:40 p.m. with the remaining time left for questions and answers. While the Q&A session lasted until 7:50 p.m. or so and attendees left shortly thereafter, many stayed behind to ask additional questions of the presenters and the Nicholson Heritage Association.

The PowerPoint presentation, as well as a fact sheet and the study itself, can be found at www.nicholsonstation.org.