

WATS Coordinating Committee Members

Williamsport City Council
Mayor, City of Williamsport
River Valley Transit Authority
Williamsport Regional Airport
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority
PennDOT Engineering District 3-0
Lycoming County Board of Commissioners
Lycoming County Borough Representative
Lycoming County Association of Township Officials
PennDOT Center for Program Development & Management



WATS Technical Committee Members

STEP, Inc.
City of Williamsport
River Valley Transit Authority
Williamsport Regional Airport
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority
PennDOT Engineering District 3-0
Lycoming County Planning Commission
Lycoming County Planning & Community Development
PennDOT Center for Program Development & Management

Williamsport Area Transportation Study Technical Committee Teleconference Public Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2025 Technical Committee Teleconference Public Meeting: held at 33 W. Third Street, Lyco. Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Williamsport, PA 17701 and various locations via teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER (Regular WATS Technical Committee Public Meeting)

At 10:02 AM Justin Batiuk called the meeting to order. He mentioned that the meeting is being recorded. Everyone online and in-person introduced themselves and their organization.

MINUTES

Justin asked if there were any issues with the minutes from the previous meeting on August 18, 2025. No issues were found. Motion to approve was by Chris King, 2nd by Joe Reighard. Motion carried to approve the minutes.

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

WATS MPO 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Approvals

1. Move MPMS 115356 to FFY 2026 and move MPMS 155344 to FFY 2029
 - a. Chris King explained how estimates came back lower than expected and advance MPMS 115356 – resurfacing of approximately 8 miles of Rt 284 southbound will be let in FFY 2026. MPMS 115344 the northbound counterpart will be moved from FFY 2028 to 2029.
 - b. Eric McKitish made a motion to approve, Sal Vitko 2nd. Motion unanimously approved.
2. Add MPMS 122484 to WATS MPO TIP using Federal CRP Funds
 - a. Chris King explained how this is a new project with Federal Carbon Reduction Program funds to upgrade lighting at the mall interchange to LED.
 - b. Dan Merk made a motion to approve, Scott Williams 2nd. Motion unanimously approved.
3. Add MPMS 84058 and 11430 Transit Amendment
 - a. Justin and Sal explained this is a continuation of the previous amendment to add federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022 5307 funds to the TIP.
 - b. Steven Beattie made a motion to approve, Gerald Wertz 2nd. Motion unanimously approved.
4. MPMS 123206 add construction and final design phase

- a. Chris King explained this is a new project to advance preservation work on Loyalsock Creek bridges on I-180 in Montoursville. Bill Scott asked what material was used previously that crumbled. Gerald Wertz explained it was an epoxy surface treatment. New project will involve a polymer concrete. Bill asked if had been used previously? Gerald stated it was used approximately 10 years ago and have been performing well. It costs a little more and is placed at a thicker depth but it will preserve the decks for longer. Bill asked if only the bridges over Loyalsock Creek will be repaired? Gerald stated all bridges are being looked at and the cause for the deterioration.
- b. Sal Vitko made a motion to approve, Joe Reichard 2nd. Motion unanimously approved.

2026 WATS Technical Committee Dates Adoption

Emily Mrochko explained the document in the packet outlining the proposed 2026 meeting dates. She explained due to Martin Luther King Jr Day, the first meeting will be held on a Tuesday. Gerald Wertz made a motion to approve, Dan Merk 2nd. Motion unanimously approved.

2026 Safety Target Setting Acceptance

Justin Batiuk explained the document was sent out by Central Office to all Planning Partners to accept the targets and baselines. Once approved it will be sent to the WATS Coordinating Committee. Eric McKitish made a motion to approve, Dan Merk 2nd. Motion unanimously passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2027 TIP Update:

Emily stated she didn't have much of an update. Internally PCD is working on the graphs and maps. Chris King stated PennDOT is working on programing projects. Most will be carryover but there will be a few new projects added. He is hoping to have a finalized list by the end of the month. Justin stated he thinks we are in a good spot. He will be scheduling a meeting with WATS, PennDOT District 3-0, FHWA, and PennDOT Central Office in January/February to review the TIP.

NEVI Priority List Discussion:

Emily explained how Colten from PennDOT Central Office reached out regarding the NEVI program. She stated the survey is available on the WATS MPO social media. She is gathering a list to submit after the WATS Coordinating Committee Meeting in December. Sal Vitko offered to reach out to his contact for the new Wawa in South Williamsport.

Annual Report of Obligated Federal Funds

Emily stated the report is in the packet as well as on the WATS MPO website. Chris King stated that obligated funds means it is federal funds on the TIP that PennDOT submitted to FHWA to release the funds. The federal funds on each year of the TIP are released after documentation is submitted and requirements are met.

Modal Updates:

Eric McKitish updated the Committee on the airport. The airport is continuing to move in a positive direction. In early November he met with legacy, low cost, and regional carriers who have interest in expanding in Northcentral Pennsylvania. He is optimistic that an additional carrier could be on board mid-2026. Southern Airway Express, the current carrier, had a successful 3rd quarter and the current quarter is seeing an increase in numbers compared to last year at this time. He stated local individuals are using and supporting the airport. The airport did not experience any flight cancellations due to the recent government shutdown. Joe Reichard asked Eric to address the rumor of Southern Airways leaving the airport. It is false, their current agreement does not expire until May 2026.

Sal Vitko updated the Committee on RVTA. Ridership from August to mid-November was approximately 61,000. Year to date ridership is approximately 764,000 riders. Internal transit development plan kickoff meeting was November 10 2025. He and a few coworkers travelled to California to tour the Gillig bus factory where 3 new buses will be coming from hopefully by end of 2025. June 2026 RVTA will be implementing Token Transit which includes the app, reloadable media, and cash. Passes will still be honored or a buy back will be accepted in a transition period next year. RVTA recently met with the Hazard Reduction Planner to be included in the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. They also met with the Dept of Public Safety for transportation coordination in a disaster event. Finally, 3 new operators have been hired.

Dan Merk updated the Committee on Step Inc. Ridership target goals were exceeded and is up approximately 4% from last year. The new facility is a few weeks ahead of schedule. A majority of the outside is completed. The project should be completed May 2026.

Steven Beattie updated the Committee on the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority. Their current capital investment focus is on Bald Eagle Valley, Bellefonte and Lewistown areas. JRA is stepping away from SEDA-COG. The 3 current SEDA-COG employees will become JRA employees on January 1 2026. Their mission and purpose will remain the same.

Management Action Report:

Chris King stated the items in the document are mostly adjustments. Cost decreases to existing projects helped fund the project on Rt 15 north of Williamsport.

Justin asked if there was any other business or public comment. Gerald Wertz asked for an update on the US-220 study. Emily stated there were additional meetings held with the township and Stahl Sheaffer. The township is looking forward to the outcome of the study. Justin called for a motion to end the meeting. Joe Reichard motioned to end the meeting, and Dan Merk 2nd, motion carried and the meeting ended at 10:37am.

Respectfully, Submitted,

Emily Mrochko
WATS Secretary