

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

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## WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY COORDINATING COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

*December 9, 2024 Coordinating Committee Teleconference Public Meeting: Held at 33 W. Third Street, Lyco. Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Williamsport, PA 17701 and various locations via teleconference.*

### **CALL TO ORDER (Regular WATS Technical Committee Public Meeting)**

At 1:02 PM Eric High called the meeting to order and also mentioned that this meeting will be recorded Sal performed the roll call.

### **MINUTES**

It was asked if there were any issues with the minutes from the previous meeting on September 9, 2024. No issues were found. Motion to approve was by Steve Beattie 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Schmouder. Motion carried to approve the minutes

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **2025-2028 WATS TIP Amendment adding MPMS 120852 Hwy. Safety:**

County-wide highway safety project utilizing Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding. Sal Vitko stated that this is a new County-wide highway safety project. Chris King stated that this is a new systemic safety project, and PennDOT is hopeful that this is a productive way to utilize HSIP funding. Shannon Rossman asked if the safety improvements on US-15 spur would be able to use this funding. Chris stated that the US-15 project funding would be pulled from another funding source other than HSIP. Shannon Rossman made a motion to approve, John Lavelle 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion unanimously approved.

#### **2025-2028 WATS TIP Amendment adding MPMS 121503 Market & Maynard Street Queue:**

Sal explained that this MPMS project was added to the 2023-26 TIP, but due to timing it needed to be officially added to the 2025-28 TIP. Sal stated that the project did not change, and this is more of a procedural approval. Justin Batiuk concurred that this is a procedural vote to officially add the project to the 2025-28 TIP. John Lavelle made a motion to approve, Steve Beattie 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion unanimously approved.

#### **WATS Secretary Approval to Sign future Performance Management letters:**

Scott Williams asked the Coordinating Committee for the approval to sign future PM letters. Currently, the MPO has incorporated into the WATS LRTP that the MPO will adopt PennDOT's performance measures. Scott stated that this is more of a procedural issue, since the MPO already states we will follow PennDOT's PM's, it does not need to go before the Committees for

re-approval. Scott stated that he will still provide an update to both Technical and Coordinating Committees on the MPO PM's and where the MPO is meeting or lacking in hitting the targets, but that the WATS Secretary could sign the approval letters instead of being required to take them before both the Committees for approval.

Eric High stated that most Planning Partners do follow/accept the state targets. Sal Vitko stated that the Technical Committee voted to approve the change. Shannon Rossman made a motion to approve, Barb Schmouder 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion unanimously approved.

#### **Draft 2025-27 WATS UPWP Public Comment Period:**

Austin presented on the draft 2025-27 WATS UPWP. Austin stated that the MPO staff worked with PennDOT Central Office, FHWA, RVTA, and District 3 to draft the 2025-27 UPWP. There were a few comments from PennDOT and FHWA that were corrected/addressed in the draft, and the draft is now ready to go to the public comment period. Sal Vitko stated that the UPWP public comment period will run from December 10, 2024 thru January 10, 2025. Once the comment period ends, the MPO staff will bring a final draft 2025-27 UPWP to the Technical and Coordinating Committees for approval at their January 2025 meetings. Sal stated that one of the major changes in the 2025-27 UPWP is condensing the work tasks from 10 tasks down to 4 tasks. WATS will still perform the same amount of work, but they are categorizing that work into 4 task areas instead of the 10 task areas. Sal and Austin stated that FHWA had sent over comments on the draft 2025-27 UPWP, and those comments were addressed in this draft. John Lavelle made a motion to approve, Steve Beattie 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion unanimously approved.

#### **2024 Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan Adoption:**

Sal stated that WATS MPO had worked with SEDA-COG MPO and their consultant Rockland Planning on the 2024 Coordinated plan. Sal stated that the plan update began in mid-2023 and that one new component of the plan are the first-person user surveys. Sal stated that the plan is up on both the SEDA-COG and WATS MPO websites. Sal stated that SEDA-COG adopted the plan at their November meeting. Sal stated that the Technical Committee voted to adopt the plan at their November meeting, and recommended that the Coordinating Committee to accept the plan. Shannon Rossman made a motion to approve, John Lavelle 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion unanimously approved.

#### **2023-24 WATS Annual Report:**

Sal presented the WATS Annual report. Sal stated one change was to add the language taglines and the WATS discrimination policy, which was missing from the prior Annual Report. Sal stated that the report lists the level of work that the MPO performed in FY 2023-24, and that the MPO did not go over budget in any task areas. Also, the MPO's social media accounts are still receiving a good deal of traffic, with the MPO Twitter and Facebook accounts being viewed a lot this year. Sal stated that the WATS Annual Report also includes the FY 2023-24 LTAP Annual Report, however, the LTAP report must be a stand-alone report. Which is why it is the next item on the agenda. Sal stated the Annual Report also shows the major project that WATS staff worked on in FY 2023-24.

Sal stated that one of the major accomplishments in FY 2023 – 24 was finalizing the US-15 Corridor Study. The Study came out of the larger CSVT Project Impact Study that WATS and SEDA-COG coordinated on. One of the recommendations of the US-15 Corridor Study was to create a workgroup/task force to further review/guide US -15 Corridor development. Sal stated that at a Great Stream Commons coordination meeting with PennDOT District 3, SEDA-COG MPO, Gregg Twp., and Union County it was decided to use that group as the US-15 Corridor Task Force. Sal stated that some of the upcoming FY 24-25 projects are a US 220 Safety Project Impact Study, and finalizing and approving the 2025-27 UPWP. Steve Beattie made a motion to approve, John Lavelle 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion unanimously approved.

## **2023-24 WATS LTAP Annual Report:**

Sal reviewed the LTAP Annual report. Sal stated that the LTAP report is incorporated in the WATS Annual Report, but because of reporting requirements it does have to be a “stand alone” report. Sal stated that the LTAP Technical Assistance visits are still increasing and there is good feedback from the municipalities and course attendees. Sal stated that one of the new courses that WATS will offer in 2025 is a load securement training, coordinating training with PA State Police Motor Carrier Division. Steve Beattie made a motion to approve, John Lavelle 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion unanimously approved.

## **2025 WATS Coordinating Committee Dates:**

Sal presented the 2025 Coordinating Committee dates, and asked for adoption to set the 2025 dates. Shannon Rossman made a motion to approve, Barb Schmouder 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion unanimously approved.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Modal Updates**

Cameron stated that the 3 new buses should arrive in mid-2025. Cameron stated that RVTA will not have a base fare increase, but will be adjusting the multi-ride pass prices in 2025. RVTA has a RFP out for bus radios.

Dan Merk stated that the STEP, Inc. garage project is in the bid stage. The goal is to have a firm selected by January 2025, with construction expected to take 9-10 months. Dan informed the committee that STEP, Inc. will be implementing a fare increase for 2025.

Steve Beattie stated that there was no SEDA-COG JRA information specific to the rail system. Steve mentioned that PennDOT’s 5-year to state rail plan is ongoing and that there is a public meeting on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Sal stated that if someone can send the link to the meeting, Sal will send the meeting link to the Transit Advisory, Technical, and Coordinating committees. There was no representative from the airport in attendance.

### **Management Action Report**

Chris King stated that the MA Reports were primarily small budget adjustments to various projects. Chris stated that the majority of these management actions took place before the 2023-26 TIP expired in September 2024. These actions moved federal fiscal year 2024 funding over to projects. Increase on the utility phase of approx. \$217,000 on US Safety Corridor Project, Picture Rocks to Glen Mawr funding increase, and increased preliminary engineering phase on a resurfacing project.

### **2025 WATS Coordinating Committee Membership Reminder**

Sal reminded and informed the Committee that the MPO will be reaching out in 2025 to everyone to get updated contact information for their organization’s Committee representatives. This is an annual process so that WATS has the correct contact information for everyone.

Sal thanked District 3 and District 3 Municipal Services on the help with getting a temporary stop sign up on Allenwood Camp Lane. Scott Williams informed the Committee that this the end of an era, as it is likely Mark Murawski’s last WATS MPO Coordinating Committee meeting as he is officially retiring. Members of the Committee stated how Mark has been influential in moving safety, traffic, and transportation projects forward over his tenure at Lycoming County Planning.

Mark Murawski stated how appreciatively he was of the working relationship with PennDOT and the great progress the County, District, and MPO have had in working together to complete major transportation projects in the county.

Eric asked if there was any other business or public comment. Hearing none, Eric ended the meeting at 1:40 p.m.