

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



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WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2024 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 10:01 AM Justin Batiuk called the meeting to order and also mentioned that this meeting will be recorded Sal went performed the roll call.

MINUTES

It was asked if there were any issues with the minutes from the previous meeting on August 26, 2024. No issues were found. Motion to approve was by Shannon Rossman 2nd by Gerald Wertz. Motion carried to approve the minutes

There was no public comment. However, Mark Murawski announced that he is completing his part-time employment with the County at the end of 2024. Mark stated that it was a pleasure working with all of the partner agencies, such as, PennDOT District 3, STEP, Inc. and RVT/RVTA. Chris King stated that it was a pleasure working with Mark on the different projects throughout his time with the County.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Dan Merk made a motion to approve, Shannon Rossman 2nd. 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. Gerald Wertz made a motion to approve, Shannon Rossman 2nd. Motion unanimously approved.

WATS Secretary Approval to Sign future Performance Management letters:

Scott Williams asked the Technical 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.

Committee members decided that since the MPO already states in the LRTP that it will support the statewide targets; the WATS Secretary can sign the PM letters and submit them to PennDOT. Dan Merk made a motion to approve, Cameron Serafini 2nd. Motion unanimously approved.

After the Technical Committee approved the motion, Scott gave an update on the PMs. WATS is meeting all of the PM targets, except Non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. This PM includes fatalities and injuries for pedestrians and cyclists. The WATS LRTP includes more projects to accommodate safety projects for this issue.

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 public comment period. Austin 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 Committee for approval at their January 2025 meeting. Austin 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. Shannon Rossman made a motion to approve, Dan Merk 2nd. 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 asked that the Technical Committee vote to recommend to the Coordinating Committee to accept the plan at their December 2024 meeting. Cameron Serafini made a motion to approve, Dan Merk 2nd. 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 account being viewed a lot this year. Sal stated the Annual Report also shows the major project that WATS staff worked on in FY 2023-24. Shannon Rossman made a motion to approve, Gerald Wertz 2nd. 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. Shannon Rossman made a motion to approve, Dan Merk 2nd. Motion unanimously approved.

2025 WATS Technical Committee Dates: Sal presented the 2025 Technical Committee dates, and asked for adoption to set the 2025 dates. Gerald Wertz made a motion to approve, Shannon Rossman 2nd. Motion unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Modal Updates

Dan Merk from STEP went first. Dan stated that 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.

Cameron stated that the 3 new buses should arrive in mid-2025. RVTA is in the beginning stages of having the garage/offices subdivided as part of the separation with City of Williamsport Streets and Parks. Cameron stated that a new feature on the buses is a “live look in” system that allows RVTA to see what is occurring inside the buses. Cameron stated that there will be a fare increase to the multiride pricing.

Kyle Postupack stated that there was no SEDA-COG JRA information. There was no represented from the airport in attendance. Mark Murawski informed the Committee that the PA Aviation Conference that was held in Williamsport was well attended and the attendees appreciated the tours of Lycoming Engines, Penn College Aviation, etc.

Management Action Report

Chris King stated that the MA Reports were primarily small budget adjustments to various projects.

Chris stated that the TIP amendments the Committee re-affirmed at this meeting were included in the MA Report. Chris stated that there was an increase on the German Run project because of increases to engineering. Chris stated that there is a large increase in rail funds to upgrade crossings.

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.

Justin asked if there was any other business or public comment. Hearing none, Justin called for a motion to end the meeting. Shannon Rossman motioned to end the meeting, and Dan Merk 2nd, motion carried and the meeting ended at 10:58 a.m.