

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners:

R. Jack McKernan, Chairman
Tony R. Mussare, Vice Chairman
Richard Mirabito, Secretary

Location:

Executive Plaza
330 Pine Street
Williamsport Pennsylvania 17701



“Building Partnerships”

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WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY COORDINATING COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2018 Coordinating Committee Public Meeting: Lycoming County Executive Plaza, 330 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mullins called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

MINUTES

Approve October 15, 2018 Coordinating Committee Public Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Mirabito motioned for approval of the meeting minutes which was seconded by Mr. Mullins and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

TIP ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS/AMENDMENTS

Mr. King referred to the fiscal constraint spreadsheet showing 25 administrative actions that have been made to the FFY 2019 WATS TIP since the last WATS MPO meeting. As none of these actions constitute a formal amendment, this handout was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken by the Coordinating Committee.

ADOPT WATS 2018-2038 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Lavelle began his presentation of this item by stating that this version of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the third such update of the presented planning document. He then went on to explain that each version was produced in-house with County staff and has progressively gotten more sophisticated in terms both of mapping and analysis. Mr. Lavelle then explained the planning process for this update by explaining that it started shortly after the County's Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2017 – so staff had access to extremely current

data such as: demographic analysis, municipal prioritization of projects, public survey feedback, and updated growth area mapping. All of this information was integrated into the LRTP. Mr. Lavelle went on to state that the Plan documents, all PowerPoint presentations, and mapping are available for the general public to review online at www.lyco.org/lrtp. He also stated that Scott Williams had created appendix document which contains the MPO's bylaws, acronym list, list of resources consulted in the plan, copies of public notices requesting public comment, and a summary of public comments received accompanied by a narrative on how those comments were incorporated into the plan. Mr. Lavelle then briefly reviewed the summary of public comment and explained the staffs approach to incorporating each comment. Mr. Stover did note an error to Comment No. 4 regarding the JRA's ongoing litigation over an RFP process. He explained that this matter is in-fact before the "Pennsylvania Supreme Court" and not the "Commonwealth Court" – a corrective edit will be made to address this error.

Mr. Lavelle then went on to explain that the second public meeting (originally scheduled for November 15th) was canceled because of a heavy snowfall on the night of the advertised meeting. This public meeting was then rescheduled/re-advertised as an information item at the WATS Technical Committee meeting on December 3rd. He then explained that as a result of the new public meeting date the public comment period was also extended an addition week to December 7th. Mr. Lavelle and Mr. Williams then thanked PennDOT Dist. 3 & Central office staff, FHWA, STEP, RVT, JRA, and the Airport Authority for their help and support as staff gathered information to write the plan. Special thanks were given to the District 3 staff for the fantastic job they do in maintain a high quality transportation network throughout Lycoming County.

Lastly, Mr. Lavelle made a point to say that data analysis conducted during the planning process won't just end because we've completed this project. The MPO staff is already looking into our new safety performance measures (covered in Chapter 3 of the LRTP) to determine where Lycoming County stands statistically and how we can improve going forward.

Mr. Hart motioned for the WATS Coordinating Committee to adopt the WATS 2018-2038 LRTP Update, which was seconded by Mr. Stover and unanimously approved.

SHSP SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Mr. Williams continued the discussion of the tracking of safety data using the crash analysis information provided by PennDOT. The new safety performance measure targets under consideration for WATS to support and set by PennDOT would see reductions in number and rate of fatal crashes, the number and rate of crashes with serious injuries, and the number of crashes involving a non-motorized individual and a fatality or serious injury. The baseline for the measures would be averaged values from the years 2013-2017 and the targets would be the averages for the years 2015-2019. Mr. Williams explained that current trends in all of these measures show a decline towards the targets. One of the measures is already below the target value (non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries). Because of the US 220 safety project there will likely be an added decrease in the number of crashes.

Mr. Williams also brought to the committee's attention that the apportionment of statewide transportation system performance goals among the MPOs includes an assumed 1% annual increase in traffic volumes. However, Lycoming County has seen two years of modest decreases in traffic volumes. Mr. Williams postulated that this could be linked to population decrease among other reasons. Commissioner McKernan pointed out that an aging population such as that in Lycoming County would likely be driving less and Mr. Nichols added that there has been a recent increase in RVT ridership. Mr. Williams reiterated the goal of the Lycoming County Planning Department to do more fine-grained analysis of PennDOT crash data to identify any trends or commonalities that could be targeted for future highway safety projects and programs. Mr. Williams and Mr. Lavelle stated that it was the opinion of the planning staff that the WATS coordinating committee supports the statewide performance measures instead of setting independent targets.

Mr. Nichols motioned the WATS Coordinating Committee support the state PM-3 targets and respond accordingly to PennDOT which was seconded by Commissioner Mirabito and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

LYCOMING COUNTY BRIDGE BUNDLING PROGRAM

Mr. Lavelle updated the Committee by stating that the County has received the PennDOT approval of its PIB loan application, which was submitted in May, and has started a discussion with the County's fiscal staff to begin the processing of the agreement. He then explained that aside from processing the loan agreement the County will begin to initiate the execution of cost sharing agreements with municipal bridge owners to secure their 5% local share, and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select an engineering consultant to design the local bridge repair/replacement projects. Specifically, there will be two separate projects: a 17 bridge repair/replacement project, and a 2 bridge replacement project.

Mr. Lavelle explained that no County general funds will be spent on repaying the PIB loan. A combination of funds collected through the \$5 registration fee, the 5% local cost share from our municipal partners, and the County's Act 13 bridge restricted funds will be utilized for repayment. Additionally, the matching PennDOT funds received as a result of this project will be put towards the replacement of two bridges (one is located in Pine Twp. and one is located in Upper Fairfield Twp.) outside of the 17 bridge bundle. Any TIP amendments needed as a result of these projects will be brought before the WATS Coordinating Committee when appropriate.

PENNDOT CONNECTS UPDATE

Mr. Lavelle briefed the Committee on an upcoming PennDOT Connects meeting for municipal partners, which will be hosted by MPO staff in either late February or early March of 2019. He stated that the location of the meeting will be located at the Trade and Transit II building in the 3rd floor Michael Ross Center conference room. A specific date is currently being worked out. Mr. Lavelle then explained that he will be working with PennDOT Central Office and Dist. 3 to iron out details on the agenda. Currently, the draft agenda includes presentations on PennDOT

One Map, the TIP/TYP Project Visualization Tool, the County's mapping products, how the Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan ties into transportation planning, and finally the PennDOT Connects presentation itself. Details on this meeting will be forwarded to the Committee once finalized.

2019 WATS COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Mr. Lavelle reviewed the 2019 public meeting schedule contained in the meeting packet and asked members to mark their calendars accordingly. **Mr. Lavelle called attention specifically to the February 25th meeting, which will be held at the new Williamsport Municipal Airport terminal building,** and not our normal meeting location at the Executive Plaza building.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further business or public comment. Chairman Mullins noted the next Coordinating Committee public meeting will be held on February 25, 2019 at the new Williamsport Regional Airport terminal building in Montoursville.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mullins at 1:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Lavelle, AICP, CFM
WATS Secretary