

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



WATS Technical Committee Members  
Lycoming County Planning & Community Development  
PennDOT Engineering District 3-0  
City of Williamsport  
River Valley Transit  
Williamsport Regional Airport  
Lycoming County Planning Commission  
PennDOT Center for Program Development & Management

The WATS MPO is staffed by the Lycoming County  
Department of Planning & Community Development  
48 W. Third St, Williamsport PA 17701 • (570) 320-2130



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

*April 20, 2020 Coordinating Committee Teleconference Public Meeting: Held at various locations via teleconference.*

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

Chairperson Tosca called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

### **INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL**

### **MINUTES**

#### ***January 27, 2020 Coordinating Committee Public Meeting***

Chairperson Tosca called for a motion to approve the January 27, 2020 Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Commissioner Mirabito motioned for approval of the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Gary Knarr and unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### ***Draft FFY 2021-2024 WATS TIP***

Scott Williams presented the Draft FFY 2021-2024 WATS TIP. Scott requested that the Coordinating Committee authorize the advertisement of the Draft TIP for the 30-day public comment period which will begin on April 22, 2020. Scott informed the Coordinating Committee that the recommendation to authorize advertisement of the Draft TIP was approved by the WATS Technical Committee at their April 6, 2020 meeting. Scott also informed the Coordinating Committee that he is looking for any suggested revisions to the Draft TIP as part of the public comment process, and if Coordinating Committee members see any needed revisions to please contact him.

Scott stated that the FHwy TIP guidance the MPO received was to configure the 2021-2024 TIP as a mini-Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Based on this, the Draft TIP was formatted to be more readable and provide a frame of reference to the general public for the “how” and “why” these particular projects were selected to be on the TIP.

Scott mentioned that there are sixty-one projects on the 2021-2024 TIP. Thirty are new projects; thirty-one are carry-over from the previous TIP. Thirty-four are bridge projects, twenty-two are highway projects, and there are three safety projects. Also there are three slide repair projects programmed on the 2021-2024 TIP (State Route 44, Warrensville Rd, and Little Pine Rd) as well as interim paving and repair projects to address needs from construction projects that were delayed due to reduced funding for this TIP round. Also, there are six local bridges as well as the Transit TIP with eleven projects.

Scott informed the Coordinating Committee that due to the current Stay-at-Home order and public health emergency the MPO will host a Public Teleconference during the public comment period in place of the in-person meeting that is typically held. The public teleconference will be on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Scott informed the Committee that the MPO is developing content for the MPO website and social media accounts.

Commissioner Mirabito asked if this was the first time the MPO used this format for the TIP. Scott informed Commissioner Mirabito that the format is relatively new and was developed to allow the TIP to be more readable and user-friendly.

Chairperson Tosca called for a motion for the Coordinating Committee to authorize the advertisement of the Draft FFY 2021-2024 TIP for public comment. Commissioner Mirabito motioned for the approval, which was seconded by Shannon Rossman and unanimously approved.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### ***Management Action Report***

Chris King presented information on the Management Action Report. Chris stated that there is one minor cost increase for a locally owned bridge in Upper Fairfield Township. Chris stated that the report also contains information on the connector road project for the Williamsport Airport in Montoursville which was previously approved by the Coordinating Committee at the January 27, 2020 meeting.

As none of these actions constitute a formal amendment, these items were presented for informational purposes only and the Coordinating Committee took no action.

### ***WATS Staffing Update***

Scott Williams provided an update on the WATS MPO staffing changes. Scott explained the John Lavelle (former WATS MPO Transportation Supervisor) was promoted to Deputy Director of Lycoming County Planning & Community Development. Scott was promoted to the WATS MPO Transportation Supervisor position. Sal Vitko remains in his Transportation Planner position and Mark Murawski is the Assistant Transportation Planner. The Transportation Planner position vacated by Scott has been posted and advertised. Scott stated that Sal, Mark, and he are currently working from home for the foreseeable future due to the current public health emergency, and that the MPO staff is able to complete work tasks while working remotely.

As none of these actions constitute a formal amendment, these items were presented for informational purposes only and the Coordinating Committee took no action.

### ***CSVT Impact Study Update***

Scott Williams presented an update on the CSVT Impact Study. The MPO selected Michael Baker International as the consultant to perform the CSVT Impact Study. Scott stated that the Lycoming County Commissioner's approved the contract with Michael Baker. Scott thanked PennDOT for their assistance in obtaining funding for the increased scope of work, which expands the geographic scope of the project to include Rt. 147 corridor in Northumberland County, and US 15 corridor in Union County as well as some enhanced supplemental items. Scott stated that Michael Baker is currently working remotely; however, they are able to start on the data analysis, data collection, plan review, and ordinance review components of the Study. Scott also stated that the MPO and Michael Baker will be able to hold the first CSVT Steering Committee meeting via teleconference.

Commissioner Mirabito also thanked PennDOT on behalf of the Lycoming County Commissioners, stating that the project is a great leveraging of resources, and that the enhanced project will provide a better understanding of regional impact.

As none of these actions constitute a formal amendment, these items were presented for informational purposes only and the Coordinating Committee took no action.

### ***WATS MPO Logo, Letterhead, and Social Media***

Sal Vitko presented information on the new WATS MPO Logo, MPO Letterhead, and MPO Social Media accounts. Sal explained that the logo and letterhead were created in an effort to be more transparent and maintain the distinction between how the WATS MPO staff represents themselves while performing MPO business. Sal stated that the MPO logo was created to be usable on the various MPO social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Sal stated that the letterhead lists all of the Technical Committee and Coordinating Committee member organizations as well as a statement that WATS MPO is staffed by Lycoming County Department of Planning & Community Development.

Sal gave the example of the BUILD grant application that Planning & Community Development is currently pursuing and the request for a Letter of Support from the MPO for that grant application. Sal stated that if the WATS MPO is providing the letter of support, doing so on Planning & Community Development letterhead can be confusing or unclear, especially if an individual is not familiar with the MPO. The new MPO letterhead allows us to clearly distinguish when MPO staff is conducting business as the MPO.

Sal stated that the MPO is increasing the usage of their Facebook page (BUILD grant survey, Technical Committee Teleconference public meeting announcement, posts, etc.) to perform public outreach and increase public engagement. Sal also stated that the MPO has begun posting on Twitter and Instagram, and that the 2021-2024 Draft TIP public meeting notice and outreach has been posted on the different social media sites.

### **OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Tosca asked if there was any other business or any other public comments. Scott Williams thanked PennDOT and Carey Mullins for assisting the MPO in setting up the Skype calls and the dial-in numbers, and for making it possible for the MPO to hold the Committee meetings. Scott stated that without PennDOT's and Carey's assistance the MPO would not have

been able to hold the WATS Technical Committee and Coordinating Committee meetings or the upcoming 2021-2024 Draft TIP public meeting.

Mark Murawski stated that there is discussion in Congress regarding transportation stimulus funding, however, how much funding and which projects is unknown. Mark stated that if Pennsylvania were to receive any additional funding it would more than likely go through the TIP process. Mark Tobin stated that there has not been any legislature proposed at this time and that we will have to wait and see.

Mark Murawski asked if there was any decision on priority construction projects that District 3-0 can pursue once the stay-at-home order is lifted. Chairperson Tosca stated that District 3-0 has been working with PennDOT Central Office and currently there are two slide repair projects being considered. Chairperson Tosca stated that as PennDOT moves forward with projects they are using the “essential, life sustaining, activity” guidance to determine which projects, if delayed, will cause potential safety concerns.

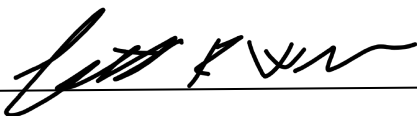
Commissioner Mirabito asked if it would be helpful for the MPO or Commissioners to send a letter to our elected officials advocating for the additional transportation funding legislation and highlighting any lessons learned from previous transportation stimulus funding. Chairperson Tosca stated that due to projects being delayed because of lack of funding PennDOT has a healthy portfolio of projects that were approved by the TIP process and could be advanced, if additional transportation stimulus funding becomes available. Chairperson Tosca wanted to be clear that any additional funding will not be geared towards “new” projects, rather to projects that have been vetted by the TIP process, but were delayed for lack of funding.

Hearing no further business or public comment, Chairperson Mullins called for a motion to adjourn.

#### **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Mirabito offered a motion to adjourn, Gary Knarr seconded. The motion to adjourn unanimously passed and the meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

Respectfully, Submitted,



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Scott R. Williams  
WATS Secretary

# WATS Coordinating Committee

SIGN IN SHEET (Please **PRINT** clearly)

**LOCATION:** Due to the current public health emergency the meeting was held

**DATE:** Monday, April 20, 2020

Via teleconference, Dial-in # (267) 332-8737 Conference Code: 63908312#

	Name	Organization (Voting Members)	E-mail	Phone Number
1	Mark Tobin (for Carey Mullins)	PennDOT Secretary for Planning	<a href="mailto:mtobin@pa.gov">mtobin@pa.gov</a>	717-783-2296
2	Sandra Tosca	PennDOT Engineering District 3-0 Executive	<a href="mailto:stosca@pa.gov">stosca@pa.gov</a>	570-368-8686
3	Rick Mirabito	Lycoming County Commissioner	<a href="mailto:rmirabito@lyco.org">rmirabito@lyco.org</a>	570-320-2124
4	Shannon Rossman (alternate)	Lycoming County Commissioner	<a href="mailto:srossman@lyco.org">srossman@lyco.org</a>	570-320-2130
5	Gary Knarr (alternate)	Mayor, City of Williamsport	<a href="mailto:zoning@cityofwilliamsport.org">zoning@cityofwilliamsport.org</a>	570-327-7517
6	N/A	Council Member, City of Williamsport		
7	Chris Cooley	River Valley Transit General Manager		570-326-2500
8	Jeff Stover	SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Executive Director	<a href="mailto:jstover@seda-cog.org">jstover@seda-cog.org</a>	570-524-4491
9	N/A	Williamsport Regional Airport Executive Director		
10	N/A	Lycoming County Association of Township Officials Representative		
11	N/A	Lycoming-Sullivan Boroughs Association Representative		
		<b>Organization (Non-Voting Members)</b>		
12	N/A	Federal Highway Administration		
13	N/A	Federal Transit Administration		
14	Scott Williams	WATS MPO Secretary	<a href="mailto:swilliams@lyco.org">swilliams@lyco.org</a>	570-320-2138
15	Sal Vitko	WATS MPO	<a href="mailto:svitk@lyco.org">svitk@lyco.org</a>	570-320-2140

# WATS Coordinating Committee

SIGN IN SHEET (Please **PRINT** clearly)

16	Mark Murawski	WATS MPO	<a href="mailto:mmurawski@lyco.org">mmurawski@lyco.org</a>	570-320-8117
17	Dan Merk	STEP Inc.	<a href="mailto:dmerk@stepcorp.org">dmerk@stepcorp.org</a>	570-326-0587
18	Chris King	PennDOT Engineering District 3-0	<a href="mailto:chriking@pa.gov">chriking@pa.gov</a>	570-368-4222

I attest that the information contained in the WATS MPO Coordinating Committee 4/20/2020 sign-in sheet is accurate: Salvatore Vitko April 20, 2020