

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 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2018 Technical 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

April 16, 2018 Technical Committee Public Meeting

Mr. Hausammann, Jr. motioned for approval of the meeting minutes which was seconded by Mr. Cunningham 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 3 administrative actions that have been made to the FFY 2017 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 Technical Committee.

FFY 2019-2022 WATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Murawski presented this item by stating the the draft FFY 2019-2022 WATS Transportation Improvement Program, (TIP) lists all proposed highway, bridge and transit related capital projects proposed for use of Federal, State and local transportation funding throughout Lycoming County during the next four federal fiscal years.

These priority projects have been identified cooperatively between PennDOT District 3-0, the County and River Valley Transit using the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan and other key studies and databases as resources. Emphasis on this TIP will be targeted to safety and system preservation through major roadway reconstruction and resurfacing projects as well as reducing the backlog of structurally deficient, (SD) bridges while also doing work on certain non-SD bridges to avoid these bridges from becoming structurally deficient in the near future.

Mr. Murawski indicated there are approximately \$ 82 million for 67 programmed highway and bridge projects with line item work for grouped bridge painting, guiderail, and raised pavement marking work bringing the total TIP investment in excess of \$ 86 million. About a third of these highway/bridge projects are new projects thanks to the continued funding resources available from passage of PA Act 89. The remainder are carry-over projects from the current TIP. Mr. Murawski noted we will receive \$ 20 million in Spike funds from PennDOT Secretary Richards to undertake the US 220 corridor access management improvements between Williamsport and Jersey Shore. Mr. Murawski added the overall cost to complete all these TIP projects will require an additional \$ 62 million that will be needed for programing during future TIP updates.

Mr. Murawski explained that Federal law requires the WATS TIP to undergo a 30 day public comment period in accordance with the WATS adopted Public Participation Plan prior to MPO adoption. Our TIP public comment period began on May 1, 2018 and concluded on May 31, 2018. The May 17, 2018 LCPC public meeting served as a federally required public meeting during the public comment period. The WATS MPO received 1 public comment from Mr. Paul Heise, resident of Wolf Township and former PennDOT District 3-0 Executive requesting an improvement to PA 405 near the Wolf Township / Hughesville Borough border to add a center turn lane. Mr. Murawski and District 3-0 staff recommend this proposed improvement be supported in the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan for further study to determine purpose and need and to refine the scope and cost prior to future TIP programming. No other public comments were received.

Mr. Kilpatrick noted there is also nearly a \$ 49 million additional TIP investment for transit operating and capital assistance programmed over the next four years, including the complete conversion of the RVT bus fleet from diesel to compressed natural gas. RVT will also continue to play an important role in the Old City Revitalization project by advancing the Connect Williamsport initiative through PennDOT and DCED/CFA Multi-Modal Grant applications in cooperation with the Lycoming College Gateway project along Basin Street.

Mr. Cunningham motioned for the WATS Technical Committee to recommend the WATS Coordinating Committee adopt the WATS FFY 2019-2022 draft TIP for highways, bridges and public transit which was seconded by Mr. Hausammann Jr. and unanimously approved.

WATS TIP Administrative Procedures

Mr. Murawski explained the WATS Administrative Procedures Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU) provides a detailed outline of the process to be used by the WATS MPO when considering changes to the FFY 2019-2022 TIP. Minor changes are referred to as “TIP administrative modifications” which do not require a formal vote by the MPO. Substantial TIP changes as specifically defined in the MOU are considered “TIP amendments” and require a formal WATS MPO vote of approval.

Mr. Hausammann Jr. motioned for the WATS Technical Committee to recommend WATS Coordinating Committee approval of the WATS TIP Administrative Procedures which was seconded by Mr. Cunningham and unanimously approved.

WATS SELF CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION

Mr. Murawski explained the Self Certification Resolution lists all applicable federal statutes and regulations that the WATS MPO must remain in compliance when developing the FFY 2019-2022 TIP. Mr. Murawski indicated WATS was in compliance with these statutes and regulations and maintains documentation demonstrating such compliance.

Mr. Nichols recommended the WATS Technical Committee recommend WATS Coordinating Committee adoption of the Self Certification Resolution which was seconded by Mr. Hausammann Jr. and unanimously approved.

WATS LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE CHAPTER 4

Mr. Lavelle presented this item by noting that plan chapter four provides an overview of the WATS transportation capital improvement project needs over the next 20 years by transportation mode, including demonstration of fiscal constraint as federally required based on the latest PennDOT Financial Guidance. Also, work on the environmental component of the plan will also be undertaken for review by the Agency Coordination Meeting, (ACM) scheduled for August 22, 2018 in Harrisburg. It is anticipated the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan will undergo a 45 day public comment period in accordance with the WATS Public Participation Plan starting on October 15, 2018 and concluding on November 30, 2018 with MPO adoption of the plan on December 17, 2018. Mr. Nichols mentioned that the City is interested in re-examining the Williamsport Industrial Park Access Road idea originally conceived in the early 1980’s to improve truck and employee circulation and access at the Industrial Park. Mr. Murawski added that environmental impact issues and lack of funding stalled the project at that time.

LYCOMING COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Hausammann Jr. provided a status report on the county comprehensive plan update. Essentially the eight county priority issues chapters have been presented at eight different County Commissioner public meetings to maximize exposure to the public of the key priority issues and obtain feedback. The Sun Gazette has done an excellent job writing feature stories about each of the eight county priority issues. In late April, the plan was advertised for a required 45 day public comment period in accordance with the PA Municipalities Planning Code and following review of all public comments, the plan will be considered for formal adoption by the Lycoming County Commissioners at their June 28, 2018 public meeting which will officially conclude the plan update process. Intense focus will then occur on plan implementation activities, some of which have already started in various planning areas.

LYCOMING COUNTY BRIDGE BUNDLING PROGRAM

Mr. Murawski noted the Lycoming County Commissioners have now submitted a PA Infrastructure Bank, (PIB), loan application to PennDOT requesting \$ 7 million to finance the overall bridge bundling program which includes the repair or replacement of 17 locally owned bridges that are in poor condition and of the highest priority as assigned by the municipal bridge owners. Following PIB loan approval, the County will execute project cooperation agreements with each involved municipality and issue a Request for Proposals to select the engineering team to design the bridges.

AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Murawski provided an update on the significant progress being made on terminal building construction. The Airport Authority estimates the project is about 70% complete with full completion and opening of the new terminal for public use scheduled for October, 2018.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further business or public comment. Chairman Mullins noted the next Technical Committee public meeting will be held on September 24, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mullins at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark R. Murawski
WATS Secretary

