

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners:

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

Location:

Executive Plaza
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Williamsport Pennsylvania 17701



“Building Partnerships”

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WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2019 Technical Committee Public Meeting: Lycoming County Executive Plaza, 330 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mullins called the WATS Technical Committee Public Meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

MINUTES

December 3, 2018 Technical Committee Public Meeting

Mr. Kilpatrick motioned for approval of the meeting minutes which was seconded by Mr. King and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

FFY 2019 TIP Administrative Actions

Mr. King referred to the fiscal constraint spreadsheet showing 21 administrative actions that have been made to the FFY 2019 WATS TIP since the last 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.

Adoption of the Regional Operations Plan, (ROP) for the Central PA Region

Mr. Lavelle presented this item by referring to the final draft ROP document prepared by a consultant team utilized by PennDOT which includes PennDOT Engineering Districts 2-0, 3-0 and 9-0, including Lycoming County. This region is centered around the Regional Traffic Management Center housed at the District 2-0 Office in Clearfield, PA. Mr. Lavelle explained the main purposes of the ROP are to address federal requirements related to Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) planning, incorporate statewide TSMO goals for operations

planning at the regional level, utilize objectives-driven, performance-based planning processes for operations and congestion management planning, integrate ITS operations into overall transportation planning processes, identify and prioritize TSMO capital projects on the TIP and manage funds for TSMO operations and maintenance in future years.

Mr. Murawski added an earlier version of the ROP was done in 2008, but that ROP was done for each Engineering District and was more limited in its scope and effectiveness. This ROP is better suited for a larger geographic area that is more effective for ITS deployment purposes.

Mr. Lavelle highlighted the major proposed projects in the ROP and indicated their consistency with the newly adopted WATS Long Range Transportation Plan Update. ROP corridors of significance in Lycoming County include I-180, US 220 and US 15 which are also included on the National Highway System. Specifically, queue detection needs were identified in the ROP for the I-180 westbound approaching the US 15 southbound off ramp at the Market Street Bridge. Also dynamic curve warning needs were identified along US 15 southbound prior to the I-180 interchange at the Market Street Bridge. Traffic signal enhancement needs were listed for the I-180 interchanges at Market Street and Maynard Street, including queue preemption and timing improvements. The estimated capital costs for proposed projects in the WATS area are \$ 338,000 along with \$ 3,000 anticipated for annual operations and maintenance. Chairman Mullins noted that other planning partners in PA have chosen to adopt their ROP and staff is recommending WATS adopt the Central PA region ROP and begin working on implementation measures.

Mr. Kilpatrick motioned the Technical Committee recommend the Coordinating Committee formally adopt the Central PA Region ROP as presented by Mr. Lavelle which was seconded by Mr. Hausammann Jr. and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2019 Project Contract Letting Update

Mr. King provided a handout listing the 2019 proposed construction contract lettings for transportation projects in Lycoming County. A total of 18 projects were shown at an estimated cost of approximately \$ 47 million. Highway related work such as resurfacing, reconstruction and safety improvements involve 13 projects along with 3 bridge improvement projects and 2 TAP funded projects.

US 220 Corridor Safety Improvements Update

Mr. King noted the construction contract lettings on this US 220 project between PA 287 and West Fourth Street interchange will occur this year and will take about 3 years to complete. Work will include access management changes along with improvement of existing aging infrastructure. Mr. Murawski added that Secretary Richards approval of over \$ 20 million in spike funds for the WATS TIP was absolutely essential to add the repair of existing infrastructure to the overall project and will help to minimize overall project timeframes and

disruption to the communities. US 220 is a heavy work commute corridor between Lycoming and Clinton Counties in addition to serving regional thru traffic needs.

2019-20 Multimodal Transportation Fund Application Summary

Mr. Lavelle briefly mentioned that only one project application was submitted in Lycoming County for PennDOT Multimodal Funds during this round that involved the Susquehanna Health project which compliments the four phase Pathway to Health initiative.

Obligation Report

Mr. Williams presented this item by noting that FHWA identified as a STIP planning finding the need for planning partners to prepare a report listing the projects where federal fund obligations were made during the last federal fiscal year. Such reporting will need to be done in future years as well. Mr. Williams summarized the WATS report for FFY 2018 showing 30 projects with a total obligated amount exceeding \$ 24 million. About half of the funds were obligated toward NHPP and HSIP projects with an emphasis on highway resurfacing. Over \$ 22 million of obligated funds were directed to construction phase activity demonstrating WATS places a strong emphasis on project delivery. Federal funds were geographically spread fairly evenly across the more populated areas of the county. The report separately lists each obligated project in terms of improvement type, phase, funding source, obligation date and amount. The report also lists federal transit grants obligated by River Valley Transit and STEP, Inc. Chairman Mullins complimented Mr. Williams on a fine report that can be used as future best practice for other planning partners during subsequent reporting periods.

PennDOT Connects Meeting Update

Mr. Lavelle informed the Committee that the PennDOT Connects Municipal Training Session for Lycoming County has been scheduled by WATS for March 13, 2019 from 6 PM – 8 PM at the Williamsport Trade and Transit Center II building, 3rd Floor Conference Room. WATS will incorporate training materials provided by PennDOT as well as use of local examples. Mr. Mullins indicated he will attend representing Central Office. Mr. Lavelle has started efforts to market this important training with our municipal officials to help achieve good attendance. Mr. Hausammann added many municipal officials have day jobs so our training session cannot be too long in the evening which is why he feels we should not exceed the 2 hour proposed schedule.

Staffing Update

Mr. Hausammann Jr. informed the Technical Committee of recent staffing changes at the County Planning Department which include his retirement as full time Planning Director in May with conversion to part-time status still as Planning Director for at least one year. Fran McJunkin will assume the role of sole Deputy Planning Director for one year since the second Deputy Director position was eliminated by the Commissioners with the recent resignation of Kim Wheeler. Ms. McJunkin then plans to retire in April 2020. Mr. Murawski has started part-time work as Assistant Transportation Planner since his retirement last December and Mr. Lavelle has been since promoted to Transportation Supervisor. Mr. Williams has also been hired back as

Transportation Planner. Mr. Cunningham our full time Assistant Transportation Planner has announced his retirement this April after over 42 years of fine County service. There are plans to fill the position but HPMS traffic counting will no longer be part of the job duties. There are also other staffing changes but these positions are not directly related to the delivery of the WATS programs.

Bridge Bundling Update

Mr. Murawski noted the PIB loan documents issued by PennDOT are being reviewed by the County Solicitor for Commissioners approval. Following Commissioners action, Mr. Murawski will issue formal cost sharing agreements with participating municipalities to secure the required 5% local share for each of their local bridges included in the bundle. Mr. Murawski will also be working closely with PennDOT District 3-0 to develop the Request for Proposals, (RFP) to hire an engineering team to design the 17 bridge repair or replacement projects. Any needed actions to program these projects on the TIP in fulfillment of Act 89 and Act 13 funding requirements will also be addressed at a subsequent WATS meeting.

Other Business / Public Comment

No other business or public comment was discussed.

Mr. Mullins declared the meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM

Respectfully Submitted,



John Lavelle
WATS Secretary