

# 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”

Kurt Hausammann, Jr., AICP, Director

Voice: (570) 320-2130  
Fax: (570) 320-2135  
www.lyco.org

Mailing Address:  
48 West Third Street  
Williamsport Pennsylvania 17701

## WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

*May 6, 2019 Technical Committee Public Meeting: Lycoming County Executive Plaza, 330 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701*

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

Chairman Mullins called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

### **MINUTES**

*January 28, 2019 Technical Committee Public Meeting*

Mr. Kilpatrick motioned for approval of the meeting minutes which was seconded by Ms. McJunkin 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 24 administrative actions that have been made to the FFY 2019 WATS TIP since the last MPO meeting. In addition, the 17 bridges included in the scope of the County's bridge bundling program were also proposed to be added to the TIP via administrative action. Mr. Murawski briefed the Committee on the steps that will be taken in the near future as the bridge bundling program moves forward:

1. The PIB loan agreement, which is being utilized to finance the project, is currently being amended to enable the county to take partial withdrawals instead of one large initial lump sum. This approach will save the County money by reducing our interest liability over the life of the loan.
2. Once the PIB loan is initiated, the County will put out an RFP for engineering services. The selected firm will be tasked with the design of bridge replacement and development of the construction bid package.

3. Concurrently with the RFP issuance, the County will be working to enter into a cost share agreement with each municipal bridge owner involved in this project. Each municipality will be responsible for providing a 5% local cost share. These bridge owners will also be invited to join a project steering committee.

As none of these actions constitute a formal amendment, these handouts were presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken by the Technical Committee.

*Adoption of the Consolidated Performance Measures for FFY 2019-2022*

Mr. Lavelle briefed the Committee on the Performance Based Planning & Programming requirements which have been established in both the MAP-21 and FAST Act developed by PennDOT. PennDOT is asking that the WATS MPO review and approve a package of consolidated performance measures (PMs) for the 2019-2022 TIP. These three PMs set annual targets for:

1. Safety performance measures
2. National Highway System (NHS) pavement & bridge conditions
3. NHS freight movement and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement

Mr. Lavelle reminded the committee that the MPO has adopted each one of these PMs individually last year. The analysis, which was completed at that time, shows that we compare favorably to each standard. He also noted that if the MPO ever began to compare negatively with one or more of these standards, the expectation is that the MPO would begin programming projects that directly addressed whatever issue starts to materialize. Mr. Lavelle then asked the Technical Committee to recommend that the Coordinating Committee adopt the state targets.

Mr. Kilpatrick motioned the Technical Committee recommend WATS Coordinating Committee adoption of the consolidated performance measures contained in the March 18, 2019 letter issued by PennDOT, which was seconded by Ms. McJunkin and unanimously approved.

*Motion to Approve the Middle Susquehanna Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan*

Mr. Williams briefed the committee on this joint planning effort headed by SEDA-COG MPO and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership which began in 2017. He further explained that given Lycoming County's geographic location within SEDA-COG's regional jurisdiction and our recreational connections to those communities made it a logical choice to participate. Mr. Williams went on to explain that the plan is in-line with our Long Range Transportation Plan, our Recreation Plan, and our Countywide Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Williams then asked that the committee recommend that the WATS Coordinating Committee approve of the plan as it is representative of our regional bike/pedestrian vision and also agree to appoint a WATS MPO staff member as a representative to sit on SEDA COG's Bicycle / Pedestrian Advisory Committee and vice versa.

Mr. Kilpatrick motioned the Technical Committee recommend that the WATS MPO support the Middle Susquehanna Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan pending the incorporation of comments made by Chris King. The motion was seconded by Ms. McJunkin and unanimously approved.

*MPO Representative on SEDA COG's Bike/Ped Advisory Committee*

In a continuance of the above topic, the Technical Committee voted to recommend that Scott Williams represent the WATS MPO on the SEDA COG Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Mr. Mausteller motioned to recommend that the Coordinating Committee appoint Scott Williams to represent the WATS MPO on the SEDA COG Bicycle Pedestrian Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. McJunkin and unanimously approved.

*RVT Performance Report*

Mr. Kilpatrick provided a summary of River Valley Transit's (RVT) 2018 Performance Report. The report highlighted various facets of RVT's mission including service delivery, customer satisfaction, and administrative accomplishments. He also covered RVT's successful regionalization efforts with regard to the expansion of service into Clinton County and their continued management of BeST Transit which provides transportation services to Bradford, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties.

Ms. McJunkin motioned the Technical Committee recommend WATS Coordinating Committee approve RVT's annual Performance Report, which was seconded by Mr. Mausteller and unanimously approved.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) Legislation Impacts*

Mr. Dan Merk, STEP Transportation Director updated the Committee on the recent state legislative action directing the PA Department of Human Services, (DHS) to provide the Medical Assistance Transportation Program, (MATP) through a statewide or regional full-risk brokerage system. Mr. Merk expressed concerned that rushing into a "Brokered" system for the MATP program could lead to some unintended service disruptions and an overall reduced quality of the program. As a result, the transition costs may be extensive and possibly disruptive as well. With higher overall costs expected, consumers would likely incur higher co-pays resulting in decreasing riders and services with reduced lifestyle mobility options and independence. Mr. Merk emphasized that Pennsylvania enjoys a successful history of the coordinated model of public and human service transportation, which for decades has served millions of citizens throughout the Commonwealth. Locally, Lycoming and Clinton Counties serve as a shining example delivering MATP services provided by STEP Inc. who has a reputation for delivering dependable service paired with various customized services for their consumers. Mr. Murawski noted, PA Senate Bill 390 is seeking to delay the award of a contract for brokering the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) until an evaluation of the overall impact to the

Commonwealth can be performed. As proposals from brokers were due on April 1, and are currently being reviewed by the PA Department of Human Services (DHS), time is of the essence to enact this legislation prior to DHS awarding a contract. Mr. Murawski urged the WATS Technical Committee to recommend the Coordinating Committee issue a letter in support of SB 390 to Senator Yaw.

Mr. Kilpatrick moved for the Technical Committee to recommend the Coordinating Committee approve issuance of a support letter to Senator Yaw for swift passage of SB 390 which was seconded by Ms. McJunkin and unanimously approved.

#### *Activation of WATS MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee*

Mr. Williams stated that Planning Department staff will develop a list of candidates for appointment to the advisory committee. The list of potential appointees will be presented at a future 2019 WATS meeting. The intention is to staff the committee with organizations or individuals representing user groups of bicycle and pedestrian facilities not with representatives of project sponsors.

#### *River Walk Extension RFP*

Mr. Lavelle updated the committee on the Planning Department's progress with regard to the Susquehanna River Walk Extension project. He explained that an RFP for engineering services was advertised and that later this afternoon there will be a pre-proposal meeting with perspective engineering firms to review the scope of work and perform a field view of the envisioned alignment. Proposals are due on May 24<sup>th</sup> and will be opened on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### *US Route 220 Safety Improvement Project Update*

Mr. Mausteller provided a brief update on the status of the US 220 Corridor Safety and Access Control project between Jersey Shore and Williamsport. PennDOT expects to let the project for construction by the end of July with overall construction anticipated over a 3 ½ year period.

#### *Staffing Update*

Mr. Lavelle updated the committee on the staffing changes that have occurred since our last meeting. Sal Vitko was hired to replace Lynn Cunningham, who retired on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sal was brought onboard with the title of Transportation Planner.

With no further business or public comment, Mr. Mullins adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM

Respectfully Submitted,



John Lavelle, AICP, CFM  
WATS Secretary