

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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WATS MPO FFY 2019-2022 TIP ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

Presidential Executive Order 12898 states that “each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” Within the transportation field, environmental justice is guided by three core principles:

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority or low-income populations.

Because the Williamsport MPO is responsible for allocating federal funds, the MPO is required to consider environmental justice (EJ) by:

- Enhancing its analytical capabilities to ensure that the WATS MPO Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program comply with Title VI.
- Identifying residential, employment, and transportation patterns of minority and low-income populations so that their needs can be identified and addressed, and the benefits and burdens of transportation investments can be fairly distributed.
- Evaluating and, where necessary, improving its public involvement process to eliminate participation barriers and engage minority and low-income populations in transportation decision-making.

IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS

Populations of concern were identified using data from the 2010 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey, (ACS). Federal guidelines require minority and low-income populations to be considered in EJ analysis.

The following definitions are used for the purposes of this analysis:

Elderly: Individuals age 65 or older.

Minority: Individuals who are:

Black or African American

Hispanic or Latino

Asian American

American Indian/ Native American or Alaskan Native

Lycoming County Population Profile

According to the US. Bureau of Census 2010 population figures, there are a total of 116,111 persons residing in Lycoming County. The chart below illustrates population changes in the County since 1970 in relation to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

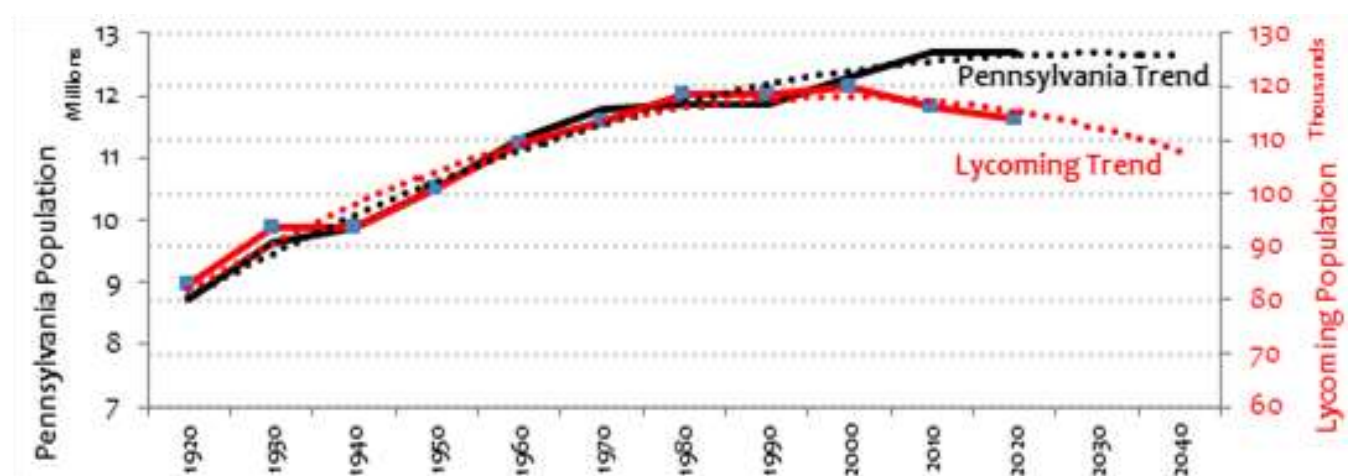
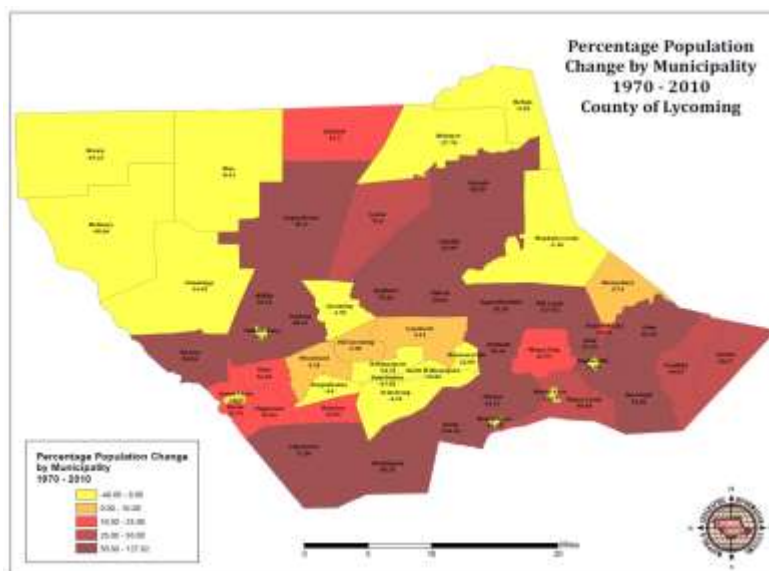
Change in Population (County of Lycoming) 1970-2010

Year	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
County of Lycoming	113,296	118,416	118,710	120,044	116,111
Pennsylvania	11,800,766	11,863,895	11,881,643	12,281,054	12,281,054

From 1970 to 2000, Lycoming County's population grew by 6,748 persons yielding a 6% overall gain which was higher than Pennsylvania's overall population growth at 4.1%. However, in the last decade between 2000-2010, Lycoming County's population fell 3.3% while the state population increased by 3.4%. It should be noted that the sudden influx of persons coming to the County associated with Marcellus Shale gas exploration commencing in 2008 are not captured in Lycoming County Census data because the vast majority of these individuals have permanent residences listed outside of the County and Census information is based on the individual's place of permanent residence. The map illustrated below shows the percentage population change by municipality from 1970-2010.

Indicative of statewide trends, county population has been shifting outward from the City and Boroughs into the suburban and rural Townships. However, much of the growth is occurring in rural Townships located just beyond the suburban fringe of the Williamsport Urbanized Area, which is well within commuting distance to major employment centers.

In terms of a future county-wide total population forecast, the 2018 Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Update cites steady population decline out to 2040 while Pennsylvania's population is projected to remain relatively stagnant in that timeframe based upon projections of current trends and recent American Community Survey, (ACS) estimates. See illustration below.



Population By Age Groups

The US Census 2010 population for Lycoming County is shown by various age groups. The Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan further identifies age groups as follows:

School Age Group (Under age 20)

Young Adult Age Group (20 to 44 years)

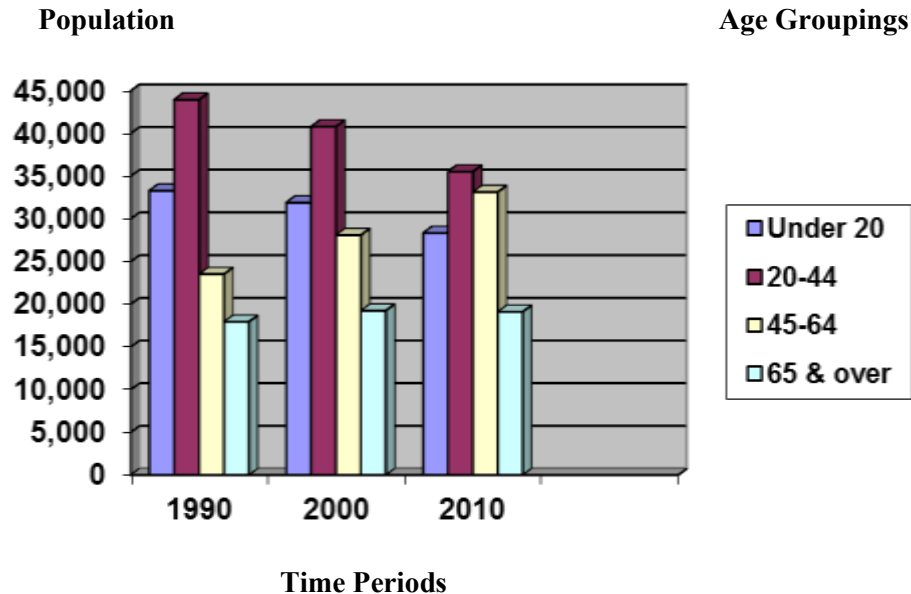
Mature Age Group (45 to 64 years)

Senior Elderly Population Age Group (65 years and over)

AGE GROUP	2010 POPULATION	PERCENT SHARE
School Age (Under 20 years)	28,333	24.4 %
Young Adult (20 to 44 years)	35,528	30.6%
Mature (45 to 64 years)	33,138	28.5%
Senior Elderly (65 years and over)	19,112	16.5%
Total Population	116,111	100%

The next bar chart depicts these same population age group trends between 1990 and 2010.

LYCOMING COUNTY AGE GROUP TRENDS



Between 1990-2010, younger school age populations have seen a steady overall 15% decline. The young adult population group also declined by 19% while the mature age group population increased by a significant 40% and the senior age group rose 6% over the last two decades. This is a concern because a reduction or exodus of younger generation populations and corresponding rises in elderly populations can destabilize the social fabric of the community as less and less younger workers who generate a greater

proportion of the tax base required to support necessary community services such as transportation, required by older individuals create the potential for budget deficits and adversely impact delivery of services to all individuals. Again, the emergence of Marcellus Shale employment opportunities may help retain younger local workers in the region, however additional Census data compiled in future years will be necessary to clearly establish meaningful future trends as Marcellus activity was just beginning at the time of the 2010 Census.

Racial Composition

The 2010 Census information by racial composition is provided on the following table:

Race	2010 Population	Percent Share
White	107,573	92.6%
Black or African American	5,203	4.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	217	0.2%
Asian	671	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	25	0.0%
Some other Race	421	0.4%
Two or More Races	2,001	1.7%
Totals	116,111	100.0%

It should be noted that Hispanic is an ethnicity, not a racial category contained in Census data since persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

There are 1,543 persons of Hispanic or Latino minority ethnicity which represent 1.3% of Lycoming County’s population according to the 2010 Census which is considerably lower than the State-wide 5.5% Hispanic or Latino minority population figure. Again, there are a number of individuals of Hispanic or Latino origin observed working in the Marcellus industry, however in many cases they are not recorded in Lycoming County population figures since their primary residence is out of county. As shown in the above statistics, the County’s population racial composition is predominantly white, however 7.4% of the population is non-white which is substantially lower than the 14.7 % state-wide non-white population figure.



2007-2011 American Community Survey, (ACS)

The US Census Bureau has multiple data sets that it releases pertaining to population and transportation characteristics. Below is a summary of the latest ACS population and transportation data for Lycoming County that has relevance to the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan.

(Limited English Proficiency)

- ❖ According to ACS, there are a total of 109,884 persons in Lycoming County aged five years and older. A total of 1,046 persons (1%) speak a primary language at home other than English and Speak English less than very well. Lycoming County is lower than the statewide percent of 3.8% primary non English speaking population.

(Disabled Population)

- ❖ In terms of the total Civilian Non-institutionalized population of Lycoming County, there are 113,715 persons residing in the County, where 16,476 persons (14.5%) have a physical or mental

disability. The 65 years and over age group of this population grouping total 18,245 persons with 6,900 persons (37.8%) having a physical or mental disability. Lycoming County population disability percentages are slightly higher than the state-wide disability percentages at 13.1% total disability and 35.6% over age 65 with disability figures.

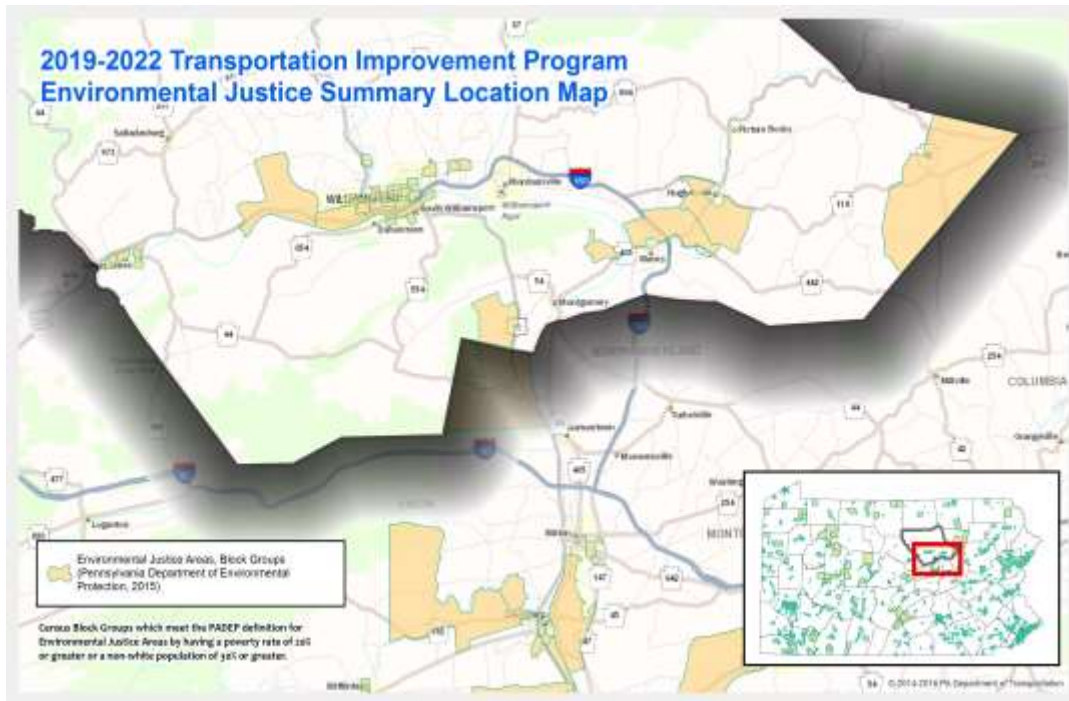
(Poverty Status)

- ❖ There are 111,118 persons in Lycoming County for whom poverty status is determined. Of this number, 15,834 persons (14.2%) were determined to be falling below the poverty level which is slightly higher than the Pennsylvania 12.6% poverty level figure.

The Census and ACS data was used to determine the percent of minority, and low-income residents within each of the census tracts in Lycoming County.

The map on the next page of this summary illustrates the clustering of environmental justice populations groups for those census tracts that meet the federal criteria of an environmental justice area where the tract has 20% or more families below the federal poverty level and has 30% or more minority population. The proposed FFY 2019-2022 WATS MPO Transportation Improvement Program projects were also identified in relation to the mapped environmental justice population areas. Of the 67 proposed highway and bridge improvement projects listed on the WATS TIP, only 13 individual projects are included within the environmental justice population cluster. These projects are:

- West Fourth Street Reconstruction Project in the Newberry Section of the City of Williamsport.
- West Third Street Reconstruction Project between Campbell and Basin Streets in the City of Williamsport Central Business District
- Hepburn Street Reconstruction Project between Via Bella and West Third Streets in the City of Williamsport.
- Reconstruction of West Fourth Street from US 15 to Campbell Street in the City of Williamsport.
- High Street resurfacing project from Lycoming Creek Road to Hepburn Street, City of Williamsport.
- Lycoming Creek Road resurfacing project from High Street to Pleasant Hill Road in Old Lycoming, Loyalsock and Lycoming Townships.
- Interstate 180 resurfacing from US 15 to Warrensville Road in the City of Williamsport and Loyalsock Township.
- Pathway to Health Phase IV transportation enhancement project in the City of Williamsport.
- Millers Run Greenway Transportation Enhancement project in Loyalsock Township.
- US 220 West Fourth Street Interchange Ramp 4 bridge improvement in Woodward Township
- US 220 Corridor Access Management – Safety Improvements from PA 287 to West Fourth Street Interchange in Piatt and Woodward Townships.
- PA 44 over Lawshee Run bridge improvement project in Jersey Shore Borough.
- PA 405 resurfacing project from Main Street to SR 2057 in Muncy Borough and Muncy Creek Township.



As part of the preliminary design phase of these projects, PennDOT and consultant teams are working to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts to environmental justice populations and these efforts are being documented in the environmental clearance documents for each project.

For other transportation projects which are advancing from the WATS Long Range Plan for programming on the WATS Transportation Improvement Program preliminary design phase, WATS will work with PennDOT and other project sponsors to identify the environmental justice populations and evaluate direct and indirect impacts of the projects on these populations. For projects which have advanced beyond preliminary design phase, WATS, PennDOT and other project sponsors will work to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to environmental justice populations. Again, these efforts are documented in the appropriate environmental clearance documents for the projects.

In terms of transit, it should be recognized that WATS, River Valley Transit and STEP activity solicit input from environmental justice populations through the WATS Transit Advisory Committee which includes numerous social service organizations providing programs and services supporting the transportation needs of such populations. RVT and STEP continually attempt to improve public transit service to key growth areas which include subject populations.

On May 27, 2014, the WATS MPO also adopted its Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan in conjunction with the SEDA-COG MPO. This plan helps guide the distribution of federal funds from certain transit programs that serve low incomes, minority populations, persons with disabilities and the elderly. A large number of stakeholders provided input about this Coordinated Plan, including many stakeholders that directly or indirectly represent environmental justice populations of concern.

As noted on the mapping, many WATS TIP projects are situated outside environmental justice population concentrated areas. Targeted WATS outreach efforts will be made to ensure meaningful input from environmental justice populations on all WATS proposed projects, especially regarding those projects situated within environmental justice population centers which are primarily concentrated within the Williamsport Urbanized Area.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

One of the core principles of environmental justice is to “ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process”. A number of steps were taken to enable members of the public to comment on the FFY 2019-2022 WATS TIP.

A 30 day public comment period is being held from May 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018. During this time, the draft TIP is being posted on the Lycoming County website www.lyco.org and at offices of all 108 interested parties identified in the WATS Public Participation Plan so that the TIP documents are easily accessible either on-line or are physically accessible at convenient locations throughout Lycoming County. The TIP public comment period is being advertised in the Williamsport Sun Gazette in 3 separate newspaper editions during this 30 day period. A public meeting will be convened by the Lycoming County Planning Commission during the comment period on May 17, 2018 as federally required. The County is also continuing to use Facebook, Twitter, a YouTube video and Googleplus as social media to broaden its TIP public outreach techniques. The TIP projects were derived from the Williamsport MPO 2013-2033 Long Range Transportation Plan adopted on December 19, 2013. As part of the LRTP public outreach process, a documentary TV series on the plan was aired on Comcast Channel 75 (Lycoming County Area Television) as a unique public outreach technique which again can be easily viewed at any time on the County website www.lyco.org. Notices were also sent to all Native American Indian Tribes and Nations whose ancestors had at one time lived in Lycoming County. The TIP will be adopted by the WATS MPO Coordinating Committee at their June 18, 2018 public meeting.

FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS

The Williamsport MPO will continue to refine the locations of populations of concern as additional ACS and Census information becomes available, to expand methods of analysis for determining benefits and burdens, and to implement techniques for informing all citizens about future transportation projects.