

Williamsport Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization

Williamsport Area Transportation Study MPO

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#### Introduction

This report is prepared as a requirement of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST Act) legislation. It will list and summarize all projects for which funding has been obligated during the 2020 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY - October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020). The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) defines "obligated" as "the Federal government's promise to pay a State for the Federal share of a project's eligible cost." Funding can also be "de-obligated" in response to lower than expected costs, project cancellation, or other factors, and these released funds are frequently redirected to other projects.

### Overview of Williamsport Area Transportation Study MPO

Federal law and regulations require the establishment of a Metropolitan Planning Organization, (MPO) to oversee the transportation planning process in all urbanized areas of the nation having a population of 50,000 or more persons as documented by the United States Census Bureau as part of the decennial census. The <u>Williamsport Area Transportation Study</u> (WATS) serves as the designated MPO for Lycoming County, Pennsylvania which includes the Williamsport Urbanized Area. Transportation planning and programming processes within Lycoming County are undertaken by WATS, including the following activities:

- Development and adoption of a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Every five years, as required by federal law, the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development updates the WATS MPO Long Range Transportation Plan. The <u>current Long Range Transportation Plan for Lycoming County</u> was adopted on December 17, 2018.
- Establishment and management of a fair and impartial setting for effective regional decision-making in the planning area.
- Identification and evaluation of alternative transportation improvement options. Using data and
  planning methods to generate and evaluate alternatives. Planning studies and evaluations are
  included in the MPO <u>Unified Planning Work Program</u> (UPWP).
- Development of a <u>Transportation Improvement Program</u> (TIP): the short-range (four year) program of transportation improvements based on the needs and goals described in the LRTP.
- Involving the public: Continually inform and engage the general public and other affected
  constituencies in regards to the development of the essential functions listed above. Strategies
  for achieving these ends are outlined in the WATS <u>Public Participation Plan</u>.

The WATS MPO is organizationally structured with two Committees: a Technical Committee and a Coordinating Committee, with defined functions and membership. In addition, WATS bylaws provide for two advisory committees for transit matters and active transportation. The administrative duties of the WATS MPO are conducted by the Lycoming County Planning and Community Development Department. The primary staff contact for the Department on WATS MPO administrative matters is the Lycoming County Transportation Planning Supervisor who acts as WATS Secretary.

#### Overview of Transportation Funding

The total annual amount of federal government transportation funding is set by Congress via multi-year transportation bills which give the United States Secretary of Transportation permission to authorize funding for MPOs across the country through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Another step is needed to release the authorized funds. This is done via an appropriations act which sets the amount of funds, out of the total funding contained in the transportation bill, which can be used for MPO planning.

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Federal funds are divided among the states based on the ratio of urbanized-area population within individual states to the urbanized-area population of the country as a whole. Urbanized population figures are derived from census data. In Pennsylvania, the funding is then allocated among MPOs via an agreed-upon formula developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and representatives of MPOs and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPOs) known collectively as the "Planning Partners".

## **Summaries of obligated projects, Federal Fiscal Year 2020**

In order to condense the informationally rich content related to transportation project development, many codes, abbreviations, and acronyms are freely deployed. Below are keys to the codes used for funding categories and project phasing.

#### Key to funding category codes

<b>Funding Code</b>	Funding Description
NHPP	National highway performance program
NHS	National Highway System
HSIP	Highway safety improvement program
STE	Surface transportation enhancement
STN	Surface transportation program - nonurbanized
STR	Surface transportation program - rural
STP	Surface transportation program - flexible
SXF	Special federal funds
RRX	Railway-Highway Crossing Program
BON	Bridge on federal aid system
BOF	Bridge off federal aid system
ВОО	Bridge on or off federal aid system
FFL	Federal flood recovery

#### Key to project phase codes

Phase Code	Phase Description			
STUDY	Study			
PE	Preliminary engineering			
FD	Final design			
UTL	Utilities			
ROW	Right of way			
CON	Construction			

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# Summary of obligated funds by funding category

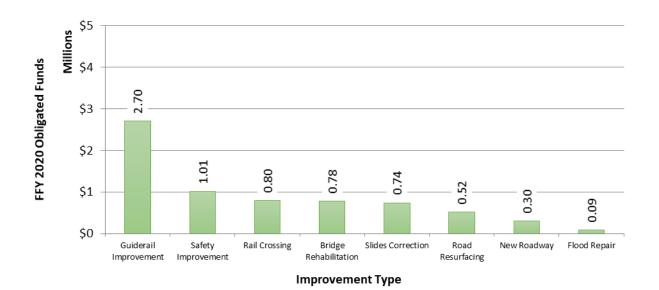
In federal Fiscal Year 2020, a total of **\$6,942,086.63** in federal funding was obligated to projects within the WATS MPO. Over half of these funds were obligated towards HSIP projects.



Funding Code	Obligated Amount	Number of Projects		
HSIP	\$3,715,666.79	4		
RRX	\$800,000.00	1		
STP	\$785,000.00	3		
BOF	\$736,912.00	2		
NHPP	\$516,477.00	1		
SXF	\$300,000.00	1		
FFL	\$88,030.84	1		

## Summary of obligated funds by project type

Federal funds were most abundantly obligated towards guiderail and safety improvement projects in FFY 2020, representing 54% of the total obligated amount.

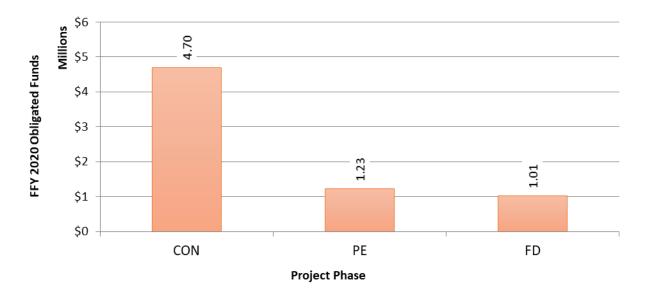


**Improvement Type Obligated Amount Number of Projects** \$2,701,878.79 **Guiderail Improvement** 3 **Safety Improvement** \$1,013,788.00 1 **Rail Crossing** \$800,000.00 1 **Bridge Rehabilitation** \$781,912.00 3 **Slides Correction** \$740,000.00 2 **Road Resurfacing** \$516,477.00 1 **New Roadway** \$300,000.00 1 **Flood Repair** \$88,030.84 1

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# Summary of obligated funds by project phase

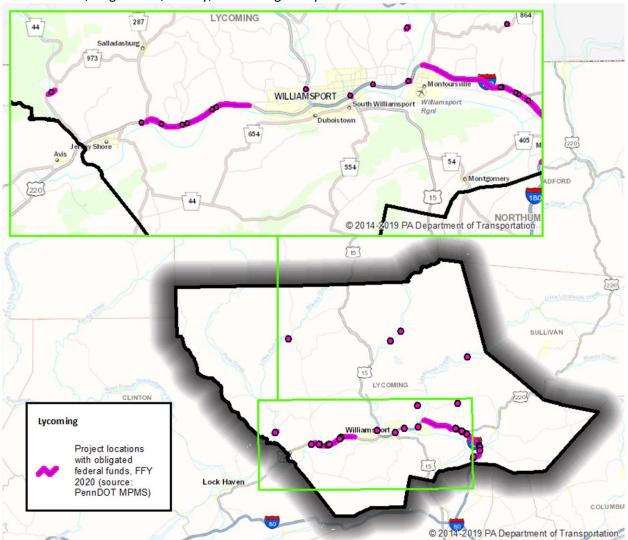
In federal Fiscal Year 2020, federal funding was overwhelmingly obligated to the construction phase of projects.



Project Phase	Obligated Amount	Number of Projects
CON	\$4,702,419.84	6
PE	\$1,225,878.79	6
FD	\$1,013,788.00	1

### Geographic distribution of obligated funds in Federal Fiscal Year 2020

Geographically, projects with obligated federal funds in FFY 2020 were distributed throughout the populated parts of Lycoming County. Projects were clustered within the urbanized areas and designated growth areas in the US-220/I-180 corridor running parallel to the West Branch Susquehanna River. This portion of the county contains the overwhelming majority of the county's population and is the location of the city of Williamsport and the boroughs of Jersey Shore, Duboistown, South Williamsport, Montoursville, Hughesville, Muncy, and Montgomery.



#### De-obligations in Federal Fiscal Year 2020

Some projects have negative obligation amounts and this indicates that money was removed from the project and released for use on other transportation projects. Examples of circumstances leading to a deobligation of federal funds:

- A completed project came in under budget
- An active project was delayed after the money had been committed.
- A project has been cancelled

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• The bid amount on a project was lower than the estimated cost In federal Fiscal Year 2020, a total of \$1,567,956.57 in federal funds was de-obligated from projects. The following projects had funding de-obligated:

<u>MPMS</u>	<b>Project Description</b>	Phase	Fund	Deobligation Date	<b>Deobligation Amount</b>
<u>88746</u>	Bridge Rehabilitation, SR 14 over Grays Run	CON	STP	July 2020	-\$507,771.70
<u>87917</u>	Bridge Rehabilitation, SR 1017 over Lycoming Creek	CON	STR	January 2020	-\$414,661.84
108113	Transportation Enhancement, Pathway to Health Phase IV	CON	STE	April 2020	-\$132,242.24
88744	Bridge Replacement, SR 4001 over Love Run	CON	STP	October 2019	-\$116,108.95
<u>106186</u>	Guiderail Improvement	CON	HSIP	October 2019	-\$69,123.62
104289	Transportation Enhancement, Pathway To Health Phase 3	CON	TAP	October 2019	-\$67,811.89
<u>110769</u>	Safety Improvement, Interstate Delineation Project	CON	HSIP	March 2020	-\$64,273.23
<u>106133</u>	Bridge Painting	CON	BOF	February 2020	-\$63,716.35
102003	Transportation Enhancement, IPT Parking Lot	CON	SXF	February 2020	-\$47,975.81
108114	Transportation Enhancement, Loyalsock Township Recreational Pedestrian Bridges	CON	STE	February 2020	-\$47,000.00
<u>5884</u>	Bridge Replacement, PA405/442 Muncy Creek Bridge	UTL	ВОО	February 2020	-\$20,394.86
108942	Safety Improvement, I-180, SR 147, & SR 220 Ramps Wrong Way Signs	CON	HSIP	January 2020	-\$16,874.79
<u>111799</u>	Slides Correction, SR 87 July Flood Repair	CON	FFL	March 2020	-\$0.74
90591	RR Warning Devices, Newberry Corridor	CON	RRX	June 2020	-\$0.49
<u>82869</u>	Median Barrier, US 220 Martins Rd to Christians Rd	CON	HSIP	January 2020	-\$0.06

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## WATS MPO obligations report for FFY 2020

The following table lists all obligations of federal funds within the WATS MPO during federal Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020). The "MPMS" number listed for each obligation comes from the PennDOT Multi-modal Project Management System (MPMS). It is an inventory of PennDOT projects containing information about project phasing, funding, and status. PennDOT has also developed an informational and mapping tool called OneMap (<a href="https://gis.penndot.gov/OneMap">https://gis.penndot.gov/OneMap</a>) for viewing MPMS information about projects. When viewing this document in an electronic format, the MPMS number in the table below (and the de-obligations listing above) will link directly to the OneMap viewer and display the project location and clicking on the highlighted project location will display a detailed project information screen. If viewing this report in a print format, searching for the MPMS number within OneMap will yield the same results.

FHWA has also requested a listing of transit grant funding for FFY 2020 be included in this report. These funding items will be listed after the obligated projects. Lycoming County has two transit providers. The Williamsport Bureau of Transportation operates a fixed route bus service as River Valley Transit. The Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP, Inc.) provides door-to-door, shared ride service.

#### Obligated projects

MPMS	Improvement	Phase	Fund	Month/Year	Obligation Amount, FFY 2020	Programmed Amount	Federal Funds Remaining
<u>6209</u>	Bridge Rehabilitation, SR 4001 over Little Pine Creek	PE	STP	2/2020	\$45,000.00	\$335,000.00	\$290,000.00
<u>93732</u>	Safety Improvement, US 220 PA 287 to West Fourth Street	FD	HSIP	11/2019	\$1,013,788.00	\$2,739,184.00	\$1,725,396.00
<u>97671</u>	Resurface, I-180, Cemetery Road to Muncy Cr	CON	NHPP	1/2020	\$516,477.00	\$600,000.00	\$83,523.00
<u>102876</u>	Guiderail Improvement	PE	HSIP	10/2019	\$878.79	\$0.00	-\$878.79
<u>110203</u>	Bridge Rehabilitation, T-556 over East Mill Creek, Upper Fairfield Township	PE	BOF	1/2020	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$0.00
<u>110771</u>	Guiderail Improvement	CON	HSIP	3/2020	\$1,084,000.00	\$1,084,000.00	\$0.00
<u>110772</u>	New Roadway, Montour Street Airport Connector	PE	SXF	5/2020	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$0.00
<u>112607</u>	Railroad Gates, Lycoming & Centre Cntys RRX Imps	CON	RRX	8/2020	\$800,000.00	\$800,000.00	\$0.00
<u>112978</u>	Slides Correction, Tombs Run Slides	PE	STP	9/2020	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
<u>112979</u>	Slides Correction, Lick Run Slide	PE	STP	4/2020	\$240,000.00	\$465,135.00	\$225,135.00
<u>114295</u>	Bridge Rehabilitation, SR 1005 over Loyalsock Creek	CON	BOF	4/2020	\$596,912.00	\$1,086,000.00	\$489,088.00
<u>114725</u>	Guiderail Improvement	CON	HSIP	6/2020	\$1,617,000.00	\$1,800,000.00	\$183,000.00
<u>114988</u>	Flood Repair	CON	FFL	3/2020	\$88,030.84	\$0.00	-\$88,030.84

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#### **Transit Funds**

Federal Fund Category	Federal Funds Awarded (FFY 2020)	Federal Funds Remaining
5310	\$544,913	\$544,913

5310 funds were awarded and expended by STEP, Inc. as the shared ride transit provider for Lycoming County

#### **Conclusion**

This report was prepared by

Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development

o/b/o

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All resources referenced herein pertaining to the WATS MPO can be found at the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development WATS MPO website:

http://www.lyco.org/WATS-MPO