

**WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



**Adopted by Williamsport MPO
December 19, 2013
Amended
July 18, 2016**



Introduction

Public involvement is essential to good planning. Without meaningful public participation, there is a risk of making poor decisions, or decisions that have unintended negative consequences. The fundamental objective of public involvement programs is to make certain that everyone with an interest in transportation decisions has an opportunity to provide input in the development of policies, programs and projects being proposed in Lycoming County.

Federal law, (SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21) require that “*the MPO shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines the process for providing citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.*”



Overview of the WATS Transportation Planning Process

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 U.S. Bureau of the Census as part of the decennial census. The Williamsport Area Transportation Study, (WATS) serves as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Williamsport Urbanized area established under a legal Agreement with PennDOT approved in 1968. The WATS jurisdictional boundary was further extended in 1991 to encompass the entire geographic area of Lycoming County. Therefore, the federal transportation planning and programming process within Lycoming County is undertaken by WATS, including the development and approval of the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan, WATS Transportation Improvement Program and WATS Public Participation Plan.

Basically, WATS core functions include:

- ~ Establish and manage a fair and impartial setting for effective regional decision-making in the planning area (Lycoming County).
- ~ Identify and evaluate alternative transportation improvement options: Use data and planning methods to generate and evaluate alternatives. Planning studies and evaluations are included in the MPO Unified Planning Work Program, (UPWP).
- ~ Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Develop a short-range (four year) program of transportation improvements based on the long range transportation plan. The TIP should be designated to achieve the area's goals, using spending, regulating, operating, management and financial tools.
- ~ Involve the public: Continually involve the general public and other affected constituencies in the essential functions listed above.

The WATS MPO is organizationally structured with two Committees; a Technical Committee and a Coordinating Committee with defined functions and membership composition as follows:

WATS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



Technical Committee

The purpose of the Technical Committee is to oversee the development of detailed transportation planning documents, special studies and other technical analysis that documents multi-modal transportation issues and needs and provide advice and recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. The Technical Committee consists of seven (7) voting members, as follows:

- PennDOT Center for Program Development and Management Representative
- PennDOT Engineering District 3-0 Representative
- Lycoming County Planning and Community Development Director
- Lycoming County Planning Commission Member
- River Valley Transit General Manager
- Williamsport Regional Airport Executive Director
- City of Williamsport Engineer/Community Development Director

The PennDOT Center for Program Development and Management Representative serves as Chairman of the Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee voting members are designated by their respective member organizations and serve without term limits at the discretion of their member organizations. Each member organization designates the individual serving on the

Technical Committee as their voting member at the beginning of each calendar year and provides written documentation to the WATS MPO Chairman for WATS MPO files maintained by the Lycoming County Planning and Community Development Department. Member organizations designate an alternate voting member that may vote on behalf of the designated member in the case where the designated voting member is unable to attend a specific meeting.

In addition to the seven voting members, the Technical Committee includes four (4) non-voting members, as follows:

- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development
- Susquehanna Transit Company

Non-voting members of the Technical Committee receive WATS reports and meeting notices and agendas and participate in WATS discussions, but serve without a vote.

Coordinating Committee

The purpose of the Coordinating Committee is to review and act upon the recommendations of the Technical Committee and serve as the official policy decision-making body of the WATS MPO.

The Coordinating Committee consist of eleven (11) voting members, comprising elected and appointed officials as follows:

- PennDOT Engineering District 3-0 Executive
- PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Planning
- Lycoming County Commissioner
- Lycoming County Commissioner
- Mayor, City of Williamsport
- Council Member, City of Williamsport
- River Valley Transit General Manager
- SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Executive Director
- Williamsport Regional Airport Executive Director
- Lycoming County Association of Township Officials Representative
- Lycoming-Sullivan Boroughs Association Representative

The PennDOT Engineering District 3-0 Executive serves as Chairman of the Coordinating Committee.

Again, the Coordinating Committee voting members shall be designated by their respective member organizations and serve without term limits at the discretion of their member organizations. Each member organization designates the individual(s) serving on the Coordinating Committee as their voting member(s) at the beginning of

each calendar year and provide written documentation to the WATS MPO Chairman for WATS MPO files maintained by the Lycoming County Planning and Community Development Department. Member organizations also designate an alternate voting member that may vote on behalf of the designated voting member in the case where the designated voting member is unable to attend a specific meeting.

In addition to the 11 voting members, the Coordinating Committee includes four (4) non-voting members, as follows:

- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development

Non-voting members of the Coordinating Committee receive WATS MPO reports and meeting notices and agendas and participate in WATS MPO discussions, but serve without vote.

The WATS MPO Coordinating Committee may establish advisory committees, ad hoc work groups, special purpose task forces or steering committees to gather specialized experience, technical advice and input that may be needed to help carry forth transportation planning related activities under the jurisdiction of the WATS MPO transportation planning process. The WATS MPO has established a Transit Advisory Committee that is comprised of WATS members, transit providers and various social service organizations to provide input and recommendations to the WATS MPO on public transit issues and needs in Lycoming County.

Public Participation Plan - Federal Requirements

According to the Federal Highway Administration, current Federal statutes and regulations provide general guidelines for public involvement processes and procedures. There is great flexibility available to transportation agencies in developing specific public involvement / participation plans. However, while the set of techniques for any given situation may differ depending upon such factors as demographics and identified potential impacts, the general approach to developing a public participation plan contains elements that are relevant and responsive to all communities. Below are brief excerpts from relevant federal statutes, regulations and Executive Orders setting forth key elements of the public involvement process that is to be used during the transportation planning and project development.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) “prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities in services, programs and activities. Public entities are required to make programs accessible to individuals with disabilities including conducting meetings and hearings in ADA-compliant buildings. Special accommodations

must be provided to ensure communications are equally effective for persons with disabilities in order to participate in meetings, planning and programming activities.” With advance notice, special provisions must be made to accommodate hearing-impaired or visually impaired participants.



Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the federal law that protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of their race, color, or national origin in programs that receive federal financial assistance. Title VI states, “**No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.**”

Environmental Justice

Presidential Executive Order 12898 establishes provisions. The Environmental Protection Agency defines Environmental Justice as the “fair treatment of people in all races, cultures, and income with respect to development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, programs and policies.” Further, the Federal Highway Administration establishes three fundamental environmental justice 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 and low-income populations.

Limited English Proficiency

On August 11, 2000, the President signed Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with *Limited English Proficiency*, (LEP). “LEP” persons are those individuals who do not speak English as their primary language, and who also have a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English. The key commonality among LEP persons is their inability to communicate effectively in the English language, regardless of their native tongue. Persons that are multi-lingual, in that they speak one or more other languages in addition to being proficient in English, are not considered to be Limited English Proficient. The Executive Order is intended to improve access to federally assisted programs and activities for persons who, as a result of national origin, are limited in their English proficiency.

The Federal Highway Administration has published guidance related to LEP in 2005 which includes methods by which transportation agencies can determine the need for translation of materials or provision of interpreters at public hearings or other events. It states that recipients “are required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by LEP persons.”

State Requirements – Public Participation Plan

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Sunshine Law



Act 84 of 1986 as amended June 15, 1993, February 26, 1996 and October 15, 1998 is an act requiring public agencies to hold certain meetings and hearings open to the public; and providing penalties. The PA General Assembly finds that secrecy in public affairs undermines the faith of the public in government. Highlights of this law include:

- ❖ *Official action and deliberation by a quorum of the members of an agency shall take place at a meeting open to the public.*
- ❖ *Written minutes shall be kept of all open meetings of agencies.*
- ❖ *Public notice is not required in the case of an emergency meeting or a conference.*
- ❖ *The board or council has the option to accept all public comment at the beginning of the meeting.*
- ❖ *A person attending a meeting of an agency shall have the right to use recording devices to record all the proceedings.*

MPO Public Participation Plans

The Federal SAFETEA-LU Act requires MPO's to develop and document, in consultation with interested parties, a Public Participation Plan that details strategies for incorporating visualization techniques, using electronic media, holding public meetings, and responding to public input, among other things prior to development of the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan and MPO Transportation Improvement Program. The public involvement process shall include the publication and distribution of draft versions of the proposed plan and provide adequate opportunities for review and comment. The approved plan must also be published or made readily available in other ways for informational purposes. Where possible, this process should include visualization techniques and make use of the internet. Federal regulations require that public officials (elected and appointed) and citizens have adequate opportunity to participate in the development of the Long Range Plan before it is approved and adopted by the MPO. The regulations explicitly identify several parties who should be engaged and involved throughout the plan development / update process.

WATS MPO Approach Toward Fulfillment of Public Participation Process

This section of the plan specifically outlines how the WATS MPO, under the leadership direction of the Lycoming County Board of Commissioners and planning staff, responds to the previously outlined federal and state requirements regarding public involvement in the development of this Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program and during the transportation project development process and preparation of special studies and related plans.



Lycoming County Board of Commissioners

(From Left: Commissioner Mirabito, Commissioner McKernan, Commissioner Mussare)

Compliance With Americans with Disabilities Act

All WATS MPO public meetings are located in ADA accessible buildings. Most meetings are held at the Lycoming County Executive Plaza Building, 330 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701. This meeting location is conveniently situated near the River Valley Transit Hub (Trade and Transit Centre) which operates a fully accessible fixed route transit fleet as well as ADA paratransit services subcontracted through shared ride provider, STEP. All public notices published by WATS indicate that special ADA accommodations can be provided with advance notification to the Lycoming County Planning Commission. The WATS Transit Advisory Committee includes voting representation by physically and mentally disabled community organizations and individual transit consumers. If an alternate meeting site is chosen, care is taken to ensure ADA compliance is satisfied. All public meetings associated with development of this Long Range Transportation Plan have been held at the ADA accessible Executive Plaza meeting location.



Compliance with Title VI

The WATS MPO is fully committed to ensure compliance with Title VI. Accordingly, the MPO adopted Title VI complaint procedures at their July 23, 2012 public meeting. Since discrimination can happen at any time in any organization, it is essential employees know what to do if they are given a complaint under Title VI. An example of the Title VI WATS MPO complaint form is illustrated on the following page.

**WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM**

Please Print All Information Below.

Complainant Name: _____ Name of Individual Assisting Complainant: _____

Complainant Address: _____ Assisting Individual Address: _____

Complainant Phone # _____ Assisting Individual Phone # (Home or Cell) _____

Basis of Complaint: (e.g., Race,Color,National Origin,Sex,Age,Disability, Retailiation)

Date(s) of alleged discrimination:

Please provide a detailed description of the circumstances of the incident(s), including any additional information supporting your complaint (please use additional pages as necessary):

Please provide the name(s), title and address of the person who discriminated against the Complainant.

Please provide, if applicable, names and contact information of people who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or are perceived as parties in the complained-of incidents(s):

Please list any other agency where complaint has been filed:

Complainant Signature: _____ Date: _____

The WATS MPO will acknowledge receipt of the complaint by notifying the Complainant within 15 days of the complaint filing. The WATS MPO will transmit the complaint to the proper state or federal agency (e.g., Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and PennDOT) for investigation and disposition pursuant to that agency's Title VI complaint procedures.

Next Action:

All WATS public meeting notices indicate the procedures for filing a Title VI complaint. To date, the WATS MPO has not received any complaints under Title VI associated with development of this plan or other WATS functions.

Compliance with Environmental Justice

Chapters 3 and 7 of the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan provides data and mapping of Lycoming County environmental justice population areas based on 2010 Census information along with analysis of proposed transportation project impacts related to environmental justice 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

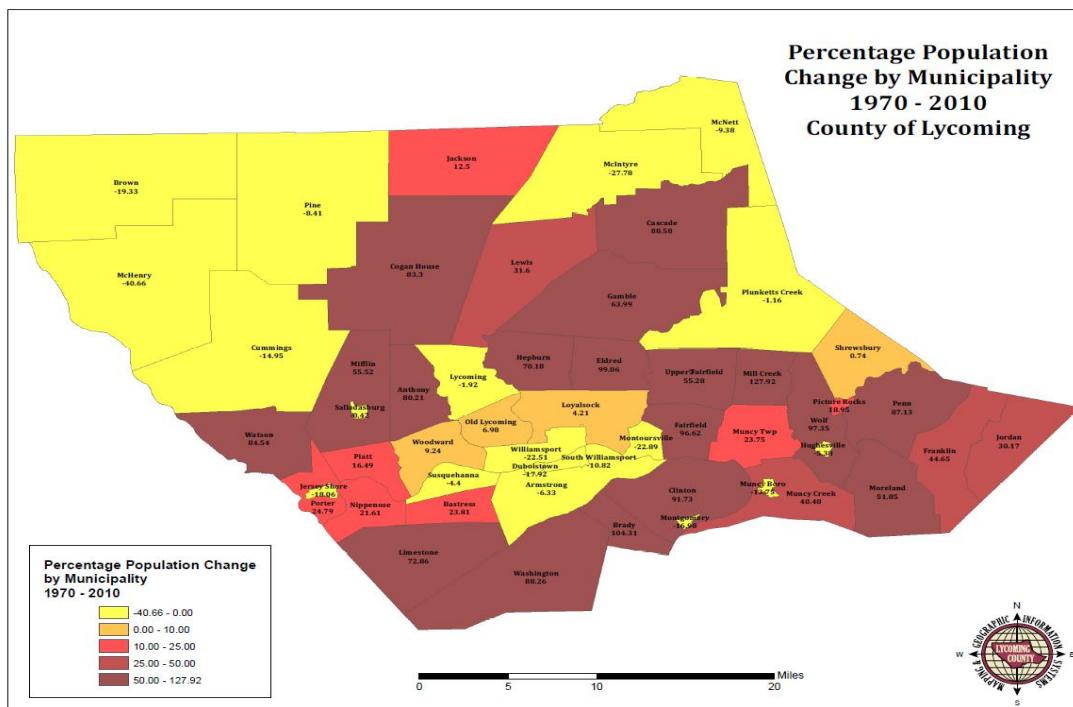
Lycoming County Population Profile

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 Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Update anticipates total population to decrease to 112,000 persons by 2020 with a further decrease to 106,000 persons by 2030 which is the new County Comprehensive Plan Update horizon year. A major reason for this decrease is attributed to “brain drain” trends where younger people going to colleges and universities elsewhere do not return to Lycoming County for employment once students graduate.

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)

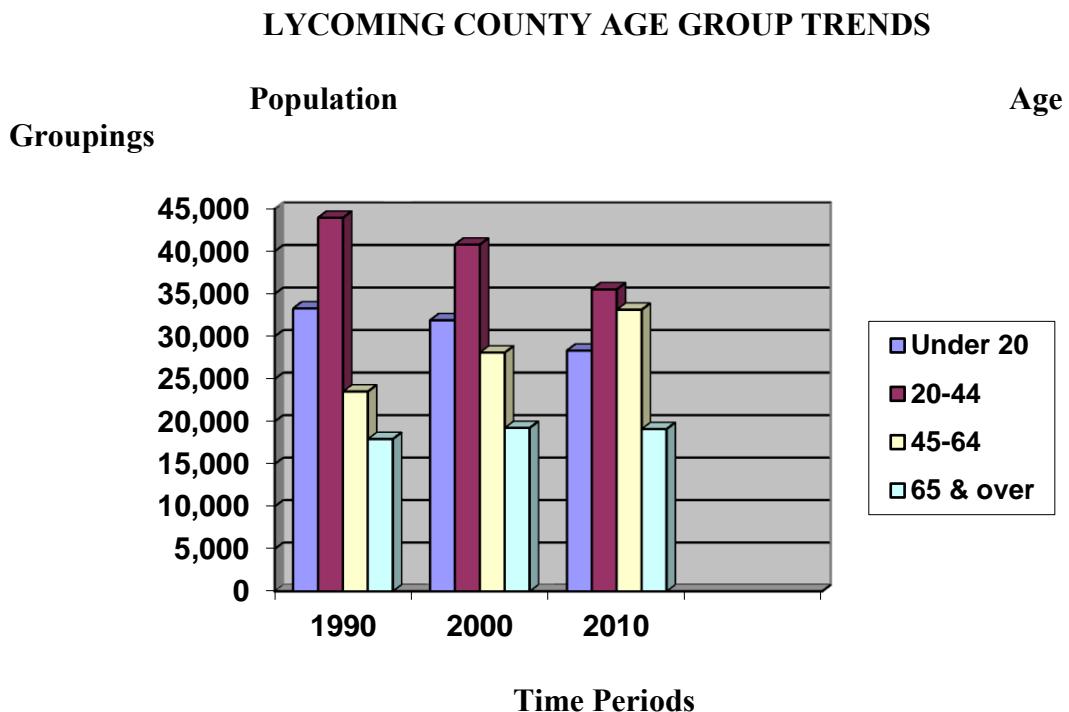
Young Adult Age Group (20 to 44 years)

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.



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
<i>White</i>	107,573	92.6 %
<i>Black or African American</i>	5,203	4.5%
<i>American Indian and Alaska Native</i>	217	.2%
<i>Asian</i>	671	.6%
<i>Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander</i>	25	.0%
<i>Some other Race</i>	421	.4%
<i>Two or More Races</i>	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 that were 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 and WATS Public Participation 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.

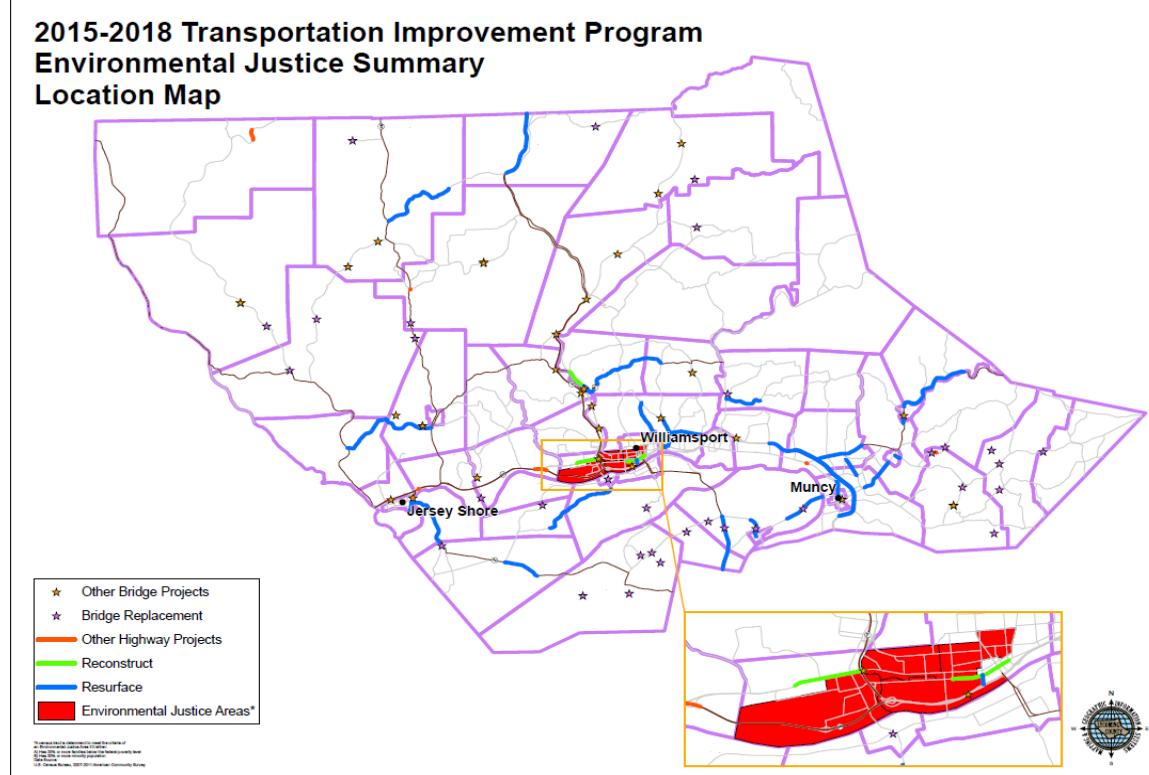
(Disabled Population)

- ❖ 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 below 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 current FFY 2015-2018 WATS MPO Transportation Improvement Program projects were also identified on this map in relation to the mapped environmental justice population areas.



Of the 81 highway and bridge improvement projects listed on the FFY 2015-2018 WATS TIP, only 5 projects are included within the environmental justice population cluster situated entirely within the Williamsport Urbanized Area. 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 Resurfacing Project between Via Bella and West Third Streets in the City of Williamsport.*
- *Interstate 180 Bridge Deck Replacement Project over the Lycoming Valley Railroad in the City of Williamsport.*
- *West Fourth Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project over Lycoming Creek in the City of Williamsport.*

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, most 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.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE 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 are taken to enable members of the public to comment on the WATS TIP.

A 30 day public comment period is held. During this time, the draft TIP is posted on the Lycoming County website www.lyco.org and at offices of all 109 interested parties identified in this 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 advertised in the Williamsport Sun Gazette in 3 separate newspaper editions during this 30 day period. A public meeting is also convened by the Lycoming County Planning Commission during the comment period as federally required. The County also uses Facebook, Twitter, a YouTube video and Googleplus as social media for the first time to broaden its TIP public outreach techniques. Notices are also sent to all Native American Indian Tribes and Nations whose ancestors had at one time lived in Lycoming County.

The TIP projects are derived from the Williamsport MPO 2013-2033 Long Range Transportation Plan adopted by the WATS MPO on December 19, 2013. As part of the LRTP public outreach process, a TV series on the plan is shown 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.

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 as part of this Public Participation Plan.



Compliance with Limited English Proficiency, (LEP)

According to American Community Survey, 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. This LEP population breakdown for Lycoming County is illustrated below

**Lycoming County Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Profile
2007-2011 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates**

	Lycoming County, Estimate	Margin of
Total:	109,884	+/-37
Speak only English	106,466	+/-430
Spanish or Spanish Creole:	1,197	+/-216
Speak English "very well"	898	+/-201
Speak English less than "very well"	299	+/-90
French (incl. Patois, Cajun):	180	+/-91
Speak English "very well"	162	+/-91
Speak English less than "very well"	18	+/-18
French Creole:	38	+/-60
Speak English "very well"	16	+/-25
Speak English less than "very well"	22	+/-35
Italian:	119	+/-60
Speak English "very well"	73	+/-36
Speak English less than "very well"	46	+/-39
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole:	2	+/-4
Speak English "very well"	2	+/-4
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
German:	535	+/-218
Speak English "very well"	435	+/-178
Speak English less than "very well"	100	+/-72
Yiddish:	17	+/-26
Speak English "very well"	17	+/-26
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Other West Germanic languages:	450	+/-232
Speak English "very well"	248	+/-99
Speak English less than "very well"	202	+/-166

Scandinavian languages:	0	+/-81
Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Greek:	8	+/-8
Speak English "very well"	8	+/-8
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Russian:	105	+/-76
Speak English "very well"	65	+/-62
Speak English less than "very well"	40	+/-42
Polish:	47	+/-36
Speak English "very well"	40	+/-34
Speak English less than "very well"	7	+/-10
Serbo-Croatian:	43	+/-49
Speak English "very well"	29	+/-39
Speak English less than "very well"	14	+/-23
Other Slavic languages:	0	+/-81
Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Armenian:	7	+/-9
Speak English "very well"	3	+/-4
Speak English less than "very well"	4	+/-5
Persian:	0	+/-81
Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Gujarati:	117	+/-112
Speak English "very well"	16	+/-23
Speak English less than "very well"	101	+/-115
Hindi:	33	+/-48
Speak English "very well"	19	+/-29
Speak English less than "very well"	14	+/-21
Urdu:	0	+/-81
Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Other Indic languages:	56	+/-47
Speak English "very well"	53	+/-44
Speak English less than "very well"	3	+/-6
Other Indo-European languages:	29	+/-23
Speak English "very well"	23	+/-16
Speak English less than "very well"	6	+/-9
Chinese:	40	+/-43
Speak English "very well"	27	+/-24
Speak English less than "very well"	13	+/-22
Japanese:	25	+/-23
Speak English "very well"	15	+/-18
Speak English less than "very well"	10	+/-15
Korean:	17	+/-18
Speak English "very well"	2	+/-5
Speak English less than "very well"	15	+/-18
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian:	12	+/-21
Speak English "very well"	5	+/-9
Speak English less than "very well"	7	+/-13
Hmong:	0	+/-81
Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Thai:	0	+/-81

Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Laotian:	0	+/-81
Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Vietnamese:	82	+/-63
Speak English "very well"	21	+/-23
Speak English less than "very well"	61	+/-54
Other Asian languages:	94	+/-67
Speak English "very well"	72	+/-56
Speak English less than "very well"	22	+/-33
Tagalog:	35	+/-32
Speak English "very well"	30	+/-31
Speak English less than "very well"	5	+/-6
Other Pacific Island languages:	26	+/-36
Speak English "very well"	24	+/-36
Speak English less than "very well"	2	+/-3
Navajo:	0	+/-81
Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Other Native North American	41	+/-58
Speak English "very well"	41	+/-58
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Hungarian:	0	+/-81
Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Arabic:	37	+/-32
Speak English "very well"	2	+/-3
Speak English less than "very well"	35	+/-32
Hebrew:	0	+/-81
Speak English "very well"	0	+/-81
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
African languages:	14	+/-25
Speak English "very well"	14	+/-25
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81
Other and unspecified languages:	12	+/-22
Speak English "very well"	12	+/-22
Speak English less than "very well"	0	+/-81

The WATS MPO complies with LEP requirements by including in the WATS public meeting notices the availability of LEP language translation services upon advance notification. The WATS MPO has LEP translation service availability through PennDOT contract with **Propio Language Services**. Therefore, this plan document may be translated into other languages to facilitate public review by LEP individuals upon request.



Compliance with PA Sunshine Law

All WATS public meetings are publicly advertised in the Williamsport Sun Gazette at least 7 days prior to the meeting and are open to the general public. Public information requests for WATS produced documents are handled directly by the Lycoming County Right to Know Public Information Officer in a manner that is in compliance with state law. Minutes of all WATS public meetings are prepared by LCPC and are posted on the website after WATS approval at their public meeting and copies are publicly available from the LCPC office upon request.

Compliance with Public Participation Plan

The WATS MPO initially developed a Public Participation Plan in 1994 with subsequent plan updates since that time to ensure compliance with federal public participation requirements and to respond to changing demographics and emerging new technologies that have become available to the WATS MPO to improve public outreach techniques. This plan provides a demographic overview of Lycoming County based on Census information, identifies “interested parties” for WATS targeted public outreach in response to federal requirements and outlines a variety of techniques used by WATS to conduct its public outreach program. The updated demographic profiles for Lycoming County which serve as a foundation of WATS public outreach were outlined earlier in this plan. This section of the plan will focus on the identification of “interested parties” in response to federal requirements along with discussion of WATS public outreach techniques used in Long Range Plan, TIP development and other WATS programs.

Interested Parties

Interested parties are generally defined under federal SAFETEA-LU legislation. In response, the WATS MPO has further defined interested parties to ensure local public participation among all categories of transportation users and stakeholders defined in the law. The WATS Public Participation Plan identifies the following organizations as interested parties:

- PennDOT
- River Valley Transit
- SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority
- Norfolk Southern
- STEP
- Billtown Cab
- Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce
- Lycoming County Tourist Promotion Agency
- Lycoming County Industrial Properties Corporation
- All 52 Lycoming County Municipalities (Inc. Townships / Boros Association)
- Susquehanna Trailways
- Williamsport Bicycle Club
- Our Towns 2010
- PA Motor Truck Association
- SEDA-COG
- West Branch Manufacturers Association
- West Branch Council of Governments
- Pine Creek Council of Governments
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Williamsport Municipal Airport Authority
- PA Aviation Advisory Committee
- Williamsport Parking Authority
- Lycoming County Housing Finance, Inc.
- First Communities Foundation of PA
- Route 15 Coalition
- Appalachian Thruway Association
- PA Highway Information Association
- Children's Development Center
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Easter Seal Society
- Susquehanna Health
- Bi-County Office for the Aging
- American Association of Retired People
- Lycoming County Mental Health and Mental Retardation
- Hope Enterprises
- Williamsport Home

- Center of Independent Living / Roads to Freedom of Northcentral PA
- Rose View Manor
- Sycamore Manor
- Manor Care Health Services
- North Central Sight Services
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- American Cancer Society
- Lycoming Valley Association for the Deaf
- American Lung Association of Central PA
- Lycoming County Public Assistance Office
- Williamsport YMCA/YWCA
- Valley View Nursing Home
- The Center
- Lycoming College
- Penn College
- Career-Link
- Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition
- AFSCME
- Coalition for Responsible Growth and Resource Conservation

The WATS MPO conducts directly mailings to the above-listed organizations during development of the WATS Long Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Program and other WATS initiatives as appropriate.



**Williamsport/Lycoming
Chamber of Commerce**

WATS Public Outreach Techniques

The Lycoming County Planning Commission utilizes a variety of public outreach techniques to encourage public participation in the development of WATS programs, including the Long Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. These outreach techniques are summarized on the next page.

Public Participation Element	Outreach Technique
WATS Documents Availability	LCPC Office, Interested Party mailings, county website www.lyco.org . Utilize social media such as Facebook, Twitter, GooglePlus and You Tube. Tribal nations notification.
Comment Opportunities	Public meeting, written comments (email or hardcopy)
Public Meeting	Hold minimum of 1 public meeting during public comment period and 1 public meeting at plan adoption stage
Public Comment Period Notice	Publish legal notice at least 30 calendar days prior to TIP public comment period ending and 45 calendar days for Long Range Plan and Public Involvement Plan Updates. (Public Notice published in the Williamsport Sun Gazette minimum of 3 times.)
Public Meeting Notice	Publish legal notice at least 7 calendar days prior to public meeting (published in Williamsport Sun Gazette)
Public Comment Summary	Prepare a summary of comments received during public comment period
Visualization Techniques	Where appropriate, make use of Lyco- Geographic Information System, (GIS) to develop maps, charts, figures, power-point presentations and public displays.

NEW INNOVATIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TECHNIQUE

Lycoming County Area Television, (LCAT)

In addition to the previously mentioned public outreach techniques, a major new public outreach initiative has begun in Lycoming County. Lycoming County Area Television (LCAT) is a nonprofit entity filling a significant gap in the education-government information dissemination throughout Lycoming County. There is currently very limited or sporadic television coverage of major events within the county. Regional TV stations, operating in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton Areas have no incentive to provide this type of programming throughout Lycoming County since we are on the fringe of their 12 county viewing area and lack the type of population figures that make it financially worthwhile for the for-profit TV companies, located over 100 miles away to cover.



LCAT is broadcasting on the existing Comcast Channel # 75 program with content that is educational and / or governmental. LCAT intends to design and activate an associated web site for announcing program content and for providing "Live Streaming" of broadcast material to listeners/viewers across the internet. Program content will help promote regional tourism opportunities, focus on community events, provide viewing of governmental meetings and presentations of local interest, and serve as a direct means of disseminating public safety and emergency information, a function particularly important to the County. The County has developed a video series featuring the 2013-2033 WATS Long Range Transportation Plan which aired on LCAT during the 45 day public comment period during November-December, 2013 and has been re-broadcast on a continual basis since 2013. WATS access to the other area-wide TV stations such as WNEP, WBRE, WYOU will continue be maintained as well along with radio, newspaper and internet. The LCPC, working with PennDOT, maintains a comprehensive, updated media contact list for distribution of press releases and other important public information announcements about WATS plans and TIP projects.

2013-2033 WATS Long Range Plan Development Public Meeting Schedule

There were 11 publicly advertised meetings held or arranged by WATS during the development of this WATS Long Range Transportation Plan Update as follows:

<i>Public Meeting</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Place</i>
WATS Technical Committee (Plan Kickoff)	December 17, 2012 (10 AM)	Executive Plaza 330 Pine St Williamsport, PA
WATS Technical Committee	February 7, 2013 (10 AM)	Executive Plaza
WATS Coordinating Committee	February 25, 2013 (1 PM)	Executive Plaza
WATS Technical Committee	May 7, 2013 (10 AM)	Executive Plaza
WATS Coordinating Committee	May 28, 2013 (1 PM)	Executive Plaza
WATS Technical Committee	September 25, 2013 (10 AM)	Executive Plaza
WATS Coordinating Committee	October 8, 2013 (1 PM)	Executive Plaza
Lycoming County Planning Comm.	November 21, 2013 (6PM)	Executive Plaza
WATS Technical Committee	December 10, 2013 (10 AM)	River Valley Transit 1500 West 3 rd St. Williamsport, PA
Lycoming County Commissioners	December 12, 2013 (10 AM)	Executive Plaza
WATS Coordinating Committee (WATS MPO Plan Adoption)	December 19, 2013 (1 PM)	Executive Plaza

The WATS Technical Committee served as the overall WATS Long Range Plan development steering committee. In addition to the above noted public meeting schedule, an Agency Coordination Meeting, (ACM) consultation was held with ACM participation environmental agencies on October 23, 2013 fulfilling the federal environmental consultation public involvement requirements. A federally required 45 day public comment period was advertised by WATS following the ACM presentation which began on November 1, 2013 and concluded on December 15, 2013 for this draft Long Range Transportation Plan. All public comments were summarized and addressed prior to the WATS MPO plan adoption date on December 19, 2013. The next Long Range Plan Update adoption is scheduled for December 31, 2018.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

- ✓ Visit the County of Lycoming website at www.lyco.org to view and download WATS MPO transportation related information pertaining to the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program and other planning documents, videos and programs. Upcoming public meeting notices are posted on the website, including meeting agendas, meeting minutes and related materials. The County of Lycoming has recently initiated a variety of social media public outreach efforts so you can visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus and You Tube. The complete TV Series featuring the 2013-2033 WATS Long Range Transportation Plan aired on LCAT Comcast Channel 75 is now available for viewing at www.lyco.org.
- ✓ Review the Williamsport Sun Gazette newspaper legal ad section for WATS MPO Public Meeting advertisements and Long Range Plan and TIP public comment periods.
- ✓ Attend WATS MPO public meetings. All meetings are open to the public and there are public comment opportunities on all agenda items at the beginning and conclusion of each meeting. Public discussion during agenda items may also be entertained at the discretion of the WATS Chairman. WATS Technical Committee and Coordinating Committee meetings are usually held quarterly (every three months) throughout the year, however the schedule may vary somewhat depending upon the urgency of certain committee business.
- ✓ Contact the Lycoming County Planning Commission with questions, concerns and comments on transportation issues. Our contact information is provided below:

Mark Murawski, Lycoming County Transportation Planner
Lycoming County Planning Commission
48 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Phone Number (570) 320-2138
Fax Number (570) 320-2135
Email: mark.murawski@lyco.org
Website: www.lyco.org

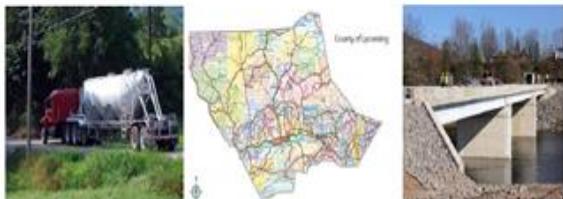
Office Hours 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Monday through Friday

Fully accessible Public Transportation provided by River Valley Transit. Contact (570) 326-2500 for more information or visit ridervt.com.

FUTURE PLAN EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The WATS MPO will periodically evaluate the procedures for public participation including the review of public meeting attendance, the frequency and nature of public comments received on WATS planning documents, website and social media interaction and any other comments or suggestions. The findings will be incorporated as part of subsequent WATS Public Participation Plan updates and public involvement activities.

WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
2013-2033 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN



MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



Prepared By Lycoming County Planning and Community Development

Adopted By WATS MPO Coordinating Committee
December 19, 2013

