

WATS Coordinating Committee Members

Lycoming County Board of Commissioners
Lycoming County Borough Representative
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority
Mayor, City of Williamsport
River Valley Transit
Williamsport City Council
Williamsport Regional Airport
PennDOT Engineering District 3-0
Lycoming County Association of Township Officials
PennDOT Center for Program Development & Management



WATS Technical Committee Members

Lycoming County Planning & Community Development
PennDOT Engineering District 3-0
City of Williamsport
River Valley Transit
Williamsport Regional Airport
Lycoming County Planning Commission
PennDOT Center for Program Development & Management

The WATS MPO is staffed by the Lycoming County
Department of Planning & Community Development
48 W. Third St, Williamsport PA 17701 • (570) 320-2130



**WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY MPO TRANSIT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING**

DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2022
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Virtual Meeting
Dial-In Number: 1 (267) 332-8737
Conference Code: 184 771 269#
[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER Vitko

MINUTES:
November 18, 2021 Vitko

PUBLIC COMMENT Vitko

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Introductions / Meeting Purpose Vitko
- River Valley Transit Service Update Wright
 - Transition to River Valley Transit Authority
 - BeST Transit Management Update
 - Service Updates
 - Rider Promotions
- STEP, Inc. Service Update Merk
 - STEP Service Update
 - Lycoming County Diversability Committee Update
 - Find My Ride Update
- WATS MPO
 - Long Range Transportation Plan Update..... Williams
- Consumer Comments Group
- Next Scheduled Meeting Date Vitko

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT..... Vitko

ADJOURN..... Vitko

All meeting materials also available on [WATS MPO Website \(http://www.lyco.org/WATS-MPO/Committees\)](http://www.lyco.org/WATS-MPO/Committees)

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WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2021 Transit Advisory Committee Teleconference Public Meeting: Held at various locations via teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER (WATS Transit Advisory Committee Teleconference Public Meeting)

Sal Vitko called the meeting to order at 2:01 P.M.

MINUTES

May 13, 2021 Transit Advisory Committee Public Meeting

Sal Vitko asked if there were any issues or questions on the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes. Sal explained the request is to approve the meeting minutes to ensure the meeting minutes were a fair and accurate representation of what occurred at the meeting, and that a vote to approve the minutes was not needed. Committee members shared no changes or concerns with the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes and the meeting minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS

Introductions / Meeting Purpose

Sal Vitko conducted a roll call of all participants who attended the meeting. Sal Vitko gave a brief overview of the WATS Transit Advisory Committee's purpose and the partnership with River Valley Transit (RVT) and STEP, Inc.

2022 Transit Advisory Meeting Dates

Sal presented the 2022 Transit Advisory Committee meeting dates and asked the Committee if there were any issues or concerns with the Thursday, May 12 and Thursday, November 17, 2022 meeting dates. Hearing none, the proposed meeting dates were approved.

RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT SERVICE UPDATE

F.R.I.T.S. Project

Todd Wright presented on the Fixed Route Intelligent Transportation System (F.R.I.T.S.) project. Todd informed the Committee that River Valley Transit (RVT) is about ninety-nine percent complete with implementing the F.R.I.T.S. project. The project has allowed RVT to

introduce a mobile application with “real time” ride information. RVT’s bus routes are integrated in real time with Google Transit and users can track the buses.

Todd stated that the F.R.I.T.S. project also allows the RVT maintenance department to track maintenance needs on the fleet vehicles and maintenance receives real time notifications of bus maintenance needs. Todd stated that the buses have been upgraded with between 8-12 high definition cameras that automatically download to a server once the buses return to the terminal.

Todd stated that there is still infrastructure that RVT has to implement but the project is almost complete.

PennDOT Act 44 Report

Todd presented on the PennDOT Act 44 Report. Todd informed the Committee that the Act 44 Performance Report was completed in September 2021 and the report is available on the PennDOT website. Todd stated that the Report is a peer comparison on how RVT compares to similar transit agencies.

Todd stated that RVT complies with all the performance criteria except one from 2019, the operating cost per revenue hour. Todd informed the Committee that RVT has begun to make corrections to administrative operations, which will bring RVT into compliance.

Todd stated that the functional review portion of the Act 44 Report showed that RVT has strong brand awareness and marketing, and that RVT operates above the industry average regarding level of service with a population of less than 200,000. Todd stated that the operating measures section of the Act 44 Report had some issues with grant management and how RVT and the City of Williamsport have been co-mingled.

Todd stated that RVT created a new action plan for the fiscal year 2021 review. Todd stressed that one of the bigger items RVT is looking at is governance of the transit system itself. Todd informed the Committee that PennDOT and the RVT general manager both prefer the creation of a separate Transit Authority to oversee RVT operations. Todd stated that RVT has worked with their solicitor and began conversations with the Lycoming County Commissioners on the Transit Authority. Tentatively, RVT is working towards creating the Transit Authority in July 2022.

Sal Vitko asked if RVT would like the Act 44 Report put up on the Transit Advisory Committee website, Todd said that would be helpful.

Rider Promotions/Satisfaction Survey

Todd Wright informed the Committee that RVT is currently providing Free Ride Friday’s until the end of December. Todd stated that RVT is working with Data Centric to create a customer survey that will be deployed after January 1, 2021.

Service Updates

Todd stated that RVT is working on getting the Tri-Town and Lycoming Mall routes integrated with the new Geisinger Hospital facility. Todd stated that RVT is close to having the service schedule finalized and that RVT will begin service around 6:45 a.m. and the last trip will be 5:45 p.m.

Todd informed the Committee that RVT is still providing service to Lock Haven in Clinton County and that he believes that route will last until the end of the current fiscal year. Todd stated that after the fiscal year RVT would review the route to determine how it is performing.

STEP, INC. SERVICE UPDATE

STEP's Find My Ride Application Process

Dan Merk stated that the STEP Find My Ride application process is moving quickly and that the application is the primary method being used to request STEP transportation. Dan stated that users can register online and they are sent to the PennDOT site. Dan stated that the application process is much faster at getting users into the transportation programs as opposed to the paper application process STEP previously utilized.

Dan stated that if a user needs a specific form, that STEP works with doctor offices to assist with receiving the form. Dan stated that the next update to the Find My Ride application process would be in January-February 2022.

Find My Ride Reservations, anticipated January-February 2022

Dan informed the Committee that in January-February 2022 users would be able to access the state system for Find My Ride and be able to place a reservation. The new process will allow users to book/reserve their own trip.

Mark Murawski asked how the online reservations compares to the call-in reservations. Dan stated that on any given day roughly twenty percent of the reservations are via the online process.

STEP Title VI Policy Update

Dan informed the Committee that STEP, Inc. updated their Title VI Policy. Dan stated that the PennDOT gave STEP, Inc. received a pre-view final approval letter and STEP is addressing some website updates that are required. Dan stated that STEP, Inc. performed the 4-factor analysis to review their service area in Lycoming County utilizing the American Community Survey (ACS). Dan stated that STEP, Inc. uses a service called *Interpretrack* for translation services for transit users who require translation services.

Sal Vitko asked if Dan would like the STEP, Inc. Title VI Policy put out on the Transit Advisory website. Dan stated that putting the Title VI Plan on the website is a good idea.

Lycoming County Divers-ability Awareness Committee

Dan Merk informed the Committee that Commissioners Metzger and Mirabito chair the Lycoming County Divers-ability Committee, which focuses on advocacy and awareness on issues for those with divers needs. Dan stated that he sits on the transportation subcommittee of the Divers-ability Committee. Dan informed the Committee that he would be speaking at the BLAST IU school-work conference.

Service Update

Dan stated that STEP, Inc. is up roughly 12-15% on trips compared to 2020. Dan stated that the two main users are elder care facilities and Hope Enterprises; however, Hope Enterprises day program is paused currently so it affects the numbers.

Mark Murawski asked if STEP, Inc. is experiencing driver shortages. Dan stated that STEP, Inc. is okay on drivers, but the number of drivers in their applicant pool for future drivers is lower than in previous years. Todd Wright stated that RVT is facing similar issues with their drive application pool.

CONSUMER COMMENTS

There were no consumer comments.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE

Sal stated that the next scheduled WATS Transit Advisory Committee meeting will be **Thursday, May 12, 2022** at 2:00 p.m. If the meeting will not be in-person, the MPO will set up a virtual meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no other public comments.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business or public comment, Sal called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Merk gave the motion and Todd Wright seconded. Sal stated that the next meeting should be in person, however, if it is virtual the MPO will send out virtual meeting information. Sal adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully, Submitted,
Scott Williams
WATS Secretary