

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Commissioners:

R. Jack McKernan, Chairman
Tony R. Mussare, Vice Chairman
Richard Mirabito, Secretary

Location:

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WATS TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 7, 2019

ATTENDEES:

Kevin Kilpatrick – RVT
Mark Murawski – WATS MPO
Scott Williams – WATS MPO
Sal Vitko – WATS MPO
Dan Merk – STEP
Steve Herman – SEDA-COG

Andrew Kremser – RVT
Rob Labatch – HOPE
Greg Foresman – AristaCare
Rachael Ulmer – CareerLink
Robert Young – General Public

Mark Murawski called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM and welcomed everybody. Mark asked everybody to introduce themselves and sign in.

Mark provided a brief overview of the history of the committee and the importance of getting public feedback on transportation services in Lycoming County. Mark then opened the floor for public comment. Hearing no comments, we proceeded with the agenda.

River Valley Transit – Fixed Route Service Update

Kevin Kilpatrick from River Valley Transit (RVT) provided an update on the fixed route services provided by RVT. Kevin distributed the new Lycoming County Ride Guide, the new Clinton County Ride Guide, the Route Changes Notice, the BeST/RVT Sullivan County Connector, and the BeST/RVT Tioga County Connector brochures.

RVT celebrated its 50th anniversary on August 9th of providing fixed route transportation with many special events in August. RVT published two new Ride Guides that included some route modifications, which were outlined on the Notice of Route Changes. RVT is anticipating the arrival of four more CNG buses in December, which will bring our fleet to 95% CNG. RVT continues to work on transit regionalization between RVT and BeST Transit with the implementation of two new rural connector routes. Andrew Kremser provided an overall description of the Sullivan County Connector route that provides service on Thursdays between Laporte and Williamsport and the Tioga County Connector route that provides service on Tuesdays between Covington and Williamsport.

In terms of transit service to the south of Lycoming County, RVT will be submitting a transit feasibility study to PennDOT in December for transit service to Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour and Columbia Counties with Lycoming County. RVT has been working with the Central PA Transportation Coalition and SEDA-COG on this proposed transit service. Last, RVT mentioned the Title VI and DBE programs have been updated and submitted to FTA for review. All these federal programs are now on RVT's website and RVT is in compliance with all Federal and State civil rights programs.

STEP Transportation – Shared Ride Service Update

Dan Merk from STEP Transportation provided an update on the MATP Brokerage Study. The Interim Report has been submitted for review, but it was stated at the PPTA Conference that no specific recommendations were provided. The Final Report is due to DHS by December 28, 2019. It is believed that by February or March DHS may name Brokers, unless legislation passes to prevent the change.

Community Health Choices (CHC) will be launched January 1, 2020 in this region. STEP will be a transportation provider for Coordinated Transportation Solutions (CTS) who is the broker for the UPMC Insurance Plan and Medical Transportation Management (MTM) the broker for the AmeriHealth Plan under the Community Health Choices (CHC) program.

Community Health Choices is Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care program for individuals who are dually eligible for both Medical Assistance and Medicare, older adults, and individuals with physical disabilities — serving more people in communities while giving them the opportunity to work, spend more time with their families, and experience an overall better quality of life. CHC is improving services for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians.

The CHC population essentially consists of two groups: 1) DUAL-ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS-Individuals enrolled in both Medicare and Medical Assistance and 2) PARTICIPANTS NEEDING LTSS SERVICES-Individuals who qualify for Medical Assistance long-term services and supports (LTSS) due to a need for the level of care provided by a nursing facility.

The Brokers will be determining eligibility and refer trips under the CHC program for STEP to perform.

An update was provided regarding services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) consumers. All individuals serviced by STEP Transportation who needed interpreting services required help with translating Spanish. STEP utilizes Language Services Associates for 24/7 interpreting services.

SEDA-COG Update

Steve Herman from SEDA-COG updated the committee regarding the SEDA-COG and WATS Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. The plan's purpose is to satisfy federal/state coordinated transit planning requirements, update previous plans reflect recent consolidation, data, needs surveys, trends, initiatives and strategies, ensure projects remain eligible for transit funding programs and to "spur" action and implementation.

The plan is coordinated between the two MPO's because of the contiguous nature of transportation needs of the two counties. The main target populations are Senior Citizens, Persons with Disabilities and Individuals with Low Incomes.

Public Outreach was conducted using Resident/Organization 2018 surveys, CPTC/WATS TAC meetings, SEDA-COG & WATS MPO Meetings, Three Public Listening sessions and Key Stakeholder Interviews.

Strategies were divided into three categories: 1) Coordination of Transportation Services and Resources, 2) Mobility Strategies, and 3) Communication, Training, and Organizational Support.

WATS Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Scott Williams provided an update on the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan Update. This plan is out for public review and a handout was distributed describing the plan highlights and important public review meeting dates coming up. The focus of the plan is on maintenance and maintaining the existing transportation system (highways and bridges) we have in place in Lycoming County.

Other Comments

Throughout the meeting, comments were made by the general public on the above transportation updates.

No other additional consumer or public comments were made during the meeting.

The next meeting will be held at the Trade & Transit Centre II Building, Third Floor, Michael Ross Event Center at 1:00 PM on May 7, 2020 (Note: May 7, 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 closures and Governor Wolf's Stay-at-Home order).