

WATS Coordinating Committee Members

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



WATS Technical Committee Members

STEP, Inc.
City of Williamsport
River Valley Transit Authority
Williamsport Regional Airport
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority
PennDOT Engineering District 3-0
Lycoming County Planning Commission
Lycoming County Planning & Community Development
PennDOT Center for Program Development & Management

WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY MPO TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 16, 2024
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Lycoming County Third Street Plaza, 6th Floor
33 W. Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
Virtual Option: Dial-In Number: 1 (267) 332-8737
Conference Code: 894 766 395#
[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER..... Vitko

MINUTES:

October 19, 2023..... Vitko

PUBLIC COMMENT..... Vitko

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Introductions / Meeting Purpose..... Vitko
- River Valley Transit Authority Service Update.....Wright
 - General Service Update
 - Organization Update
 - Strategic Planning Update
- STEP, Inc. Service Update..... Merk
 - Clinton County Designated Stop Program
 - Lycoming County Veterans Initiative
 - General Update on STEP Services
- WATS MPO
 - 2024 – 2025 WATS UPWP Adoption Vitko
 - 2025 – 2028 WATS TIP Adoption Vitko
 - SEDA-COG / WATS Coordinated Transit Plan..... Vitko
- Consumer Comments.....Group

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)
The May 16, 2024 WATS Transit Advisory Committee meeting will be recorded. This information is a public record and may be subject to public inspection and duplication if not protected by federal or state law.

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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 TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2023 Transit Advisory Committee Teleconference Public Meeting: Held at 33 W. Third Street, 6th Floor, Williamsport, PA 17701 and various locations via teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER (Regular WATS Coordinating Committee Public Meeting)

Sal Vitko called the meeting to order at 2:01 P.M. He went through the list of persons attending in person or calling in

MINUTES

May 18, 2023 Transit Advisory Committee Public Meeting

Sal Vitko asked if there were any issues or questions on the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Sal explained the request is to approve the meeting minutes were a fair and accurate representation of what occurred at the meeting, Motion to approve the minutes by Dean, 2nd by Todd

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS

Introductions / Meeting Purpose

- **Meeting Purpose**-Sal Vitko gave a brief overview of the WATS Transit Advisory Committee's purpose... The TA is a standing WATS advisory committee that assists and provides feedback to the WATS Tech. and Coordinating Committees. The TA meets twice a year and is a forum for the public to learn about transit initiatives and to voice concerns or praise on transit related issues/services.
- **River Valley Transit Authority Service Update**-Todd Wright spoke of how RVTA is currently working on a promotion with the Library called "Books on a Bus". On the busier routes-Newberry and Montoursville there are free books on the bus. The Library donated them to us. Children and adults can read these books on the bus or take them with them. The Token Transit app for a smartphone is a fare media We are looking into credit cards to be able to be used for fares besides the cash and paper passes that are currently being used. We have gotten very positive comments on the token app. There are about 250 unique monthly users.
- Part of our organization update is The Strategic Plan. It was updated and finalized and can be found on the RVTA website .The title of the Strategic Plan is RESET, RECOVERY, REACH FORWARD.

- Our Vision and Values Statement is: AN EMPLOYEE/ CUSTOMER DRIVEN TEAM THAT DELIVERS SAFE, ACCESIBLE, CLEAN AND RELIABLE TRANSIT SERVICES FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

The values of the organization are: SAFETY, CUSTOMER SERVICE, ACCESSIBILITY, TEAMWORK AND INTEGRITY.

We did establish an outreach program which has been very successful with non profits. We have received good feedback from organizations. With these new partnerships we have been able to get more people on the bus, which is one of our main goals.

One of the other things in our Strategic plan is to be able to get an updated transit development plan with PennDot and get a consultant engaged to help us get this process underway-Todd was hoping in the Spring of next year if possible.

Chris Gartelman mentioned that she takes the bus every day and how impressed she was with the quality of the service and how good the drivers are to passengers.

Mark M asked when they lose drivers, is it difficult to replace them? Todd stated that they were lucky to have a good pool. The most important quality they feel in hiring a driver is not whether or not they can drive, but there interaction with RVTA's customers. They can be taught how to drive a bus, but RVTA feels their customer service is more important.

A question came up from Mark Murawski as to the requirement for a bus driver...do they need to know the mechanics, because a regular CDL driver does. He was told that there is reforming coming up within the State that the CDL requirements will not be as stringent for those drivers carrying passengers

- ***Step, Inc Service Update*** – Dan Merch was speaking about Clinton County Designated Stop program because there are people who travel from Clinton County and back to Lycoming County. We have 3 routes in Clinton County... Mill Hall/Lock Haven, Renovo to Lock Haven, Lock Haven to Williamsport. One place we do go to is Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. We do go 3X a day. In our designated stops we do not travel into Williamsport because we have RVTA Lycoming County Veterans Initiative has partnered with us to be able to transport veterans within Lycoming County and over to Wilkes Barre where the Veterans Health Clinic is located. In looking at all our trips in the last 5 years with PennDot, the majority is in service areas. What we are trying to do is to compress the areas and help to save time for the customers. Initially, we have had some difficulty in finding drivers, but lately we find that there are more applicants. Chris Gartelman asked if someone wanted to use STEP in one of the designated stops, would that only be available to over 65year old passengers? Dan said any age can use the designated stops
- ***2023 LRTP Update Public Comment period***-Sal said the Long Range Transportation Plan for 2023-2024 is up for public comment. Public comment ends at on Oct 30th We are expecting to present this to the Technical Committee and the have it approved at the Coordinating Committee. The dates for the meetings in 2024 will be Thursday May 16th and Thursday Oct 17, 2024
- Motion to adjourn by Dan Merck

