

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 18, 2023
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: 597 161 738#
[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER Vitko

MINUTES:

November 17, 2022..... 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 Diversability Initiative
 - General Update on STEP Services
- WATS MPO
 - [Long Range Transportation Plan Update](#)..... Williams
- 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)

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WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2022 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.

MINUTES

May 12, 2022 Transit Advisory Committee Public Meeting

Sal Vitko asked if there were any issues or questions on the **May 12, 2022** 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 12, 2022 meeting minutes and the meeting minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS

Introductions / Meeting Purpose

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.

Due to a scheduling issue the STEP, Inc. update was moved until after the River Valley Transit Authority (RVTA) update.

RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RVTA) SERVICE UPDATE

General Services Update

Todd Wright informed the Committee that RVTA is seeking to procure a new transit route scheduling software, Optibus. Todd stated that the new software will allow RVTA to make schedule/route changes on their own and provides RVTA a cost savings.

Todd stated that RVTA ridership has risen over last years numbers and that RVTA provided transportation to around 150 per day during the Little League World Series. Todd informed the Committee that the RVTA Board is still working on the financial plan and the 5-year strategic

plan. Todd stated he hopes to have more updates at the next Transit Advisory Committee meeting on both plans.

Upcoming Rider Promotions

Todd mentioned a number of rider promotions including the recent Veterans rider promotion and the upcoming December Pass it Forward EZ Pass promotion.

DBE Program Outreach

Todd stated that RVTA held a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) public meeting on September 21, 2022. As a recipient of federal funds RVTA created the DBE Program to establish an annual goal to expend federal funds with DBE firms, including small businesses. The meeting was held to seek input from the public and interested parties on the availability of DBE's and non-DBE businesses who provide services that RVTA utilizes.

Token Transit App

Todd Wright stated that RVTA will start using Token Transit app in December to buy virtual passes. Customers can purchase the pass on their smart phone. The customer can show the driver the virtual pass to board the bus. Todd stated that the Token Transit app is not meant to replace paper tickets, but is just another avenue for customers to purchase a fare for the fixed route system.

Mark Murawski had a question for Steve Herman and asked if the fixed route service extension in the SEDA-COG region is still on hold or if there is any movement on that project? Steve stated that the project is kind of on pause and Rabbit Transit is currently meeting the needs of micro-transit services in the SEDA-COG region. Mark asked if SEDA-COG can keep the WATS staff updated as issues arise or items progress.

Todd Wright asked Steve if there was any discussion of infrastructure needs in the SEDA-COG transit study. Steve stated that the study focused on origin/destination and the routes and number/location of stops.

Mark suggested that perhaps the Transit Advisory Committee should wait until after the first of the new year, with the new PA Governor's administration to have STEP, Inc., SEDA-COG, WATS, and RVTA to have a work session to discuss what, if anything those organizations can do to assist.

STEP, INC. SERVICE UPDATE

Clinton County Designated Stop Program

Rachelle Abbott filled in for Dan Merk. Rachelle stated that the second route, Renovo to Lock Haven route, started this week. The Renovo to Lock Haven route will run Mon., Wed., Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Rachelle stated that the Mill Hall to Lock Haven route was launched on October 23, 2022, and that the route runs Monday thru Friday.

Rachelle stated that the third route, Lock Haven to Williamsport, will launch on January 9, 2023 and will run Monday thru Thursday. Rachelle stated that these trips are sort of a hybrid shared ride/fixed route and that riders will need a reservation the day prior to the ride.

Lycoming County Diversability Committee Update

Rachelle stated that Dan Merk has been focused as the head of the transportation piece of the Diversability Committee. Also, STEP, Inc. has coordinated with the Lycoming County Transition Council and is the provider of transportation services for the Office of Vocational and Rehabilitation Services providing transportation for students to work from school.

Geisinger MCO Project

Rachelle stated that STEP, Inc. is coordinating with Rabbit Transit and is contracted with Geisinger to provide transportation to a number of locations grocery store, food bank, Office of Aging, Career Link, etc. Rachelle stated that STEP, Inc. is seeing a number of riders since partnering with Rabbit Transit on the project.

General Update on STEP Services

Rachelle stated that STEP, Inc. is up 23% in ridership over this quarter in 2022. Rachelle stated that the Find My Ride app is doing well and STEP is receiving positive feedback from users. Rachelle informed the Committee that UPMC patient discharge program is going well and that from July thru October STEP, Inc. has provided 90 rides for discharged patients.

Sal asked if anyone had any questions for Rachelle. Hearing none, Sal moved on to the next agenda item.

WATS MPO

Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Scott Williams stated the WATS MPO is currently updating the Long-Range Transportation Plan LRTP, and this update the MPO is doing a complete rewrite of the LRTP. Scott stated that he is seeking information from STEP, Inc. and RVTA and that he will be reaching out to both entities for some information to use for the LRTP.

Scott stated that he will reach out to both entities with a list of data sets that he will be updating for the new LRTP. Scott stated that if anyone perceives any unmet needs in the transportation system to reach out to him directly to address those concerns.

WATS Transit Committee 2023 Meeting Dates

Sal presented the suggested 2023 WATS Transit Advisory Committee meeting dates. Sal asked if there were any questions or concerns on the meeting dates. Hearing none, Sal stated that he will update the WATS MPO website with the 2023 meeting dates.

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 18, 2023** at 2:00 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mark asked with the proposed repurposing of the Lycoming Mall property project if any of the developers have reached out to either RVTA or STEP, Inc. about their transit needs for the proposed development and how that may impact ridership.

Rachelle stated that no one involved with the Lycoming Mall project has reached out to STEP, Inc. Todd Wright stated that no one has reached out directly to him. The RVTA Marketing Director did mention the development at the mall, but nothing has been sent to RVTA at this time.

Mark commented that it is important that the transit organizations be involved in the process to ensure that availability of service and to maintain transportation infrastructure. Todd stated that RVTA still runs the Lycoming Mall route which was based around the Lycoming Mall businesses and hours. Rachelle stated that depending on how the designated stop program goes in Clinton County, STEP, Inc. may be able to create a similar designated stop program in Lycoming County for the outlier areas around the mall.

Mark asked if Muncy Twp. is a part of the County zoning partnership. Sal stated that Muncy Twp. recently began administering their own zoning and subdivision/land development ordinances. However, the County will be able to see any proposed development through the Act 247 review process.

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. Todd Wright gave the motion and Rachelle Abbott seconded. Sal stated that the next meeting will continue to use the hybrid model, however, if that changes the MPO will send out virtual meeting information. Sal adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Williams
WATS Secretary

