

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 TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

*May 13, 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

#### *December 10, 2020 Transit Advisory Committee Public Meeting*

Sal Vitko asked if there were any issues or questions on the **December 10, 2020** 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 December 10, 2021 meeting minutes and the meeting minutes were approved.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### *Introductions / Meeting Purpose*

Sal Vitko asked all members to state their names and organizations 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.

### RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT SERVICE UPDATE

#### *F.R.I.T.S. Project*

Todd Wright introduced Chris Clark, River Valley Transit (RVT) fleet manager to go over the Fixed Route Intelligent Transportation System (F.R.I.T.S.) project. Chris stated that F.R.I.T.S. will be in the RVT fixed route vehicles and encompasses information technology and a video package. Chris informed the Committee that the system has high-resolution video and will assist in reporting/evaluating customer service, accidents, and other scenarios. Currently, RVT is mid-project and Chris stated that by July 4, 2021 the F.R.I.T.S. project should be completed. Chris informed the committee that from a passenger standpoint the F.R.I.T.S. project will allow for mobile payment and other amenities for users.

### ***Act 44 Review***

Todd stated that the Act 44 Performance Review for RVT is in progress. Todd informed the Committee that the Review started in April 2021 and that there are four (4) metrics that RVT is being evaluated on (Passengers per Revenue Vehicle Hour, Operating Costs per Revenue Vehicle Hour, Operating Revenue per Revenue Vehicle Hour, and Operating Cost per passenger). PennDOT suspended the review targets because of how ridership has been impacted by COVID-19.

Todd stated that RVT is scheduled to receive a draft report by the end of May 2021 and there will be a public comment period to gather any public comments prior to the final report being issued. Todd stated that based on the report's findings, RVT will have five-years to develop an action plan for any corrective actions and RVT is permitted to work with PennDOT on a quarterly basis to achieve the action plan goals.

Todd informed the Committee that RVT's local match funding has not been adjusted in a number of years, and that RVT will be reaching out to the County regarding the fifteen percent (15%) local match RVT is required to contribute.

### ***Clinton County Service***

Todd Wright reminded the Committee that RVT, at the request of PennDOT, suspended the pilot service to Clinton County in December 2020. Todd informed the committee that RVT has continued operating on Fridays and Saturdays, and Todd sees that continuing into the beginning of the next fiscal year. Todd stated that Lock Haven University is looking at RVT to provide shuttle service in fall 2021. Todd stated that there might be an opportunity for micro-transit options in Clinton County and perhaps in the Muncy/Hughesville area.

## **STEP, INC. SERVICE UPDATE**

### ***COVID-19 Vaccination Transportation***

Dan Merk updated the Committee that STEP, Inc.'s ridership has increased. Dan stated that since February 2021 STEP has performed 395 trips for COVID vaccinations alone.

### ***Find My Ride Transit Eligibility System***

Dan stated that the online eligibility system allows customers to apply for every public transportation program that STEP, Inc. operates. Dan stated that on Monday, May 17, 2021 STEP, Inc. would be going live with the eligibility system. Dan informed the Committee that the goal is to have a link on STEP's website for customers to use. The new system is a lot easier than some of the older applications and the new system can link with STEP, Inc.'s software.

### ***On-line Reservation System***

Dan informed the Committee that STEP, Inc. began their on-line reservation system in July 2020 and currently are at seventeen-hundred (1,700) online reservations. Dan stated that both systems are yet another way to increase access to public transportation. Dan stated that by July 1, 2021 the Transit Eligibility System would be fully activated.

### ***Lycoming County Divers-ability Awareness Committee***

Dan Merk informed the Committee about the Lycoming County Divers-ability Committee that Commissioner Metzger is assisting in spearheading. Dan stated the Divers-ability Committee meets monthly with the goal of better enhancing transportation services for clients in the divers-ability community. Dan stated that the Divers-ability Committee had a meeting and that staff from PennDOT were part of the meeting.

Sal Vitko asked if there were any members of the Williamsport Accessibility Advisory Commission on the Divers-ability Committee. Dan stated that he was not entirely sure, but some organizations that serve the community were represented, like Center for Independent Living. Mark Murawski asked if Dan had a list of committee members for the Divers-ability Committee. Dan stated that he can get a copy of that list and will send it to Sal.

### **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, November 18, 2021** at 2:00 p.m. Sal stated that currently, the MPO is hopeful that the November meeting will be in-person, but that they will have to wait and see. If the meeting will not be in-person, the MPO will set up a virtual meeting. . *Dial-In Number: 267-332-8737, Conference Code: 102 803 184#.*

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Herman from SEDA-COG MPO stated that Rabbit Transit has started designated stop service routes in Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, and Union counties. Rabbit Transit has opened the service up to the public and schedules the service a day in advance.

### **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 adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully, Submitted,  
Scott Williams  
WATS Secretary