

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 15, 2025
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Lyco. Conference Room
Lycoming County Third Street Plaza, 3rd Floor
33 W. Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Virtual Option: Dial-In Number: 1 (267) 332-8737
Conference Code: 655 355 956#

[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER Vitko

MINUTES:

October 17, 2024..... Vitko

PUBLIC COMMENT..... Vitko

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Introductions / Meeting Purpose Vitko
- River Valley Transit Authority Service Update Wright
 - General Service Update
 - Organization Update
- STEP, Inc. Service Update Merk
 - Find My Ride scheduling
 - Lycoming County Veterans Initiative
 - General Update on STEP Services
- WATS MPO
 - 2027 – 2030 TIP Update Vitko
 - WATS MPO staffing update..... 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 15, 2025 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.



WILLIAMSPORT AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2024 at 2:00 Transit Advisory Committee Teleconference Public Meeting: Held at 33 W. Third Street, 3rd Floor, Lyco Conference, Williamsport, PA 17701 and various locations via teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER (the last WATS Transit Advisory Meeting of 2024)

Sal performed roll call for meeting attendees and informed them that the meeting is being recorded.

MINUTES

May 16, 2024 Transit Advisory Committee Public Meeting

Sal Vitko mentioned that this was the last Transit meeting of 2024. Sal asked if there were any issues or questions on the May 16, 2024 meeting minutes. Both Dan Merk with STEP, Inc. and Cameron Serafini with RVTA had no issues, the meeting minutes were accepted.

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***-Cameron Serafini stated that in October 2023 RVTA ridership was at 575,000. October 2024 ridership is at 625,600 riders. The Token transit app is at approx. 10,000 fares per month about 6-7% of ridership. RVTA is updating their fleet, 3 CNG buses on order now and by 2026 100% CNG buses. Veterans Day promotion, Vets ride free with valid ID. RVTA will hold the December Bus Pass it Forward, discounted pass prices. Skip Cochran Marketing Director is developing marketing materials for public usage
- RVTA has and RFP for cashless fare which should go out early next year. Also, RFPs are out for security services at Trade & Transit Center and a new bus wash replacement at main RVTA facility. Theresa hosting outreach events at Penn College and 10/24 YWCA Resource fair, 10/30 Halloween bus downtown, Loyalsock HS life skills event. Sal stated that if RVTA wanted any of the upcoming promotions share on the WATS social media pages to send that information over and he will get that information out. Mark Murawski thanked Cameron and RVTA for supplying the buses

for the State Aviation Conference tours on October 14 – 16, 2024. Sal stated that the RVTAs drivers were very accommodating and everyone is very appreciative.

- **Step, Inc Service Update-** Dan Merk stated that Find My Ride Scheduling will be able to do rider scheduling. With this update, users will be able to go onto the application and schedule their own trips without having to call into and speak with STEP staff member. The new system will provide self-service options that riders did not have access to in the past. STEP is working with Michael Baker, Int'l and PennDOT to perform data clean up, then do a soft live release. Dan stated that this update will assist with transportation access and allow Clinton/Lycoming County agencies to help schedule rides. Lycoming/Clinton County Veterans initiative is doing well and providing trips to veterans medical facilities, localized social services appointments. STEP continues to look to expand the service.
- General STEP services trips are up. approx. STEP continues to work with PennDOT on the new garage facility and that bid specifications should be released by the end of October 2024
- Mark Murawski asked if Dan has heard anything on funding for transit since House Bill 2625 may fail in PA Senate, is there any conversation with the shared ride providers. Dan stated that the original legislation did have shared ride providers as part of the funding mix, however, the larger metro areas take the bulk of that funding. The smaller shared ride providers are reviewing/looking at fare increases to offset costs. Ian Detamore with PennDOT stated that the \$80 million that was passed was specific to the 1513 funding source and was specifically for fixed transit services in PA. PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation has utilizing 1516 funds for statewide programs to provide supplemental funding to shared ride providers until a more comprehensive funding bill can pass. Ian stated that House 2625 did not have “new” funding for transit and actually prevented shared ride providers from accessing those funds, in the current proposed bill. Mark asked how long STEP could go without at fare rate increase. Dan stated that STEP, Inc. is anticipating a fare increase in January 2025.
- **WATS MPO-** Sal stated that the SEDA-COG / WATS MPOs Coordinated Transit & Human Services Plan is out for public comment until November 15, 2024. The draft plan is up on the WATS MPO webpage along with the interactive Story Map, and WATS is posting the public comment period on their social media pages. Sal stated that if there are any comments to contact either himself or Kristin McLaughlin at SEDA-COG. Steve Herman from SEDA-COG stated that they are promoting the public comment period using their interested parties contacts/lists. Steve stated that SEDA-COG will be adopting at the November meeting, Sal commented that WATS will look to adopt at the November Technical and December Coordinating Committee meetings. Sal brought up the 2025 Transit Advisory Committee dates for May 15 and October 16, 2025. He asked if there were any issues or conflicts with those dates. Hearing none, those dates stand as the 2025 Transit Advisory meeting dates.
- Sal asked if there were any other comments or items to discuss. Steve stated that Rabbit Transit is expanding in the SEDA-COG area and the service is beneficial to the local users
- Sal asked if there were any other comments, hearing none the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

WATS MPO Transit Advisory Committee
October 17, 2024 Meeting
Attendance Sheet

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