

Williamsport Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization

Prepared by the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development, December 2021

Williamsport Area Transportation Study MPO

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#### Introduction

This report is prepared as a requirement of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST Act) legislation. It will list and summarize all projects for which funding has been obligated during the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY - October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021). The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) defines "obligated" as "the Federal government's promise to pay a State for the Federal share of a project's eligible cost." Funding can also be "de-obligated" in response to lower than expected costs, project cancellation, or other factors, and these released funds are frequently redirected to other projects.

#### Overview of Williamsport Area Transportation Study MPO

Federal law and regulations require the establishment of a Metropolitan Planning Organization, (MPO) to oversee the transportation planning process in all urbanized areas of the nation having a population of 50,000 or more persons as documented by the United States Census Bureau as part of the decennial census. The <u>Williamsport Area Transportation Study</u> (WATS) serves as the designated MPO for Lycoming County, Pennsylvania which includes the Williamsport Urbanized Area. Transportation planning and programming processes within Lycoming County are undertaken by WATS, including the following activities:

- Development and adoption of a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Every five years, as required by federal law, the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development updates the WATS MPO Long Range Transportation Plan. The <u>current Long Range</u> <u>Transportation Plan for Lycoming County</u> was adopted on December 17, 2018. A new plan will be adopted in December, 2023.
- Establishment and management of a fair and impartial setting for effective regional decision-making in the planning area.
- Identification and evaluation of alternative transportation improvement options. Using data and
  planning methods to generate and evaluate alternatives. Planning studies and evaluations are
  included in the MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- Development of a <u>Transportation Improvement Program</u> (TIP): the short-range (four year) program of transportation improvements based on the needs and goals described in the LRTP.
- Involving the public: Continually inform and engage the general public and other affected constituencies in regards to the development of the essential functions listed above. Strategies for achieving these ends are outlined in the WATS Public Participation Plan.

The WATS MPO is organizationally structured with two Committees: a Technical Committee and a Coordinating Committee, with defined functions and membership. In addition, WATS bylaws provide for two advisory committees for transit matters and active transportation. The administrative duties of the WATS MPO are conducted by the Lycoming County Planning and Community Development Department. The primary staff contact for the Department on WATS MPO administrative matters is the Lycoming County Transportation Planning Supervisor who acts as WATS Secretary.

#### Overview of Transportation Funding

The total annual amount of federal government transportation funding is set by Congress via multi-year transportation bills which give the United States Secretary of Transportation permission to authorize funding for MPOs across the country through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Another step is needed to release the authorized funds. This is

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done via an appropriations act which sets the amount of funds, out of the total funding contained in the transportation bill, which can be used for MPO planning.

Federal funds are divided among the states based on the ratio of urbanized-area population within individual states to the urbanized-area population of the country as a whole. Urbanized population figures are derived from census data. In Pennsylvania, the funding is then allocated among MPOs via an agreed-upon formula developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and representatives of MPOs and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPOs) known collectively as the "Planning Partners".

#### Summaries of obligated projects, Federal Fiscal Year 2021

In order to condense the informationally rich content related to transportation project development, many codes, abbreviations, and acronyms are freely deployed. Below are keys to the codes used for funding categories and project phasing.

#### Key to funding category codes

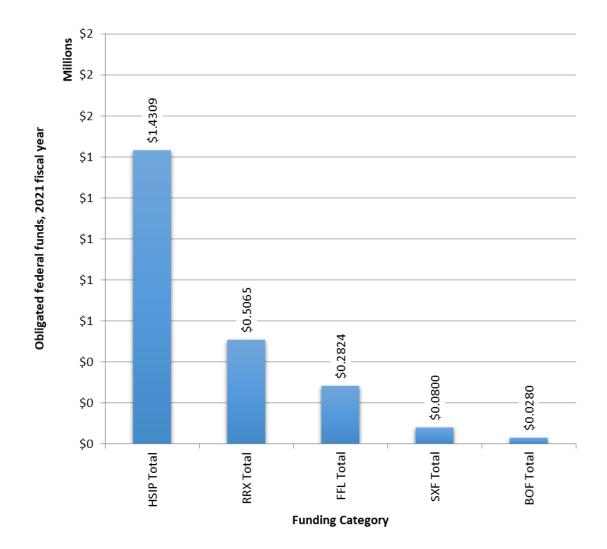
<b>Funding Code</b>	Funding Description
NHPP	National highway performance program
NHS	National Highway System
HSIP	Highway safety improvement program
STE	Surface transportation enhancement
STN	Surface transportation program - nonurbanized
STR	Surface transportation program - rural
STP	Surface transportation program - flexible
SXF	Special federal funds
RRX	Railway-Highway Crossing Program
BON	Bridge on federal aid system
BOF	Bridge off federal aid system
ВОО	Bridge on or off federal aid system
FFL	Federal flood recovery

#### Key to project phase codes

Phase Code	Phase Description
STUDY	Study
PE	Preliminary engineering
FD	Final design
UTL	Utilities
ROW	Right of way
CON	Construction

## Summary of obligated funds by funding category

In federal fiscal year 2021, a total of \$2,327,781 in federal funding was obligated to projects within the WATS MPO. The majority of these funds were obligated toward HSIP projects.

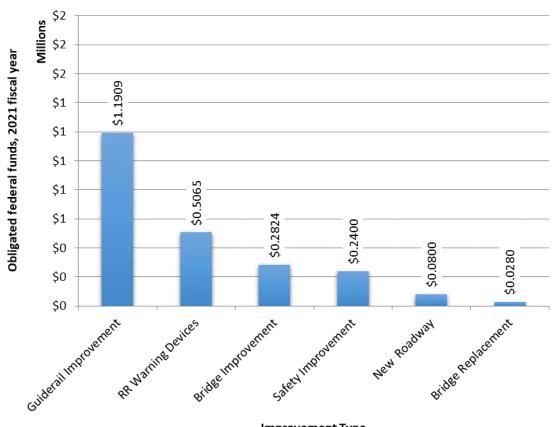


Funding Code	Obligated Amount	Number of Projects
HSIP Total	\$1,430,864.00	5
RRX Total	\$506,538.00	1
FFL Total	\$282,378.90	3
SXF Total	\$80,000.00	1
BOF Total	\$28,000.00	1

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## Summary of obligated funds by project type

Federal funds were most abundantly obligated towards guiderail improvement projects in FFY 2021, representing 51% of the total obligated amount.



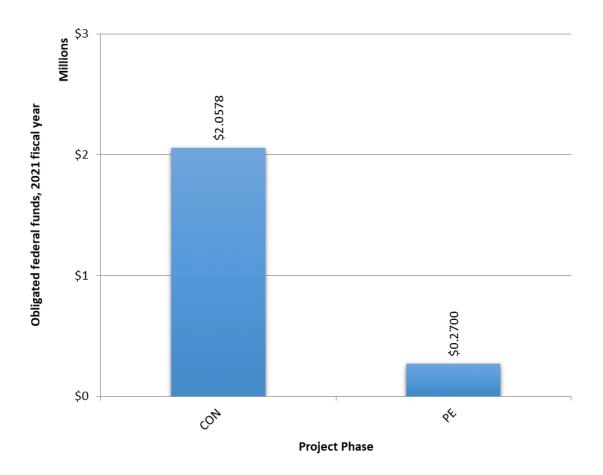
Improvement Type

Improvement Type	Obligated Amount	Number of Projects
Guiderail Improvement	\$1,190,864.00	3
RR Warning Devices	\$506,538.00	1
Bridge Improvement	\$282,378.90	3
Safety Improvement	\$240,000.00	2
New Roadway	\$80,000.00	1
Bridge Replacement	\$28,000.00	1

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## Summary of obligated funds by project phase

In federal fiscal year 2021, federal funding was overwhelmingly obligated to the construction phase of projects.



Project Phase	Obligated Amount	Number of Projects
CON	\$2,057,780.90	8
PE	\$270,000.00	3

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#### De-obligations in Federal Fiscal Year 2021

Some projects have negative obligation amounts and this indicates that money was removed from the project and released for use on other transportation projects. Examples of circumstances leading to a de-obligation of federal funds:

- A completed project came in under budget
- An active project was delayed after the money had been committed.
- A project has been cancelled
- The bid amount on a project was lower than the estimated cost

In federal fiscal year 2021, a total of \$561,236.87 in federal funds was de-obligated from projects. The following projects had funding de-obligated:

MPMS	Project Description	Project Phase	Funding Category	Month & Year	De-obligation Amount
109218	Railroad Warning Devices - Pfirman Rd, Village Rd, and two River Rd crossings in Susquehanna Twp. Install mast signals and gates on one crossing, and install LED lights on three other crossings.	CON	RRX	1/2021	-\$236,220.13
<u>110771</u>	Cable Guide Rail Upgrades - District Wide	CON	HSIP	6/2021	-\$205,854.67
<u>97671</u>	Resurface Interstate 180 Eastbound from Cemetery Road to SR 2014 in Fairfield, Muncy, and Muncy Creek Townships	CON	NHPP	10/2020	-\$43,740.34
102022	Bridge Improvement - SR 14 over Lycoming Creek, McIntyre Township	FD	STP	12/2020	-\$27,965.61
88967	Bridge Replacement - SR 414 over Bluestone Run, McHenry Township	FD	STP	1/2021	-\$25,000.00
103192	Railroad Warning Devices - T-532 (Brick Church Road), Clinton Township. Install New signals	CON	RRX	1/2021	-\$22,131.00
6262	Bridge Replacement - T-665 over Lycoming Creek, McIntyre Township	UTL	BOF	10/2020	-\$325.12

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#### WATS MPO obligations report for FFY 2021

The following table lists all obligations of federal funds within the WATS MPO during federal fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021). The "MPMS" number listed for each obligation comes from the PennDOT Multi-modal Project Management System (MPMS). It is an inventory of PennDOT projects containing information about project phasing, funding, and status. PennDOT has also developed an informational and mapping tool called OneMap (<a href="https://gis.penndot.gov/OneMap">https://gis.penndot.gov/OneMap</a>) for viewing MPMS information about projects. When viewing this document in an electronic format, the MPMS number in the table below (and the de-obligations listing above) will link directly to the OneMap viewer and display the project location and clicking on the highlighted project location will display a detailed project information screen. If viewing this report in a print format, searching for the MPMS number within OneMap will yield the same results.

FHWA has also requested a listing of transit grant funding for FFY 2021 be included in this report. These funding items will be listed after the obligated projects. Lycoming County has two transit providers. The Williamsport Bureau of Transportation operates a fixed route bus service as River Valley Transit. The Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP, Inc.) provides door-to-door, shared ride service.

## Obligated projects

MPMS	Project Description	Improvement Type	Phase	Fund	Month / Year	Obligation Amount	TIP Amount
112056	Bridge Flood Repair, SR 220 over Muncy Creek	Bridge Improvement	CON	FFL	1/2021	\$23,153	\$23,153
<u>5891</u>	T-665 over Pleasant Stream Bridge Replacement, McIntyre Township	Bridge Replacement	CON	BOF	1/2021	\$28,000	\$110,143
114725	Install High Tension Cable Median Guiderail in the median between eastbound and westbound lanes of I-180	Guiderail Improvement	CON	HSIP	4/2021	\$75,000	\$75,000
112057	Bridge Flood Repair, SR 2061 over Little Muncy Creek	Bridge Improvement	CON	FFL	1/2021	\$76,377	\$77,962
110772	Montour Street Airport Connector, Montoursville Borough	New Roadway	PE	SXF	4/2021	\$80,000	\$80,000

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MPMS	Project Description	Improvement Type	Phase	Fund	Month / Year	Obligation Amount	TIP Amount
102641	US 220, Tivoli to Glen Mawr Curves	Safety Improvement	PE	HSIP	1/2021	\$90,000	\$90,000
106182	Countywide Cable Guiderail Upgrades	Guiderail Improvement	PE	HSIP	7/2021	\$100,000	\$100,000
93732	US 220 Safety Improvements, PA 287 to West Fourth Street	Safety Improvement	CON	HSIP	4/2021	\$150,000	\$492,752
112044	Bridge Flood Repair, SR 42 over West Branch of Little Muncy Creek	Bridge Improvement	CON	FFL	1/2021	\$182,849	\$186,464
111345	Lycoming Valley Railroad Crossings, Lycoming County	Railroad Warning Devices	CON	RRX	12/2020	\$506,538	\$506,538
114727	Install High Tension Cable Median Guiderail in the median between eastbound and westbound lanes of I-180	Guiderail Improvement	CON	HSIP	4/2021	\$1,015,864	\$1,015,864

## Transit Funds

Agency			Federal Funds Remaining
STEP, Inc.	5310	\$510,000	\$0
River Valley Transit		\$7,237,626.00	\$5,479,854.26

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#### Conclusion

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All resources referenced herein pertaining to the WATS MPO can be found at the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development WATS MPO website:

http://www.lyco.org/WATS-MPO