

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
Technical Committee
Teleconference Public Meeting Minutes**

April 20, 2026 Technical Committee Teleconference Public Meeting: held at 33 W. Third Street, Lyco. Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Williamsport, PA 17701 and various locations via teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER (Regular WATS Technical Committee Public Meeting)

At 10:01 AM Justin Batiuk called the meeting to order. He mentioned that the meeting is being recorded. Attendees included:

- Justin Batiuk: PennDOT Center for Program Development and Management
- Chris King: PennDOT District 3-0
- Gerald Wertz: PennDOT District 3-0
- Jenny Picciano: Lycoming County Planning Director
- Joe Reighard: Lycoming County Planning Commission Member
- Jeffrey Stroehmann: Lycoming County Planning Commission Member
- Scott Williams: City of Williamsport Community and Economic Development
- Cameron Serafini: RVTA
- Eric McKitish: Williamsport Regional Airport Executive Director
- Rachelle Abbott: STEP Inc Transportation Manager
- Steven Beattie: Joint Rail Authority (JRA) Director
- Emily Mrochko: WATS Secretary/Transportation Planner
- Pat Crossley: Williamsport SunGazette
- Bob Brown: Lycoming County Boroughs Representative
- Barb Schmouder: Jersey Shore Borough
- Josiah Covert: Hunt Engineering, Architects and Surveyors
- Preston Mausteller: PennDOT District 3-0

MINUTES

Justin asked if there were any issues with the minutes from the previous meeting on January 20, 2026. No issues were found. Motion to approve was by Jenny Picciano, 2nd by Scott Williams. Motion carried to approve the minutes.

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

2027-2030 WATS TIP to Recommend for Adoption:

Justin Batiuk explained the recommendation is to advance the action item to the WATS Coordinating Committee for adoption of the 2027-2030 WATS TIP. He explained 2 minor changes to the TIP document. One being the TSMO funding initiative projects. In WATS territory, a project on Route 15 northbound is planned. The draft TIP did include the project. Justin wanted to make sure it was highlighted for everyone's attention. The second minor change was to the Self Certification document. The language change was to meet federal standards. It replaced the previous paragraph that addressed 49 CFR 26. Motion to approve was by Scott Williams, 2nd by Steven Beattie. Motion carried to recommend the 2027-2030 WATS TIP to the WATS Coordinating Committee for Adoption.

MPMS 122535 Amendment:

The amendment adds a PE (preliminary engineering) phase to the 2025-2028 WATS TIP using federal and state funds in 2026 and 2027. Chris King explained the project is not new. It was previously only state funded. Now that federal funds are included, it triggers an amendment. The project is a pavement restoration project from the end of the divided section on Rt 15 south to the Blind Road intersection. Motion to approve was by Jenny Picciano, 2nd by Joe Reighard. Motion carried to approve the MPMS 122535 amendment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Title VI and Public Participation Plan updates and On-Site Review:

Emily explained on April 28th PennDOT Central Office will be on-site to review the WATS Title VI and Public Participation Plans. After received the notice, Emily and Justin decided it was appropriate to update the plans with the current staff, updated address, and updates to federal regulations such as changing environmental justice language to community demographics. After the on-site review, Emily will finalize the draft documents, present them at the August WATS Technical Committee meeting and the September WATS Coordinating Committee meeting before opening the required 45-day public comment period.

Modal Updates:

Eric McKitish updated the committee on the airport. Jason Fink at the Williamsport Lycoming Chamber of Commerce is helping the airport apply for an Airport Land Development Zone. It should be complete and enacted in May. Air service is status quo.

Cameron Serafini was on Microsoft Teams to provide an update from RVTA but experienced microphone issues and was not able to provide an update.

Rachelle Abbott updated the committee on Step Inc. The new transportation facility grand opening will be on June 26th at 11:30am. The Secretary of Transportation will also be attending. This will be the first time in the history of STEP Transportation that the vehicles will be under roof. It will also have a small administrative office as well as a wash bay. Ridership is stable.

There has been an increase in registration due to the Find My Ride app. Since deployed, there were 3,000 individuals that registered. The cross-county travel should be up and running in early May to travel between Lycoming and Clinton Counties.

Steven Beattie updated the committee on the Joint Rail Authority. They are working through their capital plan for 2026 and continuing planning and engineering for 2027. All projects are outside of the WATS MPO. It will be approximately 3-4 years before a project is planned for Lycoming County.

Management Action Report:

Chris King stated the items in the report are changes to the current TIP that do not meet the monetary threshold to require an amendment. Administrative actions include RVTA projects, low bid adjustments, and small increases in design phases. Chris also explained to the committee if they have not read the draft TIP, to do so to get a big picture of the WATS MPO. Justin highlighted the transit projects on the Management Action Report. One was the amendment which was approved at the December WATS Coordinating Committee meeting. It was approved by FTA on January 14 2026 via eSTIP. Other RVTA administrative actions were to match the funding FTA requested.

Justin asked if there was any other business or public comment. Gerald Wertz provided an update on the I-99 designation. The designation request was submitted to FHWA. Once approved, a date will be set for an effective date. A contract is in place for the sign placement. They will be covered until the effective date is announced. The section from I-80 and Williamsport will be trailblazed with signs. It cannot be designated I-99 because it does not meet interstate standards. One change for haulers will be the weight limits. Current permits allow up to 95,000 pounds on Route 15. Once it is designated Interstate 99, federal weigh limits will be in place with a limit of 80,000 pounds.

Justin asked if there was any other comments, concerns, or questions – hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was by Gerald Wertz, 2nd by Steven Beattie. Motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully, Submitted,

Emily Mrochko
WATS Secretary