

Williamsport Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization

Prepared by the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development, November 2019

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 2019 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY - October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019). The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) <u>defines</u> "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 current LRTP was adopted December 17, 2018. The current Long Range Transportation Plan for Lycoming County was adopted on December 17, 2018.
- Establishment and management of a fair and impartial setting for effective regional decisionmaking 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 <u>Unified Planning Work Program</u> (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 <u>Public Participation Plan</u>.

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 2019

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.

ey to funding	category codes	
	Funding Code	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
	BOO	Bridge on or off federal aid system
	FFL	Federal flood recovery

Key to funding category codes

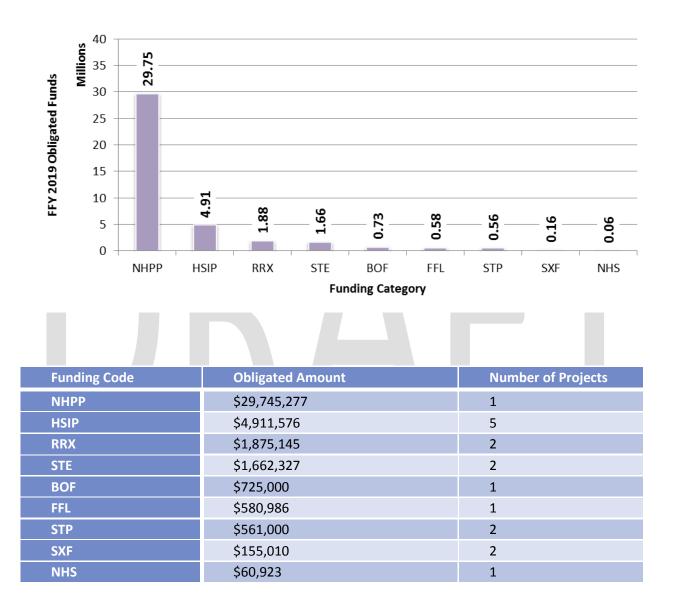
Key to project phase codes

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

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Summary of obligated funds by funding category

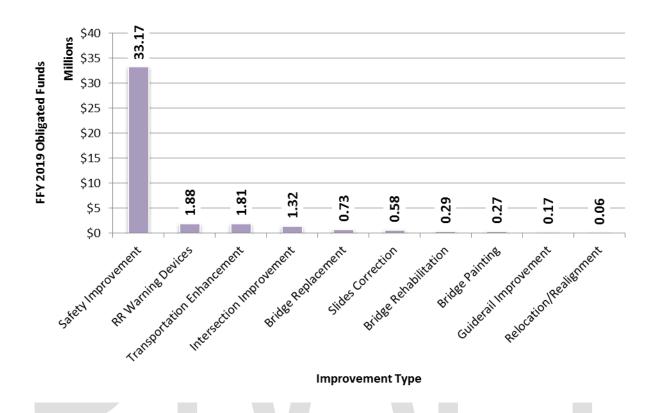
In federal fiscal year 2019, a total of **\$40,277,244** in federal funding was obligated to projects within the WATS MPO. Nearly 90% of these funds were obligated toward NHPP and HSIP projects.



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Summary of obligated funds by project type

Federal funds were most abundantly obligated towards safety improvement projects in FFY 2019, representing 82% of the total obligated amount.

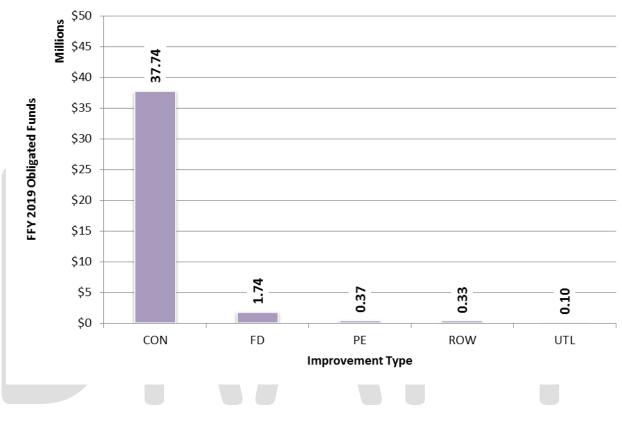


Improvement Type	Obligated Amount	Number of Projects
Safety Improvement	\$33,168,183	2
RR Warning Devices	\$1,875,145	2
Transportation Enhancement	\$1,812,327	3
Intersection Improvement	\$1,321,680	1
Bridge Replacement	\$725,000	1
Slides Correction	\$580,986	1
Bridge Rehabilitation	\$290,000	1
Bridge Painting	\$271,000	1
Guiderail Improvement	\$172,000	2
Relocation/Realignment	\$60,923	1

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Summary of obligated funds by project phase

In federal fiscal year 2019, federal funding was overwhelmingly obligated to the construction phase of projects.

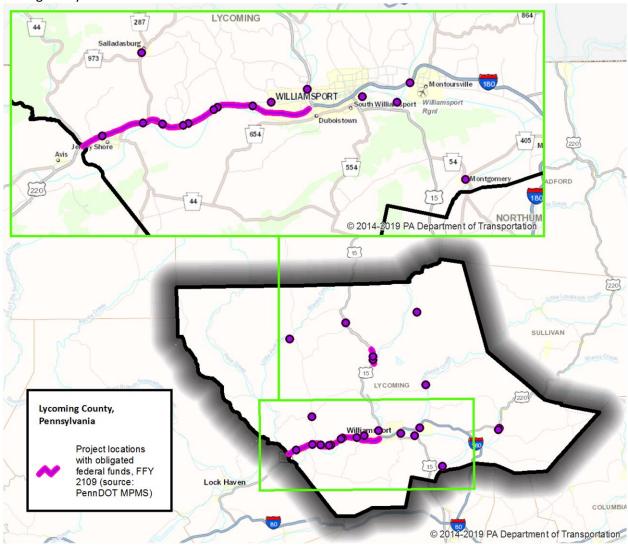


Project Phase	Obligated Amount	Number of Projects
CON	\$37,742,425	12
FD	\$1,736,941	2
PE	\$365,000	2
ROW	\$332,878	2
UTL	\$100,000	1

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Geographic distribution of obligated funds in Federal Fiscal Year 2019

Geographically, projects with obligated federal funds in FFY 2019 were spread evenly though the populated parts of Lycoming County. Naturally, the projects were located with greatest density in the urbanized areas and designated growth areas in the US-220/I-180 corridor running parallel to the West Branch Susquehanna River. This portion of the county contains the city of Williamsport and the boroughs of Jersey Shore, Duboistown, South Williamsport, Montoursville, Hughesville, Muncy, and Montgomery.



De-obligations in Federal Fiscal Year 2019

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

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• The bid amount on a project was lower than the estimated cost

In federal fiscal year 2019, a total of \$1,781,707 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
<u>76486</u>	US15 Corridor Safety Improvements, Armstrong Township and Clinton Township	FD	HSIP	October 2018	-\$47,997
<u>102876</u>	Guiderail Improvement	FD	HSIP	October 2018	-\$25,000
<u>102876</u>	Guiderail Improvement	PE	HSIP	October 2018	-\$15,844
<u>6056</u>	Bridge Replacement, SR2001 over Branch of Spring Creek, Brady Township	UTL	BOF	October 2018	-\$50,851
<u>102133</u>	SR2016 at River Ave Signal, Loyalsock Township	UTL	HSIP	October 2018	-\$40,000
<u>102133</u>	SR2016 at River Ave Signal, Loyalsock Township	FD	HSIP	October 2018	-\$30,000
<u>102133</u>	SR2016 at River Ave Signal, Loyalsock Township	ROW	HSIP	October 2018	-\$17,022
<u>104405</u>	Guiderail Improvement	FD	HSIP	November 2018	-\$4,513
<u>82869</u>	US220 Median Barrier, Piatt Township and Woodward Township	PE	HSIP	November 2018	-\$66,119
<u>87917</u>	Bridge Rehabilitation, SR1017 over Lycoming Creek, Lewis Township and Hepburn Township	FD	воо	November 2018	-\$85,031
<u>6057</u>	Bridge Replacement, SR2002 over White Deer Hole Creek, Washington Township	PE	BOF	November 2018	-\$5,523
<u>6138</u>	Bridge Replacement, T-398 over White Deer Hole Creek, Washington Township	FD	BOF	November 2018	-\$31,296
<u>104345</u>	Bridge Rehabilitation, US15 Northbound over Trout Run, Lewis Township	FD	NHPP	November 2018	-\$38,354
<u>76486</u>	US15 Corridor Safety Improvements, Armstrong Township and Clinton Township	STUDY	HSIP	December 2018	-\$1
<u>97672</u>	I-180 Resurfacing	CON	STN	December 2018	-\$557,685

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MPMS	Project Description	Project Phase	Funding Category	Month & Year	De-obligation Amount
<u>87913</u>	Bridge Replacement, SR405 over Turkey Run, Clinton Township	CON	STR	December 2018	-\$212,398
<u>6138</u>	Bridge Replacement, T-398 over White Deer Hole Creek, Washington Township	CON	BOF	December 2018	-\$42,762
<u>6274</u>	Airport Access Road	FD	SXF	January 2019	-\$109,663
<u>6274</u>	Airport Access Road	FD	SXF	January 2019	-\$5,010
<u>76477</u>	Bridge Replacement, SR2014 over Twin Run, Muncy Township	UTL	воо	January 2019	-\$16
<u>6141</u>	Proctor Road Bridge Replacement, Plunketts Creek Township	PE	BOF	April 2019	-\$1,204
<u>74022</u>	Bridge Replacement, SR2050 over Little Muncy Creek, Jordan Township and Franklin Township	PE	BOF	April 2019	-\$156,011
<u>6057</u>	Bridge Replacement, SR2002 over White Deer Hole Creek, Washington Township	PE	BOF	April 2019	-\$119,517
<u>104345</u>	Bridge Rehabilitation, US15 Northbound over Trout Run, Lewis Township	CON	STN	May 2019	-\$80,693
<u>98924</u>	US220 Resurfacing, Wolf Township	CON	STR	July 2019	-\$39,197

Environmental Justice Evaluation of Obligations and De-obligations

Presidential Executive Order 12898 states that "each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." Within the transportation field, environmental justice is guided by three core principles:

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority or low-income populations.

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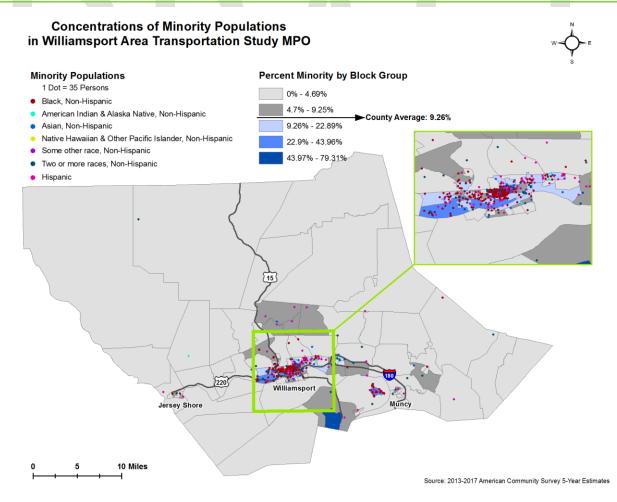
Because WATS MPO utilizes federal funds to plan and implement transportation projects the MPO is responsible for undertaking analysis of federally funded projects listed within the LRTP. In order to show that our plan meets these objectives, an Equity Analysis—a.k.a., "Benefits and Burdens Analysis"—was prepared.

In accordance with FHWA and FTA joint guidance issued to the MPOs and RPOs of Pennsylvania, equity analysis should perform the following four "core elements":

- 1. Identify environmental justice populations
- 2. Assess conditions and identify needs
- 3. Evaluate burdens and benefits
- 4. Identify and address disproportionate and adverse impacts and inform future planning efforts

Pursuant to these goals, WATS has analyzed the locations of obligations and de-obligations of federal funds in Lycoming County within Federal Fiscal Year 2019 in relation to minority and low income populations to identify any patterns of disparity.

Identification of Minority Population of Lycoming County



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Analysis of Disproportionate and Adverse Impacts to Minority Population

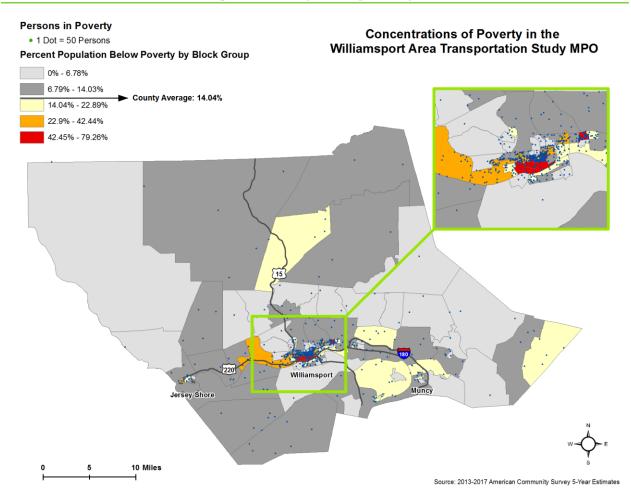
The table below summarize how FFY 2019 obligated and de-obligated funds were distributed among Lycoming County census block groups based on the minority population intervals identified in the section above.

Percent Population Minority - Block Groups		0% - 4.69%	4.7% - 9.25%	9.26% - 22.89%	22.9% - 43.96%	43.97% - 79.31 %
Number of Block G	Froups	59	22	21	6	5
	State Road Miles	837	125	88	32	5
	Percent of Road Miles	77%	11%	8%	3%	0%
m	Bridges	682	61	57	16	1
Transportation System by Interval	Percent of Bridges	83%	7%	7%	2%	0%
System by Interval	Reportable Crashes (2013-2017)	3,091	751	1,207	327	186
	Percent of Crashes	56%	14%	22%	6%	3%
	Total Population	63,035	20,866	21,794	6,385	3,318
Population Shares by	Regional Share of Total Population	55%	18%	19%	6%	3%
Interval	Minority Population	1,342	1,430	3,691	2,239	1,984
	Regional Share of Minority Population	13%	13%	35%	21%	19%
Obligations of Federal Funds, FFY2019	Amount of Funding	\$36,535,917	\$698,145	\$271,000	\$O	\$0
Deobligations of Federal Funds, FFY2019	Amount of Funding	(\$1,488,317)	(\$298,553)	(\$201,695)	\$0	\$0

No apparent disproportionate or adverse impacts are apparent. Obligation and de-obligation of federal funds in Lycoming County is proportional to the distribution of total population and transportation system assets

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Identification of Low Income Population of Lycoming County



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Analysis of Disproportionate and Adverse Impacts to Low Income Population

The table below summarize how FFY 2019 obligated and de-obligated funds were distributed among Lycoming County census block groups based on the low income population intervals identified in the section above.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		0% - 6.78%	6.79% - 14.03%	14.04% - 22.89%	22.9% - 42.44%	42.5% - 79.26 %
Number of Block Grou	ıps	38	38	18	12	7
Transportation	State Road Miles	391	464	164	45	23
System by Interval	Percent of Road Miles	36%	43%	15%	4%	2%
	Bridges	295	357	126	26	13
	Percent of Bridges	36%	44%	15%	3%	2%
	Reportable Crashes (2013- 2017)	1,417	2,007	1,242	457	439
	Percent of Crashes	25%	36%	22%	8%	8%
Population Shares by Interval	Total Population for whom poverty status is determined	34,774	39,827	16,543	12,178	6,165
	Regional Share of Total Population	32%	36%	15%	11%	6%
	Low Income Population	1,441	3,828	2,943	3,553	3,610
	Regional Share of Low Income Population	9%	25%	19%	23%	23%
Obligations of Federal Funds, FFY2019	Amount of Funding	\$1,999,666	\$35,563,863	\$759,068	\$97,000	\$0
Deobligations of Federal Funds, FFY2019	Amount of Funding	(\$683,117)	(\$1,196,964)	(\$1,384,378)	\$0	\$0

No apparent disproportionate or adverse impacts are apparent. Obligation and de-obligation of federal funds in Lycoming County is proportional to the distribution of total population and transportation system assets.

WATS MPO obligations report for FFY 2019

The following table lists all obligations of federal funds within the WATS MPO during federal fiscal year 2019 (October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019). 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 (<u>https://gis.penndot.gov/OneMap</u>) 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.

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FHWA has also requested a listing of transit grant funding for FFY 2019 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
<u>106186</u>	Install high tension median cable guiderail	Guiderail Improvement	CON	HSIP	11/2018	\$97,000	\$97,000
<u>110769</u>	Interstate Delineation Project	Safety Improvement	CON	HSIP	12/2018	\$309,000	\$309,000
<u>110890</u>	Montgomery Corridor Rail Crossings (8)	RR Warning Devices	CON	RRX	12/2018	\$1,375	\$330,145
<u>110890</u>	Montgomery Corridor Rail Crossings (8)	RR Warning Devices	CON	RRX	12/2018	\$58,625	\$330,145
<u>93732</u>	US220 Safety Project	Safety Improvement	FD	HSIP	12/2018	\$612,698	\$2,739,184
<u>6209</u>	SR4001 (Little Pine Creek Road) Bridge over Little Pine Creek, Rehabilitation	Bridge Rehabilitation	PE	STP	1/2019	\$290,000	\$290,000
<u>5698</u>	US15 Trout Run to Buttonwood, Improvements	Relocation / Realignment	FD	NHS	2/2019	\$11,545	\$0
<u>5698</u>	US15 Trout Run to Buttonwood, Improvements	Relocation / Realignment	ROW	NHS	2/2019	\$49,378	\$0
<u>110890</u>	Montgomery Corridor Rail Crossings (8)	RR Warning Devices	CON	RRX	3/2019	\$74,145	\$330,145
<u>110890</u>	Montgomery Corridor Rail Crossings (8)	RR Warning Devices	CON	RRX	3/2019	\$100,000	\$330,145
<u>93732</u>	US220 Safety Project	Safety Improvement	UTL	HSIP	3/2019	\$100,000	\$100,000
<u>93732</u>	US220 Safety Project	Safety Improvement	ROW	HSIP	3/2019	\$283,500	\$283,500
<u>93732</u>	US220 Safety Project	Safety Improvement	FD	HSIP	3/2019	\$612,698	\$2,739,184

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MPMS	Project Description	Improvement Type	Phase	Fund	Month / Year	Obligation Amount	TIP Amount
<u>108113</u>	Pathway to Health Phase IV	Transportation Enhancement	CON	STE	3/2019	\$897,327	\$897,327
<u>110890</u>	Montgomery Corridor Rail Crossings (8)	RR Warning Devices	CON	RRX	4/2019	\$96,000	\$330,145
<u>111799</u>	SR87 Flood Repair	Slides Correction	CON	FFL	4/2019	\$580,986	\$600,000
<u>106133</u>	Bridge Preservation Painting (4 Bridges)	Bridge Painting	CON	STP	5/2019	\$271,000	\$271,000
<u>93732</u>	US220 Safety Project	Safety Improvement	CON	NHPP	5/2019	\$25,745,277	\$39,875,295
<u>5891</u>	T-665 Bridge over Pleasant Stream (McIntyre Township), Improvement	Bridge Replacement	CON	BOF	5/2019	\$346,668	\$800,000
<u>93016</u>	US220 & SR 405 Intersection Imrprovement	Intersection Improvement	CON	HSIP	5/2019	\$221,298	\$1,321,680
<u>110771</u>	Districtwide Cable Guide Rail Upgrade	Guiderail Improvement	PE	HSIP	7/2019	\$75,000	\$200,000
<u>102003</u>	Airport Terminal Parking Lot Enhancement	Transportation Enhancement	CON	SXF	7/2019	\$150,000	\$150,000
<u>111345</u>	LVRR Rail Crossings (12)	RR Warning Devices	CON	RRX	7/2019	\$1,545,000	\$1,545,000
<u>5891</u>	T-665 Bridge over Pleasant Stream (McIntyre Township), Improvement	Bridge Replacement	CON	BOF	8/2019	\$378,332	\$800,000
<u>108114</u>	Loyalsock Township Recreational Pedestrian Bridges	Transportation Enhancement	CON	STE	9/2019	\$765,000	\$765,000
<u>93732</u>	US220 Safety Project	Safety Improvement	CON	SXF	9/2019	\$5,010	\$39,875,295
<u>93732</u>	US220 Safety Project	Safety Improvement	FD	HSIP	9/2019	\$500,000	\$2,739,184
<u>93732</u>	US220 Safety Project	Safety Improvement	CON	HSIP	9/2019	\$1,000,000	\$39,875,295
<u>93732</u>	US220 Safety Project	Safety Improvement	CON	NHPP	9/2019	\$4,000,000	\$39,875,295
<u>93016</u>	US220 & SR 405 Intersection Improvement	Intersection Improvement	CON	HSIP	9/2019	\$1,100,382	\$1,321,680

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Transit Funds

Federal Fund Category	Federal Funds Awarded (FFY 2019)	Federal Funds Remaining
5310	\$547,200	\$326,550

Conclusion

This report was prepared by

Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development

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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