

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TITLE VI PROGRAM
ADOPTED MARCH 9, 2023
with
Administrative Updates (February 2024)
Administrative Updates (July 2024)**

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of publication. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities.

RATS' website, www.co.berks.pa.us/planning, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. RATS' public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible.

Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven (7) days prior to a meeting.

Requests made within seven (7) days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by RATS under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint.

Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with RATS's Title VI Compliance Officer and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on RATS' Title VI program, or to obtain copies of RATS' Title VI Policies, Complaint Procedures, or Complaint Form, please call (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our

website at <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>

Documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610- 478-6300.

Estos informes y/o documentos estarán disponibles en diversos lenguajes y formatos si es necesario. Personas que necesiten acomodo razonable o con preguntas pueden comunicarse al 610-478-6300.

English

ATTENTION: If you speak another language, language assistance is available to you FREE OF CHARGE. Call 610.478.6300

Español

Atención: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 610.478.6300

中文

注意：如果您講廣東話或普通話，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 610.478.6300

Tiếng Việt

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 610.478.6300

한국어

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 610.478.6300

Français

ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 610.478.6300

العربية

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم المبرقة الكاتبة: 610.478.6300

עברית

שים לב: אם אתה מדבר עברית, סיוע בשפה, ללא תשלום, זמינים עבורך. התקשר 610.478.6300

Hmoob

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 610.478.6300

Русский

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 610.478.6300

Tagalog

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong se wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 610.478.6300

ไทย

ความสนใจ: หากคุณพูดภาษาไทยคุณสามารถขอความช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาฟรีได้ โทร 610.478.6300

ភាសាខ្មែរ

ចំណាំ: ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកនិយាយជាភាសាខ្មែរ សេវាកម្មជំនួយផ្នែកភាសាមានផ្តល់ជូនសម្រាប់លោកអ្នកដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ។ សូមទំនាក់ទំនងតាមរយៈលេខ៖ 610.478.6300. ។

Deutsche

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, erhalten Sie kostenlose sprachliche Unterstützungsdienste. Telefonnummer 610.478.6300

हिंदी

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिन्दी बोलते हैं तो आपके लिए मुफ्त में भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। 610.478.6300 पर कॉल करें

日本人

注：日本語を話す人は、無料で言語サポートを利用することができます。電話番号 610.478.6300

Italiano

ATTENZIONE: se parli italiano, l'assistenza linguistica, a titolo gratuito, è a tua disposizione. Chiama il numero 610.478.6300

Português

POR FAVOR, OBSERVE: se você fala português, assistência linguística, grátis, está à sua disposição. Ligue para 610.478.6300

Nederlands

LET OP: als u Nederlands spreekt, is taalondersteuning gratis. Bel 610.478.6300

Ελληνικά

ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ: αν μιλάτε ελληνικά, η υποστήριξη γλώσσας είναι διαθέσιμη δωρεάν. Καλέστε 610.478.6300

Polskie

UWAGA: jeśli mówisz po polsku, obsługa języków jest dostępna bezpłatnie. Zadzwoń 610.478.6300

Српски

ПАЖЊА: Ако говорите српски, на располагању вам је бесплатна помоћ. Позив 610.478.6300

Hrvatski

Pažnja: Ako govorite hrvatski, besplatna vam je pomoć dostupna. Nazovite 610.478.6300

Українська

Увага: якщо ви розмовляєте по-українськи, ви можете отримати безкоштовну допомогу. Зателефонуйте за номером 610.478.6300

فارسی

توجه: اگر حرف فارسی رایگان رایگان دریافت کمک. تماس 610.478.6300

ગુજરાતી

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો 610.478.6300

বাঙালি

নোট: আপনি যদি বাংলা বলতে পারেন তবে আপনি বিনামূল্যে সহায়তা পেতে পারেন। কল করুন 610.478.6300

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

ਨੋਟ: ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਮੁਫਤ ਮਦਦ ਲੈ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ. ਕਾਲ 610.478.6300

नेपाली

नोट: यदि तपाईं नेपाली बोल्नुहुन्छ भने, तपाईं नि:शुल्क मद्दत प्राप्त गर्न सक्नुहुनेछ। फोन 610.478.6300

Română

Atenție: Dacă vorbești limba română, poți obține ajutor gratuit. Telefon 610.478.6300

Albanian

Kujdes: Nëse ju flisni gjuhën shqipe, mund të merrni ndihmë falas. Telefoni 610.478.6300

Laotian

ຂໍ້ຄວາມສໍາຄັນ: ຖ້າທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາລາວ, ທ່ານຈະໄດ້ຮັບການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຢູ່ພຣີ. ໂທ 610.478.6300

Türk

Dikkat: Türkçe konuşursanız, ücretsiz yardım alırsınız. 610.478.6300 'i arayın

తెలుగు

శ్రద్ధ: మీరు తెలుగు మాట్లాడితే, మీకు ఉచిత సహాయం లభిస్తుంది. కాల్ చేయండి 610.478.6300

മലയാളം

ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുക: നിങ്ങൾ മലയാളം സംസാരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് സ്വതന്ത്ര സഹായം ലഭിക്കും. കോൾ ചെയ്യുക 610.478.6300

தமிழ்

கவனம்: நீங்கள் தமிழ் பேசினால், இலவச உதவி பெறலாம். அழைப்புக்கு 610.478.6300

မြန်မာ

အာရုံစူးစိုက်မှု: သင်မြန်မာစကားပြောဆိုလျှင်, သင်အခမဲ့အကူအညီလက်ခံရယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ 610.478.6300

Bahasa Indonesia

Perhatian: Jika Anda berbicara bahasa Indonesia, Anda dapat menerima bantuan gratis. Hubungi 610.478.6300

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ማስጠንቀቂያ: በአማርኛ የሚናገሩ ከሆነ, ነጻ እርዳታ ማግኘት ይችላሉ. በ 610.478.6300 ላይ ማድመል

Yorùbá

Ifarabale: Ti o ba so ni Yorùbá, o le gba iranlowo ofe. Pe 610.478.6300

Igbo

Nti: O buru na i na-asu Igbo, inwere ike inweta enyemaka n'efu. Kpoo 610.478.6300

ગાઠ

પેઠણ: ઠાંઠાં થાં ગઠોવાસા ગાઠ, ગાઠપં વીં ગાઠઘંઘઠેઠોઠાંવાસા, ઠેઠપં' સેઠેઠાં, ઠેઠં ઠાં ઠેઠાં ઠેઠાં ઠેઠાં. ઠેઠ 610.478.6300

日本語

注意事項：日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。610.478.6300. まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

ગુજરાતી

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો 610.478.6300

Hrvatski

Pažnja: Ako govorite hrvatski, besplatna vam je pomoć dostupna. Nazovite 610.478.6300

Українська

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Зателефонуйте за номером 610.478.6300

فارسی

توجه: اگر حرف فارسی رایگان دریافت کمک. تماس 610478.6300 .

ગુજરાતી

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:સુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો
610.478.6300

اردو

نوٹ: اگر آپ اردو بولتے ہیں، تو آپ مفت مدد حاصل کرسکتے ہیں. 610.478.6300 کو کال کریں (ٹی ٹی آئی)

বাঙালি

নোট: আপনি যদি বাংলা বলতে পারেন তবে আপনি বিনামূল্যে সহায়তা পেতে পারেন। কল করুন
610.478.6300

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

ਨੋਟ: ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਮੁਫਤ ਮਦਦ ਲੈ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ. ਕਾਲ 610.478.6300

नेपाली

नोट: यदि तपाईं नेपाली बोल्नुहुन्छ भने, तपाईं नि:शुल्क मद्दत प्राप्त गर्न सक्नुहुनेछ। फोन 610.478.6300

Română

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Laotian

ຂໍ້ຄວາມວ່າ: ຖ້າທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາລາວ, ທ່ານຈະໄດ້ຮັບການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອເປັນຮີ. ໂທ 610.478.6300

Türk

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తెలుగు

శ్రద్ధ: మీరు తెలుగు మాట్లాడితే, మీకు ఉచిత సహాయం లభిస్తుంది. కాల్ చేయండి 610.478.6300

മലയാളം

ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുക: നിങ്ങൾ മലയാളം സംസാരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് സ്വതന്ത്ര സഹായം ലഭിക്കും. കോൾ ചെയ്യുക 610.478.6300

தமிழ்

கவனம்: நீங்கள் தமிழ் பேசினால், இலவச உதவி பெறலாம். அழைப்புக்கு 610.478.6300

မြန်မာ

အာရုံစိုက်မှု: သင်မြန်မာစကားပြောဆိုလျှင်, သင်အခမဲ့အကူအညီလက်ခံရယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ 610.478.6300

Bahasa Indonesia

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ማስታወቂያ: በአማርኛ የሚናገሩ ከሆነ, ነጻ እርዳታ ማግኘት ይችላሉ. በ 610.478.6300 ላይ ማድወል

Yorùbá

Ifarabale: Ti o ba so ni Yorùbá, o le gba iranlọwọ ọfẹ. Pe 610.478.6300

Igbo

Nti: Ọ bụrụ na ị na-asụ Igbo, ịnwere ike ịnweta enyemaka n'efu. Kpọọ 610.478.6300

ລາວ

ໂປດຊາບ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໂດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທ 610.478.6300

日本語

注意事項：日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。610.478.6300.まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

ગુજરાતી

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો 610.478.6300

READING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TITLE VI NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization (Reading MPO) hereby gives notice that it is the policy of the Reading MPO to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, E.O. 12898, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity administered by the Reading MPO.

Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by a discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Reading MPO. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the Reading MPO's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. A Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form can be obtained from the Reading MPO by:

- Dialing 610-478-6300
- [Online by clicking here](#)
- In Person at the Berks County Planning Commission
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR, READING PA 19601
- Language assistance is available by calling 610-478-6300

Overall responsibility for this policy is assigned:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY C/O
BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MICHAEL D GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR
READING PA 19601
PHONE: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304
EMAIL: mgolembiewski@berkspa.gov

The person named above is appointed as the Title VI Compliance Officer and is responsible for the implementation the MPO's Title VI Program. Individuals with questions or requiring additional information relating to this policy or the implementation of the MPO's Title VI Program should contact the Title VI Compliance Officer.

ORGANIZACIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN METROPOLITANA DE READING AVISO AL PÚBLICO DEL TÍTULO VI

La Organización de Planificación Metropolitana de Reading (Reading MPO) notifica por la presente que es política de Reading MPO asegurar el pleno cumplimiento del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Restauración de Derechos Civiles de 1987, E.O. 12898, y estatutos y reglamentos relacionados en todos los programas y actividades. El Título VI requiere que ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos sea excluida de la participación, se le nieguen los beneficios o sea objeto de discriminación por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional en ningún programa o actividad administrada por la Reading MPO.

Cualquier persona que crea que ha sido agraviada por una práctica discriminatoria en virtud del Título VI tiene derecho a presentar una queja formal ante la Reading MPO. Cualquier queja de este tipo debe presentarse por escrito ante el Coordinador del Título VI de la Reading MPO dentro de los ciento ochenta (180) días posteriores a la fecha del supuesto hecho discriminatorio. Puede obtener un Formulario de queja por discriminación del Título VI en Reading MPO:

- Llamando al 610-478-6300
- [En línea, haciendo clic aquí](#)
- Personalmente, en la Comisión de planificación del condado de Berks, 633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR, READING PA 19601
- Hay asistencia lingüística disponible llamando al 610-478-6300

La responsabilidad general de llevar adelante a esta política está asignada a:

ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE EN EL ÁREA DE READING
A TRAVÉS DE LA COMISIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN DEL CONDADO DE BERKS
MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR
READING PA 19601
TELÉFONO: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO: mgolembiewski@berkspa.gov

La persona mencionada anteriormente es nombrada Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI y es responsable de la implementación del Programa del Título VI de la MPO. Las personas que tengan preguntas o requieran información adicional relacionada con esta política o la implementación del Programa del Título VI de la MPO deben comunicarse con el Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI.

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I. INTRODUCTION TO RATS

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for all of Berks County and is responsible for regional transportation planning activities. Established on April 9, 1964, RATS carries out a transportation planning process in accordance with federal Metropolitan Planning Regulations for Berks County in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Under the By-Laws governing the MPO, RATS is comprised of two committees: The Technical Committee and the Coordinating Committee. The Technical Committee reviews items brought before the group and makes recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee is the policy body that formally adopts items reviewed by the Technical Committee. The eight member RATS Technical Committee consists of representatives from PENNDOT Central Office in Harrisburg (1), PENNDOT District 5-0 Office in Allentown (1), the City of Reading (2), the Berks County Planning Commission (2), the South Central Transportation Authority (SCTA) (1), and the Reading Regional Airport Authority (RRAA) (1). The ten-member RATS Coordinating Committee consists of one representative each from the PENNDOT Central Office, PENNDOT District 5-0, Berks County Board of Commissioners, Berks County Planning Commission, City of Reading, Boroughs, 1st Class Townships, 2nd Class Townships, SCTA and the RRAA. RATS is responsible for prioritizing approximately \$80 million annually to advance transportation improvement projects throughout the county. PennDOT, SCTA and municipalities are responsible for project implementation. The transportation planning staff of the Berks County Planning Commission serves as the technical staff to RATS. The staff coordinates and administers these committees, their meetings and leads development of the package of federally required MPO products including: the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), associated transportation air-quality conformity determinations, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and the Congestion Management Process (CMP).

II. OVERVIEW OF TITLE VI REQUIREMENTS

As a recipient of federal funding for transportation-related projects and programs, RATS is subject to a variety of federal laws, statutes, and presidential Executive Orders. Specific to this document is Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act provides that,

“No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation is responsible for ensuring that federally supported transit services and related benefits are distributed by applicants, recipients, and sub-recipients of FTA assistance in a manner consistent with Title VI.

Its requirements are defined in FTA Circular 4702.1B, dated October 1, 2012. As stated in this Circular, the objectives of the FTA Title VI program are as follows:

- Ensure that the level and quality of public transportation service is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner.
- Promote full and fair participation in public transportation decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin.
- Ensure meaningful access to transit-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.
- Ensure that decisions on the location of transit services and facilities are made without regard to race, color, or national origin.

RATS is a designated sub-recipient of the FTA funds allocated to the Berks urbanized area from PennDOT. As a sub-recipient of federal funds, RATS certifies that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. As required by FTA Circular C4702.1B, dated October 1, 2012, RATS shall maintain and submit to PennDOT and the FTA the following general requirements as part of its Title VI Program:

- A. Title VI Notice to the Public, including a list of locations where the notice is posted.
- B. Title VI Complaint Procedures.
- C. Title VI Complaint Form.
- D. List of transit-related Title VI investigations, complaints, and lawsuits.
- E. Public Participation Plan.
- F. Language Assistance Plan for providing language assistance to persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).
- G. A table depicting the membership of non-elected committees and councils, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, broken down by race, and a description of the process the agency uses to encourage participation of minorities on such committees.
- H. Primary recipients shall include a description of how the agency monitors its subrecipients for compliance with Title VI, and a schedule of subrecipient Title VI Program submissions.
- I. A copy of the board meeting minutes or resolution showing the board of directors reviewed and approved the Title VI Program.
- J. A Demographic Profile of the metropolitan area.
- K. A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations are identified and considered within the planning process.
- L. Demographic maps that show the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds in the aggregate for public transportation projects.

M. Analysis of the MPO's transportation system investments that identifies and addresses any disparate impacts.

The following pages include the requirements listed above.

NOTE: 'Administrative Updates' include

- **Changed web links (County of Berks changed domain name)**
- **Changed email addresses (County of Berks changed domain name)**
- **Revised or updated documents (TIP, EJ Summary)**
- **Removal of FAX numbers (BCPC no longer has FAX capabilities)**
- **Board Membership Representation (Appendix G)**

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I. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

a. Title VI Notice to the Public

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopted the Title VI Notice to the Public on July 16, 2021. The Notice is available in hardcopy, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and is posted at the entranceway to the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the Notice to the Public (English and Spanish) is also available on the [RATS website](#).

Appendix A contains copies of the adopted TITLE VI Notice to the Public (English and Spanish versions).

b. Title VI Complaint Procedures

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO has an adopted *Title VI Complaint Procedures*. The *Complaint Procedures* are available in hardcopy, in English and Spanish, and are posted at the entranceway to the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the *Complaint Procedures* (English and Spanish) are also available on the [RATS website](#).

Appendix B contains copies of the adopted *Title VI Complaint Procedures*.

c. Title VI Complaint Form

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO has an adopted *Title VI Complaint Form*. The *Complaint Form* is available in hardcopy from any staff member in the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the *Complaint Form* is also available on the [RATS website](#), linked within the language-appropriate Complaint Forms.

Appendix C contains copies of the adopted *TITLE VI Complaint Form*.

d. Title VI Complaint Log

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO *Title VI Complaint Log* is available to all staff members in the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Staff are instructed to file any complaints received with the designated Title VI Officer.

Appendix D contains a copy of the *Title VI Complaint Log*.

e. Public Participation Plan

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO has an adopted *Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update*. The *PPP* is available in hardcopy, in English and Spanish, at the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the *Public Participation Plan* is also available at the [Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency section](#) on the [RATS website](#).

Appendix E contains copies of the adopted *Public Participation Plan*.

f. Language Assistance (Limited English Proficiency) Plan

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO has an adopted *Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan*. The *LEP* is available in hardcopy, in English and Spanish, at the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the *Limited English Proficiency Plan* is also available at the [Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency section](#) on the [RATS website](#).

Appendix F contains copies of the adopted *Limited English Proficiency Plan*.

g. Committee Membership and Supporting Materials

Under the By-Laws governing the MPO, the Reading Area Transportation Study is comprised of two committees: The Technical Committee and the Coordinating Committee. The Technical Committee reviews items brought before the group and makes recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee is the policy body that formally adopts items reviewed by the Technical Committee. The eight member RATS Technical Committee consists of representatives from PENNDOT Central Office in Harrisburg (1), PENNDOT District 5-0 Office in Allentown (1), the City of Reading (2), the Berks County Planning Commission (2), the South Central Transportation Authority (SCTA) (1), and the Reading Regional Airport Authority (RRAA) (1). The ten-member RATS Coordinating Committee consists of one representative each from the PENNDOT Central Office, PENNDOT District 5-0, Berks County Board of Commissioners, Berks County Planning Commission, City of Reading, Boroughs, 1st Class Townships, 2nd Class Townships, SCTA and the RRAA.

The MPO does not self-appoint its membership. Members of the Technical Committee are appointed by their respective representative bodies. Members of the Coordinating Committee are also appointed by their respective representative bodies with the exceptions of those from Boroughs, 1st Class Townships and 2nd Class Townships. Candidates for these municipal representatives are solicited from their respective classification by the Berks County Board of Commissioners and appointed by the Berks County Board of Commissioners from the results of that solicitation.

There was recently one outside Advisory Committee informally convened for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Plan. Those 24 persons (not including staff) represented 13 male/11 female; 23 Caucasian/1 African American; 2 Latinos; 3 Disability Advocates; 3 Low Income Advocates; 1 College/University Advocate; 1 Community Health Advocate. In the past, advocates from the disabled and elderly communities have also served on the Human Services Transportation Coordination Committee.

Appendix G contains copies of:

- Reading MPO Board Membership (Committee Representation)
- Reading MPO Board Membership (Race/Gender Breakdown)
- Sample Letter soliciting Board Membership

h. Agency Monitoring of Subrecipients

The Reading Area Transportation Study MPO is both a direct recipient and a subrecipient of U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) funding. A portion of our Planning Funds are ‘passed-through’ to the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) for use with the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA), thus placing the RATS MPO in a primary recipient role. However, SCTA is also a direct recipient of FTA funding. According to FTA’s Title VI circular (4702.1B), Chapter III 12.b (page III-11),

“When a subrecipient is also a direct recipient of FTA funds, that is, applies for funds directly from FTA in addition to receiving funds from a primary recipient, the subrecipient/direct recipient reports directly to FTA and the primary recipient/designated recipient is not responsible for monitoring compliance of that subrecipient. The supplemental agreement signed by both entities in their roles as designated recipient and direct recipient relieves the primary recipient/designated recipient of this oversight responsibility.”

Accordingly, since SCTA is also a direct recipient of FTA funds, the Reading MPO is not responsible for monitoring SCTA’s compliance with Title VI.

i. Board Adoption of MPO Title VI Program

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopted the Title VI Program by voice vote on **March 9, 2023**.

Appendix I contains a copy of the approved meeting minutes that details the Board's adoption of the Title VI Program

j. Demographic Profile of the Metropolitan Area

With every adopted [Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#), The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopts an *Environmental Justice Summary*. A Demographics Background and Analysis specific to the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is included on pages 2-8.

Appendix J contains a copy of the adopted [Environmental Justice Summary](#).

k. Meeting the Public's Mobility Needs

The public's transportation needs vary depending on their age, economic status, educational attainment, physical and/or mental challenges, and employment opportunities. Many transportation challenges exist, including (but not limited to):

- Geographical mismatch between the locations of candidate workers and entry-level jobs.
- Access to employment centers, community activities, family and friends, medical facilities and shopping that may be located outside of residential areas.
- Commute by transit to any destination could be time-prohibited.
- Pedestrians may be exposed to inclement weather, automobile emissions from high volume traffic, and barriers such as freeways, buildings, and high-speed roads with multiple lanes.
- Bus stops along roads without sidewalks and/or the absence of curb cuts on paths leading to bus stops all pose barriers to riders with mobility limitations.
- There could be a lack of alternative modes of transportation.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian transportation planning has shown a need for improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Throughout all the processes conducted by the Reading MPO, an attempt is made to ensure that

equal access is provided in planning programs and projects. This would include (but not be limited to) meeting access and public notifications, the PennDOT Connects process, Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Planning, Congestion Management Processes, coordination with transit providers, the Transportation Improvement Program, Long Range Transportation Plan, and Environmental Justice analyses. Additionally, MPO staff – in their capacity as staff of the Berks County Planning Commission – regularly offer comments regarding equal access in subdivision/land development plan reviews, local grant application reviews, local and county comprehensive plan reviews, zoning ordinance reviews, and throughout other regionwide planning efforts.

I. Demographic Maps showing Distribution of State and Federal Funds for Public Transportation Projects

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopted the current [FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary](#) on July 14, 2022. Maps showing the distribution of BARTA fixed-route service and Concentrations of Minority and Low-Income Populations in Berks County are shown on Pages 23 and 24 (respectively) of the *FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary*.

Appendix J. contains a copy of the adopted *FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary*.

Appendix L. contains:

1. A copy of MAP 2, Berks County Transportation Improvement Plan, Metro Region showing the distribution of TIP-funded Transit projects from the adopted FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and
2. Section 3 of the adopted FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with all transit projects identified.

m. Analysis of the MPO's Transportation System Investments that Identifies and Addresses any Disparate Impacts.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopted the current [FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary](#) on July 14, 2022. A discussion of the MPO's Investments in the Transportation and that investment's impacts throughout Berks County is shown on Page 26 of the *FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary*.

Appendix J. contains a copy of the adopted *FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary*.

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APPENDIX A

Title VI Notice to the Public

READING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TITLE VI NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization (Reading MPO) hereby gives notice that it is the policy of the Reading MPO to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, E.O. 12898, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity administered by the Reading MPO.

Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by a discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Reading MPO. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the Reading MPO's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. A Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form can be obtained from the Reading MPO by:

- Dialing 610-478-6300
- [Online by clicking here](#)
- In Person at the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR, READING PA 19601
- Language assistance is available by calling 610-478-6300

Overall responsibility for this policy is assigned to:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
C/O BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MICHAEL D GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR
READING PA 19601
PHONE: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304
EMAIL: mgolembiewski@berkspa.gov

The person named above is appointed as the Title VI Compliance Officer and is responsible for the implementation the MPO's Title VI Program. Individuals with questions or requiring additional information relating to this policy or the implementation of the MPO's Title VI Program should contact the Title VI Compliance Officer.

ORGANIZACIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN METROPOLITANA DE READING AVISO AL PÚBLICO DEL TÍTULO VI

La Organización de Planificación Metropolitana de Reading (Reading MPO) notifica por la presente que es política de Reading MPO asegurar el pleno cumplimiento del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Restauración de Derechos Civiles de 1987, E.O. 12898, y estatutos y reglamentos relacionados en todos los programas y actividades. El Título VI requiere que ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos sea excluida de la participación, se le nieguen los beneficios o sea objeto de discriminación por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional en ningún programa o actividad administrada por la Reading MPO.

Cualquier persona que crea que ha sido agraviada por una práctica discriminatoria en virtud del Título VI tiene derecho a presentar una queja formal ante la Reading MPO. Cualquier queja de este tipo debe presentarse por escrito ante el Coordinador del Título VI de la Reading MPO dentro de los ciento ochenta (180) días posteriores a la fecha del supuesto hecho discriminatorio. Puede obtener un Formulario de queja por discriminación del Título VI en Reading MPO:

- Llamando al 610-478-6300
- [En línea, haciendo clic aquí](#)
- Personalmente, en la Comisión de planificación del condado de Berks, 633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR, READING PA 19601
- Hay asistencia lingüística disponible llamando al 610-478-6300

La responsabilidad general de llevar adelante a esta política está asignada a:

ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE EN EL ÁREA DE READING
A TRAVÉS DE LA COMISIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN DEL CONDADO DE BERKS
MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR
READING PA 19601
TELÉFONO: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO: mgolembiewski@berkspa.gov

La persona mencionada anteriormente es nombrada Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI y es responsable de la implementación del Programa del Título VI de la MPO. Las personas que tengan preguntas o requieran información adicional relacionada con esta política o la implementación del Programa del Título VI de la MPO deben comunicarse con el Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI.

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APPENDIX B

Title VI Complaint Procedures

READING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (READING MPO) TITLE VI COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Purpose:

The Reading MPO Title VI Complaint Procedures is written to specify the process employed by the Reading MPO to investigate complaints, while ensuring due process for Complainants and Respondents. The process does not preclude the Reading MPO from attempting to informally resolve complaints.

This procedure applies to all external complaints relating to any program or activity administered by the Reading MPO and/or its subrecipients, consultants and contractors, filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, (including Disadvantage Business Enterprise and Equal Employment Opportunity components), as well as other related laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, sexual preference, age, low income, nationality or Limited English Proficiency. Additional statutes include, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990.

These procedures are part of an administrative process that does not provide for remedies that include punitive damages or compensatory remuneration for the Complainant. Intimidation or retaliation of any kind is prohibited by law.

Process:

An individual, or his or her representative, who believes that he or she has been subject to discrimination or retaliation prohibited by Title VI and other nondiscrimination provisions, has the right to file a complaint. Complaints need to be filed within 180 calendar days of alleged occurrence, when the alleged discrimination became known to the Complainant, or when there has been a continuing course of conduct, the date on which the conduct was discontinued or latest instance of the conduct.

Complaints may be mailed to:

Title VI Compliance Officer
Michael D. Golembiewski
Reading Area Transportation Study
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Title VI Coordinator
Bureau of Equal Opportunity
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
PO Box 3251
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1720

Equal Opportunity Specialist
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
228 Walnut Street; Room 508
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105-1720

Equal Opportunity Specialist
PA Human Relations Commission
Harrisburg Regional Office
Riverfront Office Center, 5th Floor
1101-1125 South Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2515

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main
Washington, D.C. 20530

Civil Rights Officer
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1760 Market St, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19103-4124

Complaints shall be in writing and signed by the Complainant(s). If complaints are received by telephone or in person, the Title VI Compliance Manager or other authorized representative shall formally interview the person to provide the basis for the written complaint. If necessary, the authorized person will assist the Complainant in writing the complaint. The written complaint must include the following information:

- Name, address, and telephone number of Complainant
- Basis of the complaint (e.g., Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, Age, Disability or Retaliation)
- A detailed description of the circumstances of the incident that lead the Complainant to believe discrimination occurred.
- Names address and phones numbers of people who may have knowledge of the alleged incident or are perceived as parties in the complained-of-incident.
- Date or dates on which the alleged discrimination occurred
- Other agencies where the complaint was filed.
- As an investigation moves forward, additional information may be required.

If the Reading MPO receives a complaint, the Reading MPO will acknowledge receipt of the complaint by notifying the Complainant and immediately transmitting the complaint to the proper state and federal agency (e.g. Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and PennDOT) for investigation and disposition pursuant to that agency's Title VI complaint procedures.

The Reading MPO Title VI Compliance Manager will maintain a log of all complaints received by the Reading MPO.

For more information on the Web about Title VI: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/tvi.htm>

Appeal Process

If the Complainant does not agree with the decision by the Respondent and cannot come to an informal agreement, the Complainant can directly file the complaint with:

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bureau of Equal Opportunity
PO Box 3251
Harrisburg, PA. 17105-3251

Federal Highway Administration
Pennsylvania Division Office
228 Walnut Street, Room 508
Harrisburg, PA. 17101-1720

Federal Transit Administration
Office of Civil Rights
Title VI Program Coordinator
East Building, 5th Floor - TCR
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

U.S. Department of Justice
Office for Civil Rights
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

ORGANIZACIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN METROPOLITANA DE READING (MPO DE READING)

TÍTULO VI PROCEDIMIENTOS DE RECLAMACIÓN

Propósito:

Los Procedimientos de Reclamaciones del Título VI del MPO de Reading se crearon para especificar el proceso empleado por la MPO de Reading para investigar reclamaciones, mientras que garantiza que se cumpla el debido proceso para Demandantes y Demandados. El proceso no impide que la MPO de Reading intente resolver las reclamaciones de manera informal.

Este procedimiento se aplica a todas las reclamaciones externas relacionadas con cualquier programa o actividad administrada por la MPO de Reading y/o subreceptores, consultores y contratistas, presentadas de acuerdo con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y sus modificaciones, (incluyendo aspectos de Empresas de Negocio con Desventaja y de Igualdad de Oportunidades de Empleo), como así también otras leyes que prohíben la discriminación en función de raza, color, discapacidad, sexo, preferencia sexual, edad, bajos ingresos, nacionalidad o dominio limitado del idioma inglés. Las reglamentaciones adicionales incluyen, entre otras, el Artículo 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, la Ley de Restauración de Derechos Civiles de 1987 y la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990.

Estos procedimientos son parte de un proceso administrativo que no establece recursos que incluyan indemnizaciones punitivas o remuneraciones compensatorias para el Demandante. La intimidación o las represalias de cualquier tipo están prohibidas por la ley.

Proceso:

Un individuo, o su representante, que considere que ha sido objeto de discriminación o represalia prohibida por el Título VI y otras disposiciones contra la discriminación, tiene derecho a presentar una reclamación. Las reclamaciones deben presentarse dentro de los 180 días calendario a partir del momento en que se produjo el hecho, cuando se conoció la discriminación alegada por el Demandante o cuando hubo un curso continuo de una conducta, la fecha en la que la conducta se discontinuó o la última instancia de la conducta.

Las reclamaciones pueden enviarse a:

Funcionario de Cumplimiento del Título VI
Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Coordinador del Título VI
Oficina de Igualdad de Oportunidades
Departamento de Transporte de Pennsylvania
PO Box 3251
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1720

Especialista en Igualdad de Oportunidades
Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos
Administración Federal de Autopistas
228 Walnut Street; Room 508
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105-1720

Funcionario de Derechos Civiles
Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos
Administración Federal de Tránsito
1760 Market St, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19103-4124

Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos
División de Derechos Civiles
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Oficina del Ayudante del Fiscal General,
Main Washington, D.C. 20530

Las reclamaciones deben hacerse por escrito y deben estar firmadas por el/los Demandantes(s). Si las reclamaciones se reciben por teléfono o en persona, el Gerente de Cumplimiento del Título VI u otro representante autorizado deberán entrevistar formalmente a la persona para determinar el motivo de la denuncia por escrito. Si fuera necesario, la persona autorizada ayudará al Demandante a escribir la reclamación. La reclamación por escrito debe incluir la siguiente información:

- Nombre, dirección y número de teléfono del Demandante
- Motivo de la Reclamación: (por ejemplo, Raza, Color, Origen Nacional, Sexo, Edad, Discapacidad o Represalia)
- Una descripción detallada de las circunstancias del incidente que llevaron al Demandante a considerar que se produjo una discriminación.
- Nombres, direcciones y números de teléfono de las personas que puedan tener conocimiento del incidente aducido o que se consideren parte en el incidente por el que se está reclamando.
- Fecha o fechas en las que se produjo la discriminación alegada
- Otras agencias ante las que se presentó la reclamación.
- A medida que se desarrolla la investigación, es posible que se requiera información adicional.

Si la MPO de Reading recibe una reclamación, acusará recibo de la misma notificando al Demandante y transmitiendo inmediatamente la reclamación a la agencia federal o estatal que corresponda (por ejemplo, la Administración Federal de Autopistas, la Administración Federal de Tránsito y el Departamento de Transporte de Pensilvania (PennDOT)) para la correspondiente investigación y disposición de acuerdo con los procedimientos de reclamaciones del Título VI de esa agencia.

El Gerente de Cumplimiento del Título VI de la MPO de Reading llevará un registro de todas las reclamaciones recibidas por la MPO de Reading.

Para obtener más información en Internet acerca del Título VI visite: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/tvi.htm>

Proceso de apelación

Si el Demandante no está de acuerdo con la decisión tomada por el Demandado y no puede llegar a un acuerdo informal, el Demandante puede presentar directamente la reclamación ante:

Departamento de Transporte de Pennsylvania
Oficina de Igualdad de Oportunidades
PO Box 3251
Harrisburg, PA. 17105-3251

Administración Federal de Autopistas
Oficina de la División de Pennsylvania
228 Walnut Street, Room 508
Harrisburg, PA. 17101-1720

Administración Federal de Tránsito
Oficina de Derechos Civiles
Título VI Coordinador del Programa
East Building, 5th Floor - TCR
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos
Oficina de Derechos Civiles
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

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APPENDIX C

Title VI Complaint Form

**READING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (Reading MPO)
TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM**

Please Print All Information Below

Complainant Name:

Name of Individual assisting Complainant:

Complainant Address:

Assisting Individual Address

Complainant Phone #

Assisting Individual Phone #

Basis of Complaint: (e.g., Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, Age, Disability, Retaliation)

Date(s) of alleged discrimination:

Please provide a detailed description of the circumstances of the incident(s), including any additional information supporting your complaint (please use additional pages as necessary):

Please provide the name(s), title and address of the person who discriminated against the Complainant.

Please provide, if applicable, names and contact information of people who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or are perceived as parties in the complained-of incident(s):

Please list any other agency where complaint has been filed:

Complainant Signature:

Today's Date:

Next Action:

Complaints may be mailed to:

Title VI Compliance Officer
Michael D. Golembiewski
Reading Area Transportation Study
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Equal Opportunity Specialist
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
228 Walnut Street; Room 508
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105-1720

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main
Washington, D.C. 20530

Title VI Coordinator
Bureau of Equal Opportunity
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
PO Box 3251
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1720

Equal Opportunity Specialist
PA Human Relations Commission
Harrisburg Regional Office
Riverfront Office Center, 5th Floor
1101-1125 South Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2515

Civil Rights Officer
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1760 Market St, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19103-4124

**ORGANIZACIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN METROPOLITANA DE READING (MPO de Reading)
TÍTULO VI FORMULARIO DE RECLAMACIÓN**

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Nombre de la persona que asiste al Demandante:

Domicilio del Demandante:

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Reading, PA 19601

Coordinador del Título VI
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Departamento de Transporte de Pennsylvania
PO Box 3251
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1720

Especialista en Igualdad de Oportunidades
Departamento de Transporte de los Estados Unidos
Administración Federal de Autopistas
228 Walnut Street; Room 508
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105-1720

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Oficina del Asistente del Fiscal General,
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APPENDIX D
Title VI Complaint Log



APPENDIX E
Public Participation Plan

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

C/o

Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court St. FL 14

Reading, PA 19601-4302

Ph: 610-478-6300

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The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of publication. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction to the Public Participation Plan	
1.2 Background	
1.3 Federal Certification Review Recommendations	
1.4 RATS Contact Information	
Section 2: Public Participation Goals.....	3
2.1 Overview	
Section 3: Outreach Techniques and Strategies.....	4
3.1 Overview	
3.2 Contact Lists	
3.3 Visualization Techniques	
3.4 Virtual Public Involvement	
Section 4: Consultation with Interested Parties	6
4.1 Overview	
4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Areas	
4.3 Consultation in Developing this Public Participation Plan	
Section 5: Title VI and Environmental Justice	7
5.1 Overview	
5.2 Target Outreach Areas	
Section 6: Limited English Proficiency (LEP).....	8
6.1 Overview	
6.2 LEP Assessment	
6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals	
6.4 'Vital' Documents	
Section 7: Americans with Disabilities Act	10
7.1 Overview	
7.2 Meaningful Access for Persons with Disabilities	
7.3 Web Access for Persons with Disabilities	
7.4 Notifications and Services	
Section 8: Public Participation in Meetings	12
8.1 Overview	
8.2 Public Comments at Board Meetings	
8.3 RATS Committees	
Section 9: Public Notices	13
9.1 Overview	
9.2 Public Notice Requirements	

Section 10: Public Review and Comment Periods at Key Decision Points.....	14
10.1 Overview	
10.2 Public Comment and Review Period Requirements	
10.3 Additional Public Review and Comment Periods	
10.4 The Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)	
10.5 The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	
10.6 Major Amendments to the Regional LRTP or TIP	
10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report	
10.8 The Public Participation Plan	
Section 11: Access to Information.....	20
11.1 Overview	
11.2 Response to Special Request	
Section 12: Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings	21
Section 13: Applicability	21
Section 14: Future Efforts	21
14.1 Overview	

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction to the *Public Participation Plan*

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for all of Berks County and is responsible for regional transportation planning activities. RATS communicates with interested parties to ensure effective and innovative transportation planning that is representative of and responsive to the needs of the entire region. To achieve this goal, RATS provides the public with an active role in the development of transportation plans, programs, and projects, beginning in the early stages of and throughout the planning processes.

This *Public Participation Plan* (PPP) provides a framework to ensure that the RATS transportation planning process includes a proactive participation process and complies with federal participation plan requirements. This PPP identifies current and previous outreach efforts and outlines steps to be taken to improve.

1.2 Background

Public participation processes involve the timely notification of information to the public to provide input early in and throughout the planning and programming processes. RATS provides interested parties with opportunities to comment on those processes, including this *Public Participation Plan*. The *Public Participation Plan* ensures that the public involvement activities of RATS transportation planning processes comply with the proactive public involvement requirements of Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The requirements for public involvement are set forth primarily in 23 CFR Section 450.316(a)(1)(2)(3) and (b) which addresses elements of the metropolitan planning process. The requirements pertaining to the *Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP) (23 CFR 450.322) also include provisions addressing public outreach [450.322(f)(7), 450.322(g), 450.322(i), and 450.322(j)]. The process that addresses public involvement in the *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) (CFR 450.32) is described in Section 450.316(a). Additionally, regulations require an opportunity for at least one public meeting in air quality nonattainment Transportation Management Areas (TMA's) should be addressed through the PPP described in 450.316(a). A TMA is designated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as an urbanized area with a population greater than 200,000 as determined by the most recent Decennial Census.

The PPP details strategies and procedures RATS will use to achieve its long-standing commitment to participation in regional transportation planning efforts. The PPP applies to transportation planning activities for which participation by interested parties is a required component, and outlines RATS transportation planning activities that comply

Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023

with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and other applicable standards for collecting and addressing public comments.

1.3 Federal Certification Review Recommendations

Pursuant to 23 United States Code (USC) Section 134(k) and 49 USC 5303(k), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must jointly certify the metropolitan transportation planning in Transportation Management Areas (TMA's) every four years. A TMA is an urbanized area, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, with a population of over 200,000. The latest Certification Review conducted for RATS occurred in November 2020, with the final report of that Review released on March 3, 2021. The review did not make any formal recommendations for improvements to this PPP. There were several subject areas within the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan where the MPO was encouraged to make improvements. Those areas will be addressed within that LEP Plan but are noted here for consistency.

1. The Review Team finds that RATS did not address the recommendations using the specific techniques identified in the 2017 report; however, the Team finds that the MPO addressed the intent of most of the recommendations. Specifically, the Review Team finds the MPO has made certain documents available to the region's largest LEP population in its native language; and, provided notices to that language group concerning the availability of language assistive services in its native language as a foreword to the document. Nonetheless, the Review Team finds that based on demographic data provided in the LEP Plan, the region has other LEP language groups that need to be made aware of the language assistive services the MPO provides. Accordingly, the Team encourages the MPO to add language Tag Lines for its current "front piece", relevant to its linguistic population, for inclusion in vital documents. Examples of language Tag Lines can be found in Pennsylvania's 2021 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance document.
2. The Review Team found that the recommendation concerning the website, although addressed in the MPOs LEP Plan, is not readily observable on the website. The Team found that the reason that changes have not been made to the website as indicated is that the website is not within the MPOs direct authority and control to address. During the virtual review discussion, the MPO revealed that the website is administered and maintained by Berks County. As a result, RATS is unable to unilaterally alter the website:
3. To improve the overall process, the Review Team encourages RATS to revisit the language in the LEP Plan, and anywhere else that it appears, concerning the availability of translation of the website. This information should be revised to accurately reflect how the MPO communicates information contained on its website to LEP language groups.

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

1.4 RATS Contact Information

For more information on this *Public Participation Plan* or on RATS regional transportation planning activities, please contact us through the Berks County Planning Commission using the information shown on the front cover of the document.

Section 2: Public Participation Goals:

2.1 Overview

RATS recognizes the obligation to provide adequate information to persons regarding transportation plans and programs. It also seeks out and encourages participation in the development of these plans and programs as well as any substantial amendments to them. Therefore, RATS will ensure that adequate information is provided to individuals and groups to evaluate various proposals. RATS will also provide forums to obtain views on transportation planning and project related issues.

RATS recognizes that persons affected by public action should have a voice in policy formulation. Although the various transportation planning and programming activities are designed to have long term beneficial effects on the community, these activities may also have an adverse impact on some individuals. Therefore, it is important that everybody knows what is being planned and is given every opportunity to present their views.

RATS recognizes the need to consult and coordinate with appropriate public and private agencies such as federal and state departments, local municipalities, county departments, and private organizations. It will also confer with social service agencies regarding the needs of their clients including the elderly, persons with disabilities, low income, and those of minority and/or Limited English Proficient groups.

To comply with the various requirements, RATS sets forth these Public Participation Goals, including:

- Ensure that interested parties in Berks County have an active and ongoing role in the regional transportation planning process
- Guarantee an established and dependable process with open meetings and public access to technical data and non-technical information
- Increase the level of understanding of the transportation planning process in the region and identify how interested parties can become more involved
- Provide interested parties with multiple opportunities for meaningful involvement in the regional transportation planning process
- Identify, seek out and engage minority populations, low-income populations, Limited English Proficient populations, persons with disabilities, and all groups and organizations listed in Section 4.1 as Interested Parties
- Employ effective techniques for outreach and communication

Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023

- Serve as a guide to RATS / BCPC staff for outreach and participation activities and efforts for transportation and other planning activities
- Document what we learn from interested parties in a format for consideration and use by the MPO Board ('the Board'), Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC), BCPC staff, and others to improve our outreach and participation efforts.

Section 3: Outreach Techniques and Strategies

3.1 Overview

RATS uses a wide range of communication mechanisms and community engagement techniques to provide for meaningful participation from interested parties, including:

- Communication by mail, phone, fax, email, or person-to-person contact
- BCPC's website containing documents, meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, transportation-related announcements, and educational tools
- Input at public meetings, public hearings, and workshops that are held at convenient and accessible locations and times
- Partnering with community, civic, and business groups to produce forums and input sessions when requested
- Distribution of planning documents, brochures, fact sheets, and maps documenting planning efforts
- Distribution of public notices and press releases
- Internet and direct mailed surveys
- Using the BCPC's *eFlash* electronic notifications of important events
- Using the BCPC's Facebook page
- Exploring the creation of a separate RATS Facebook page, along with other social media
- Visualization techniques to help board members and the public understand potential outcomes of transportation plans and/or programs
- Consultation with agencies and officials responsible for planning activities within the county that are affected by transportation
- Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish and made available digitally and in print
- Including notices on all documents and on the website that certain translated documents are available, and other translations are available on request
- Incorporating virtual public outreach and input

3.2 Contact Lists

RATS staff continually develops and maintains databases of stakeholders, media and interested organizations and parties. These lists are updated regularly to reflect current information. Contact lists expand throughout the transportation planning process as

Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023

people, organizations and agencies become involved and offer their opinions or just want more information. To establish new contacts, RATS uses a range of strategies, such as:

- Mailing list registration is available at all public meetings / hearings
- Mailing list registration is available via the BCPC website or email
- Announcements of public meetings, public hearings, workshops, and other project-specific opportunities made available online, through news releases, email notification, targeted mailings, social media (Facebook), or announced at public meetings
- Working with existing stakeholders to suggest potential participants or encourage participation
- Working with professional, civic and community organizations to provide representatives, suggest participants, and encourage participation
- Making special efforts to engage social service providers who work with transportation-challenged clients

3.3 Visualization Techniques

RATS uses a wide range of accessible information resources to help participants understand different proposals, impacts and possible outcomes related to regional transportation programs and plans. Visualization techniques used to illustrate these concepts may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following materials and practices:

- Printed small and large scale maps
- Aerial photographs, alone or with GIS mapping overlays
- Photographs, sketches, artist renderings, images, diagrams, charts, and other graphics
- Printed maps that allow comparison of proposals
- Scenario planning discussions
- Online maps
- Virtual public engagement that includes visual aids and voice descriptions
- Internet web based content that is:
 - Easy to read (sans serif fonts)
 - Does not require extensive page scrolling or multiple 'click-throughs'
 - No advertising
 - Documents available for download in standard software formats, i.e., Adobe .PDF, Microsoft products

3.4 Virtual Public Involvement

The COVID-19 Pandemic forced public meetings to go from in-person gatherings to virtual environments for many months. RATS staff adapted to these challenges and continues to improve where possible. Since all online processes are controlled by

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

County of Berks Information Services Department policies and procedures, RATS staff uses the following products and techniques:

- Microsoft Teams Live, Facebook Live, and YouTube for live meeting broadcasts
- Incorporation of screen-shared agendas, attachments, documents, and presentations
- Ensuring the public is aware that meetings are recorded for transcription purposes
- Allowing for Public Comment at the beginning and end of all meetings
- Posting agendas and meeting links on the Berks County, Planning Commission, and RATS websites at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting
- Posting all meeting materials at least 48 hours prior to the meeting

Section 4: Consultation with Interested Parties

4.1 Overview

Federal guidance originally from SAFETEA-LU legislation dictates that:

“The MPO shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan planning process”. [§ 450.316(a) Interested parties, participation and consultation]

4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies

MPO’s must consult with federally recognized Tribes and Nations to provide opportunities for review and comment on key planning documents. PennDOT maintains their Tribal Consultation Guide which describes which Tribes and Nations have interests throughout the Commonwealth, specifies which are to be included in review activities and how they are to be addressed. Many Tribes and Nations accept electronic submissions however there are still some who require hardcopies of all draft documents.

Regulations also require coordination with Federal Land Management agencies in the development of the TIP and LRTP. There are two (2) federal lands in Berks County: Hopewell Furnace National Historic Park, administered by the National Park Service, and Blue Marsh Lake, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

4.3 Consultation in Developing this *Public Participation Plan*

The Reading Area Transportation Study develops all plans and programs in consultation with the interested parties defined above. To develop this *Public Participation Plan*, RATS first assembled a draft list of participation strategies and ideas based on a review of the existing Public Involvement Process Resolution, past experiences, and guidance from federal transportation planning legislation. All activities undertaken during the Public Comment Period are documented in the Appendix.

Section 5: Title VI and Environmental Justice

5.1 Overview

RATS *Environmental Justice Summary* serves as a guide for RATS to use to identify concentrations of Title VI and Environmental Justice populations, including minorities and low-income populations. This Summary is updated with every TIP and LRTP update; at a minimum of every two (2) years. The foundation for these efforts is stated in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program receiving Federal financial assistance.” --Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000)

The President’s 1994 Executive Order on Environmental Justice states:

“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.” --Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 1994

As concentrations of these groups are located, RATS will work with agencies and organizations that encompass these groups to ensure they are aware of draft Plans and Programs and have opportunities to provide input.

5.2 Target Outreach Areas

RATS uses its data collection and analysis capabilities within the *Environmental Justice Summary* process to support participation efforts and help ensure meaningful access to its public participation opportunities. RATS uses the *Environmental Justice Summary* to analyze the relationship between the region’s populations and its regional investments, plans and programs.

Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023

Geographic analysis assists RATS to identify environmental justice communities and target outreach to these areas as necessary. Using the Environmental Justice Summary, RATS will specifically:

- Identify the locations of environmental justice communities throughout Berks County
- Where possible, host public meetings in accessible locations and times within these communities, and
- Identify one or more organizations that serve these communities and proactively share information with the organizations to disseminate throughout their respective networks and communication channels.

Additionally, staff will work with PennDOT officials to help guide their public outreach efforts when project-specific meetings are being planned. RATS will develop and maintain an updated listing of accessible locations that may be used for public meetings in environmental justice communities.

Section 6: Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

6.1 Overview

“Limited English Proficient” or “LEP” persons are those individuals who do not speak English as their primary language, and who also have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. The key commonality among LEP persons is their inability to communicate effectively in the English language, regardless of their native tongue. Persons who are multi-lingual, in that they speak one or more other languages in addition to being proficient in English, are not considered to be Limited English Proficient.

6.2 LEP Assessment

As a recipient of federal financial assistance, RATS has an obligation to reduce language barriers that can preclude meaningful access to RATS’ programs, information and services by LEP individuals. An integral part of this effort is the completion of a “Limited English Proficiency Self-Assessment” or LEP Assessment, which is designed to balance four factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or service.
2. The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter the program and/or activities.
3. The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided to people’s lives, and
4. The resources available to the federal financial recipient and costs.

This assessment along with detailed reviews of the latest Census data examines the most prevalent non-English speaking populations and their geographic dispersion

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

throughout Berks County. That analysis is detailed in a separate Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan that accompanies this PPP. Presently, under LEP guidelines, translation of ‘vital documents’ is provided in Spanish only. However, the front piece of all RATS documents will include language taglines in over 30 different languages stating that assistance will be provided in those languages on request.

6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals

RATS will take reasonable steps to endure that LEP persons have meaningful access to key transportation planning decisions and have opportunities to become involved in the regional transportation planning processes. RATS will use one or more of the following tools to reasonably accommodate LEP individuals:

- Provide on request, with seven (7) days advanced notice (based on document size and complexity), translated copies of materials in Spanish as well as other languages if requested. RATS, through the County of Berks, has an active contract with a firm that provides translation services.
- Provide on request, with seven (7) days advanced notice, oral interpretation services for public meetings. RATS, through the County of Berks, has an active contract with a firm that provides interpretation services.
- To actively engage LEP persons, meeting announcements, press releases and public notices will be distributed to organizations that target these groups in appropriate languages.
- RATS will provide notices to local minority media outlets and community service organizations regarding the availability of language translation services. Those outlets and organizations currently include the Daniel Torres Hispanic Center, WFMZ-Spanish Edition (television), Rumba 92.3 (WRAW) FM (radio), WXAC 91.3 FM Albright College (radio), and Palo (monthly subscription print magazine).
- RATS’ vital documents will include statements in Spanish, the most common non-English language identified by Census data, that translations are available free on request. RATS, through the County of Berks, has an active contract with a firm that provides translation services.
- The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, as well as translation between multiple other languages. RATS will continually make efforts to develop points of contact with representatives of non-English speaking communities.
- RATS will make available vital documents and Executive Summaries, where appropriate, in Spanish.
- RATS will Include notices on all documents and on the website that certain translated documents are available, and other translations are available on request.
- BCPC staff will undergo periodic training in products and procedures provided through Berks County contracts to be used to communicate with individuals needing language assistance.

6.4 'Vital' Documents

RATS considers vital documents to be those that convey critical information to the public or are required by law or federal regulation. Based on this definition, the MPO will consider vital documents to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Title VI Policy*
- Title VI Complaint Procedures*
- Title VI Complaint Forms*
- Annual Meeting Schedule*
- Notices for special Public Meetings*

Additionally, the following documents will be either condensed into 'Executive Summary' formats and will have those Executive summaries translated into Spanish, or will be translated in their entirety (based on document size and complexity):

- Long Range Transportation Plan*
- Transportation Improvement Program*
- Environmental Justice Summary*
- Public Participation Plan*
- Limited English Proficiency Plan*

These documents will be made available in print and online. Vital documents will be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. Other documents may also be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested.

Section 7: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

7.1 Overview

To ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), RATS' Public Meeting Notices and comment opportunities provide multiple input methods. Public meetings and hearings are always held at ADA-accessible locations on established public transportation routes. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of RATS, or has complaints that a program, service, or activity of RATS is not accessible to persons with disabilities should call the ADA Point of Contact at (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

7.2 Meaningful Access for Persons with Disabilities

RATS staff coordinates with local disability advocacy groups to ensure information is readily available to all. RATS may use one or more of the following tools to reasonably accommodate people with disabilities:

- Provide on request, with advanced notice, copies of materials in larger, sans-serif type
- Provide on request, with reasonable advanced notice (based on document size and complexity), Braille or raised-print notices and materials
- Provide on request, with advance notice, sign language interpreters
- Record materials to audio/visual media
- Verbalize information provided through visual presentations or written materials
- On request, structure seating to provide visibility for participants who lip-read or cannot adequately hear deliberations
- When necessary, mount microphones at wheelchair height
- When necessary, provide hand-held microphones to participants
- Ensure that persons who speak during virtual meetings can be heard
- Provide on request, with reasonable advanced notice, Closed Captioning services for virtual public meetings

7.3 Web Access for Persons with Disabilities

The County of Berks instituted web content for departments of county government. The County uses the same web content administration software provided by the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). One of the many reasons behind that decision included the accessibility options within the software. Those options, along with countywide website design standards, include:

- Minimal use of images
- Those images that exist must have an “ALT-TEXT” option
- Image maps must have a text equivalent
- A ‘text-only’ web page browser option that removes all images
- No ‘roll-overs’
- Use of easily readable Sans-Serif fonts
- Pages and content designed for the least number of click-throughs
- Pages designed to minimize scrolling
- Documents designed for download are created in standard software packages i.e., Microsoft products and Adobe PDF; and

7.4 Notifications and Services

Representatives of the disabled have been included on our mailing lists and were forwarded surveys (Section 4.2) to garner their input. At all in-person meetings hosted

Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023

by RATS, accommodations will be made for wheelchair access and, with four (4) days advanced notice, American Sign Language interpretation services. Documents in Braille or large print type and audio recordings can be made available with appropriate notice, depending on the size and complexity of the document. The availability of these services is detailed in Public Notices. Any questions, concerns, requests for accommodations or complaints should be made to the ADA Point of Contact listed in Section 7.1.

Section 8: Public Participation in Meetings

8.1 Overview

RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area as well as adjacent counties/MPO's as applicable. There are many opportunities and levels of involvement for persons related to the regional planning process, and for those who wish to address the Board directly. Except for those meetings that are appropriate Executive Sessions, all meetings of the Reading Area Transportation Study Technical and Coordinating committees are open to interested parties and include opportunities to comment on both agenda and non-agenda items.

8.2 Public Comments at Board Meetings

All those in attendance will be asked to sign-in at the meeting location or, if virtual, to announce their presence for the record. Those wishing to comment will be asked to indicate those wishes at their signature or in the Chat feature. Individuals may be requested to limit the length of their comments, and individuals may also be requested not to duplicate like or similar comments of others preceding them.

Proceedings of meetings of the Boards are made available as meeting minutes or meeting summaries, which are posted on the Berks County Planning Commission's website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, and also for review at the Berks County Planning Commission's offices. Please call the BCPC at 610-478-6300 for more information.

8.3 RATS Committees

RATS has several committees that meet on an as-needed basis in which citizens, advocates, private sector representatives and others can obtain the same information given to the representatives of the professional planning and transportation agencies involved in RATS activities. Committee meetings give interested parties an opportunity to learn the pertinent facts surrounding an issue. All committee meetings are advertised and open to the public.

Section 9: Public Notices

9.1 Overview

To ensure that the public has ample opportunity to take part in the regional planning process, RATS is committed to providing timely notification, complete information, and full public access to key decisions. This section describes the procedures that RATS will use for all public notices.

9.2 Public Notice Requirements

RATS uses public notices to announce the following types of events and participation opportunities:

- The Boards' annual meeting schedules – advertised annually through the Berks County Commissioners and on the RATS website
- Special, rescheduled, or cancelled Board meetings – advertised according to PA Sunshine Law requirements
- Comment Periods – advertised at least 30 days prior to the date the Board is scheduled to take formal action on any major decisions (45 days for the PPP, see Section 10); and
- Meetings related to Comment Periods – advertised at least seven (7) days in advance (see Section 10.2).

Public Notices for these events and participation opportunities will be:

- Advertised in the form of paid legal advertisements. One paid advertisement will be placed in a newspaper of general circulation in the region (*Reading Eagle*) and, if available, one in a newspaper with circulation targeted to minority communities
- Public notices for special public meetings or major forums may be advertised in the form of paid display advertisements
- Distributed to other media outlets or organizations that serve targeted outreach groups identified in this document
- Posted on the agency's web pages at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>;
- Sent electronically through the BCPC's eFlash electronic mail system
- Posted on the BCPC's Facebook page
- Sent to libraries with a request for posting
- Sent to SCTA/BARTA (transit provider) with a request for posting

Public Notices will provide the following information (where applicable):

- Type or name of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- Subject of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- The date, time, and location of meeting/participation event/activity
- The web link for a virtual meeting

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

- Start and end dates for public comment periods
- Contact information (Address, Telephone Number, E-mail address and/or website)
- ADA Point of Contact information
- Brief summary of the proposed action, plan, program or amendment
- Where to obtain copies of the plan or materials
- How to provide formal public comments
- If formal action on a major decision will be taken by the Board, the date, time and location of the meeting where that action will be taken
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with Limited English Proficiency; and
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with disabilities; and
- Directions on how to file complaints under Title VI and other nondiscrimination statutes

Section 10: Public Review and Comment Periods at Key Decision Points

10.1 Overview

RATS values the efforts stakeholders and the public make to participate in the regional planning process. RATS will provide at least 30 days for public review and comment before taking formal action on any major decisions (45 days for PPP). This *Public Participation Plan* defines a major decision as the official adoption of:

- the *Regional Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP)
- the *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP)
- *Air Quality Conformity Determination*
- *Public Participation Plan* (PPP)
- A Major Amendment to the regional plan or TIP

10.2 Public Comment and Review Period Requirements

RATS will inform the public and interested parties of Public Comment Periods, using the Public Notice procedures described above, at least 30 days prior to the date scheduled for Board adoption or major amendment of a Regional LRTP, TIP, *Air Quality Conformity Determination*, or major amendment (45 days for PPP).

Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be made available to stakeholders, other interested parties, and the public at locations throughout the County. These locations include BARTA offices, BCPC offices, PennDOT District 5-0 offices, and the BCPC website <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the Public Notice.

~~Prior to formal action by the Board on the adoption of a regional LRTP, TIP, *Air Quality*~~

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

Conformity Determination, Public Participation Plan, or major amendment, at least one public meeting will be held for the purpose of providing information to and obtaining comment from the public. The public meeting may be held as part of a regular meeting of the Board or held as a separate public meeting. Public Notice for this meeting can be combined with the Public Notice issued for the related Public Comment Period described in Section 10.2.

10.3 Additional Public Review and Comment Periods

If the draft regional LRTP, TIP, *Air Quality Conformity Determination*, or major amendment differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the initial public involvement effort, an additional 15-day Public Comment period will be offered.

If the draft *Public Participation Plan* changes appreciably during the review and comment period, an additional 30-day public review and comment period is provided prior to the Board taking formal action.

Additional Public Review and Comment periods will be conducted in accordance with procedures for regular Public Review and Comment periods listed in Section 11.2.

10.4 The Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

The regional LRTP is a long range (20+ years) strategy and capital improvement program developed to guide the effective investment of public funds in multi-modal transportation facilities in the context of the regional vision. The regional plan provides the context from which the region's *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP), a short-range capital improvement program for implementing transportation projects, is drawn. The LRTP is updated every four years in consultation with interested parties.

RATS' early and ongoing public participation process in developing the LRTP will follow these steps:

- Step 1: Public Participation Surveys, through the internet and targeted mailing, will be used to gather initial input (when update cycles correspond, this can occur in concert with the TIP update). When available, staff will also use input gathered as part of any of PennDOT's public input processes
- Step 2: At the same time, Public Officials Surveys sent to local officials and the legislative delegation, will be used to gather governmental input.
- Step 3: Initial input, including at least one (1) Public Meeting/Workshop, will be compiled, and used in the design of the next phase of outreach and participation, such as workshops and other public meetings. This Public Meeting/Workshop may be held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled RATS MPO Technical or Coordinating Committee meeting.

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

- Step 4: Ongoing input will be used to develop draft regional plan materials in consultation with interested parties.
- Step 5: Draft regional plan materials will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 30-day public comment period. Draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices, and local libraries. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the Public Notice with Information to be included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form. Vital draft regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*. During this stage, two (2) Public Meetings will be held. These generally include one during the day in a hybrid format that includes both in-person and electronic access in a downtown Reading location, and a second meeting held in the evening in a rural location that is generally in-person only. Staff strives to accommodate requests for presentations at other meetings.
- Step 6: All comments received will be considered and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft regional plan materials
- Step 7: The Board takes formal action on the regional plan
- Step 8: A Public Participation Report for the regional plan will be developed. The Report will document all comments received and the response to comments and will also document all public participation and outreach activities. This Report may take the form of a Chapter or Appendix in the L RTP
- Step 9: Adopted final regional plan materials will be made available on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Vital regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*. Information will be included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form.

10.5 The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The regional *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) identifies the region's highest priority transportation projects, develops a multi-year program of implementation, and identifies available federal and non-federal funding sources for the identified projects. The TIP covers a four-year period of investment and is updated every two years through

Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023

a cooperative effort of local, state and federal agencies including participation by the general public and consultation with interested parties. Transportation projects included on the TIP are to be consistent with the regional LRTP. The entire range of projects included in the TIP must conform to federal air quality standards.

RATS early and ongoing public participation process in developing the TIP will follow these steps:

- Step 1: Public Participation Surveys, through the internet and targeted mailing, will be used to gather initial input. When update cycles correspond, this can occur in concert with the regional LRTP update and /or any PennDOT public input processes
- Step 2: At the same time, Public Officials Surveys sent to local officials and the legislative delegation, will be used to gather governmental input
- Step 3: Initial input will be compiled and used in the design of the next phase of outreach and participation, such as workshops and other public meetings
- Step 4: Ongoing input will be used to develop draft TIP materials in consultation with interested parties
- Step 5: Draft TIP materials will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 30-day public comment period. Draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, PennDOT District 5-0's offices, and local libraries. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the Public Notice with information included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form. Vital draft regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*. Information will be included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form. During this stage, two (2) Public Meetings will be held. These generally include one during the day in a hybrid format that includes both in-person and electronic access in a downtown Reading location, and a second meeting held in the evening in a rural location that is generally in-person only. Staff strives to accommodate requests for presentations at other meetings.
- Step 6: All comments received will be considered and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft TIP materials
- Step 7: The Board takes formal action on the TIP
- Step 8: A Public Participation Report for the TIP will be developed. The Report will document all comments received and the response to comments, and will also document all public participation and outreach activities
- Step 9: Adopted final regional plan materials will be made available on the

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Vital regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*. Information will be included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form.

10.6 Major Amendments to the Regional LRTP or TIP

Once a TIP or LRTP has been developed and approved the program is subject to revisions as the budgeted transportation program experiences changes in project scheduling and estimated costs. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will only authorize projects and approve grants for projects where the total cost is programmed in the current approved TIP. RATS must modify the TIP or regional LRTP to adjust to the changing cost and schedule if a planning partner or the Commonwealth would like to continue to advance the project.

The definition of a major amendment varies by the type and/or cost of program to be amended. Definitions and procedures for regional LRTP and TIP major amendments are included in the respective regional LRTP and TIP documents and are available on the BCPC's website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>. **If a proposed revision to the TIP or regional LRTP adds a project, deletes a project, or impacts the schedule or scope of work to an air quality significant project, RATS will review the proposal and determine if a new *Air Quality Conformity Determination* is required prior to formal approval of the change. If the revision requires that a new *Air Quality Conformity Determination* is necessary, an amendment to the regional LRTP shall also be developed.**

RATS' public participation and comment for major amendments to the regional LRTP or TIP will follow these steps:

- Step 1: RATS will inform the public and interested parties of the comment period for the proposed major amendment using the Public Notice procedures described in Section 10.2, at least 30 days prior to the date scheduled for Board action on the proposed major amendment
- Step 2: Proposed major amendment information will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 30-day Public Comment Period described in Section 10.2. Proposed major amendment information will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website, at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the public notice

**Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023**

- Step 3: All comments received and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the proposed major amendment
- Step 4: The Board takes action on the major amendment
- Step 5: After federal and state approval of the requested changes, RATS will update the appropriate TIP or regional LRTP documents on the BCPC website. Updated documents will also be available at the BCPC offices, BARTA offices, and PennDOT District 5-0 offices.

10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report

The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is a companion document to the regional LRTP and to the TIP. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report documents the process used by RATS for making the transportation-related conformity determination for the regional LRTP and TIP for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The Conformity Determination is required by the federal Clean Air Act. RATS conformity finding is based on criteria and procedures in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93) and satisfies all applicable conformity requirements. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is developed as part of the regional LRTP or TIP update, in which case public participation and public comment procedures for the regional LRTP or TIP update will be followed as described in Sections 10.4 and 10.5, respectively. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is also updated as required by certain amendments to the TIP or regional LRTP, in which case public participation and comment procedures for major amendments to the regional LRTP or TIP will be followed as described in Section 10.6.

10.8 The Public Participation Plan

This *Public Participation Plan* describes the various objectives, strategies, and tools to engage the public and encourage participation in the development of transportation plans and programs. RATS will periodically update the *Public Participation Plan*. This may be due to new official planning regulations and procedures, or after any public or Board evaluations of the Plan's effectiveness.

RATS' public participation and public comment process for updating the *Public Participation Plan* will follow these steps:

- Step 1: Revisions to the *Public Participation Plan* are developed in consultation with interested parties before the draft document is submitted for the public review and comment process
- Step 2: The draft *Public Participation Plan* will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 45-day Public Comment Period described in Section 10.2. The draft *Public Participation Plan* will be made available during the 45-day public comment period on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning->

Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023

[commission/transportation-reading-mpo](https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo), at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the public notice. The draft *Public Participation Plan* will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*

- Step 3: All comments received and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft *Public Participation Plan*
- Step 4: The Board acts on the draft *Public Participation Plan*
- Step 5: A *Public Participation Plan* will be produced and made available on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. The *Public Participation Plan* will be made available in and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*.
-

Section 11: Access to Information

11.1 Overview

RATS will provide reasonable access to public information, including technical information and meeting notices:

- In electronically accessible formats on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>;
- Links to the website will be provided on the BCPC Facebook page
- Links will also be advertised digitally through the BCPC eFlash service
- In print at the Berks County Planning Commission office in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court St., 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601; and
- BARTA's offices located at 1700 N. 11th St., Reading, PA 19604; and
- at PennDOT District 5-0 offices located at 1002 Hamilton St, Allentown, PA 18101.

11.2 Response to Special Request

To facilitate public involvement while also using limited staff resources efficiently, RATS will make information available to interested parties on a regular basis through the various processes and activities outlined in this *Public Participation Plan*.

When RATS receives special requests to perform an analysis that is not considered as part of the planning process, or other special data or information, the agency will

Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023

determine the reasonableness of the request. Parameters for determining the reasonableness (as used in this document) will evolve around the preparation time and costs to respond, as well as the relevancy to the transportation planning process and the agency mission. RATS will determine reasonableness of and respond to all requests on an individual basis.

Section 12: Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings

- The Board will review and revise the *Public Participation Plan* and processes based on input from the public, interested parties, and the Document Review Network in terms of their effectiveness in providing full and open access to all.
- Public Meetings, Public Hearings and special workshops scheduled for the public and interested parties will include a means of providing feedback on the effectiveness of the process of communication and meeting format.
- The *Public Participation Plan* will be reviewed at a minimum every two years, in the year prior to a TIP update, to ensure effectiveness and completeness.

Section 13: Applicability

This *Public Participation Plan* and any subsequent amendments shall be effective immediately upon the adoption by the Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee (the Board). This *Public Participation Plan* replaces any previously adopted Public Involvement Process resolutions.

Section 14: Future Efforts

14.1 Overview

RATS recognizes the need to continuously enhance our outreach efforts and periodically update this Public Participation Process. The following activities will take place to fulfill these goals:

- Further identify and consult with interested parties (ongoing)
- Continue to seek out EJ/LEP organizations, resources, and points of contact in the various communities (ongoing)
- Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the *Public Participation Plan* (every two years in year prior to updating TIP)
- Continue to review and, if necessary, update Limited English Proficiency Assessment every two years consistent with the *Public Participation Plan* evaluation
- Conduct review of ADA accessibility features of meeting spaces and the website (annually)
- Continue working with disability advocates to continuously make online materials easier to access using electronic methods.

***Public Participation Plan
FINAL September 2023***

- Consider the formation of a Public Participation Panel or Subcommittee, with appointment opportunities extended to the public and interested parties (on adoption of this Process).

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN and LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN
UPDATE PERIOD ACTIVITIES**

The following activities occurred prior to and during the *Public Participation Plan / Limited English Proficiency Plan* update period, which took place between June 4, 2023 and July 18, 2023:

1. Online Survey Monkey survey created, in both English and Spanish, along with printed surveys in English and Spanish. Copies of first page of online surveys attached, along with copies of printed surveys.
2. Initial email, including Public Notice and electronic links to surveys and documents, forwarded to over 250 groups, organizations and individuals. Copy of email attached.
3. Links to documents and surveys added to Berks County Planning Commission website. Images attached.
4. 6/4/2023, Legal Advertisement run in the Reading Eagle. Advertisement attached.
5. 6/5/2023, information included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Image attached.
6. 6/5/2023, Article/Notices included on the Berks Community Television (BCTV) website. Images attached.
7. 6/14/2023, Evening (7:00 p.m.) Public Meeting held at Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium facility. Meeting held in rural area. Meeting survey created and made available; 0 returned. There were no attendees from the public and one (1) Berks County Planning Commission staff member (presenter). Meeting materials, including PowerPoint discussion, attached.
8. 6/23/2023, Follow-up email sent as a reminder of the second Public Meeting and to complete surveys. Copy of email attached.
9. 6/23/2023 and 6/26/2023, information regarding second Public Meeting included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Images attached.
10. 6/27/2023, Second Public Meeting held at Berks County Services Center (Commissioner's Boardroom, 13th Floor). Afternoon (2:00 p.m.) meeting held in facility that is transit accessible, located in City of Reading. Meeting also held virtually to allow for non-in-person attendance. Meeting survey created and made available; none returned. Four (4) in-person attendees total, including Berks County Planning Commission staff (2 persons), Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person) and

- one (1) Berks County Commissioner. Three (3) persons attended virtually, including SCTA/BARTA staff (1 person), Western Berks Ambulance Assn. staff (1 person) and Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person). Only one (1) comment germane to the PPP/LEP update was from SCTA/BARTA staff noting their experiences reaching out to the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and various faith-based organizations have been helpful. Meeting materials including image of virtual meeting attached.
11. Comments were received via two separate emails (07/14/2023) from Michael Donchez, PennDOT District 5-0 staff. Comments germane to the LEP were limited to text formatting and two date corrections. Comments germane to the PPP include spelling, grammar, and formatting corrections. Additionally, recommendations for minor text additions/corrections were made. MPO staff concurs and will make those corrections. Both emails attached.
 12. Comments were received via email (07/17/2023) from Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff. These comments were substantive enough that staff chose to delay adoption of the draft PPP and LEP to further review and respond to these comments. A copy of Ms. Shamberg's email along with MPO staff responses is attached.
 13. As of the close of the Public Comment Period (07/18/2023), a total of ten (10) online surveys and no (0) written surveys were returned. All responses received were English; no Spanish responses to the Surveys were received. The summary of responses is attached.
 14. Staff submitted (8/23/2023) revised documents to Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff per her previously submitted comments for additional review. Staff also included Khan Mitchell (FHWA Civil Rights Specialist) along with Stacey Waters and Debra Allen (both PennDOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity). On 8/28/2023, staff received documents with embedded comments from both FHWA officials (unable to reproduce for this document). Staff reviewed and incorporated changes suggested by those comments.
 15. Both documents set for review/recommendation by RATS Technical Committee 9/7/2023. If a favorable recommendation is received, the RATS Coordinating Committee (Reading MPO) should adopt on 9/21/2023. Minutes from both meetings to be attached upon approval.

1. Online Survey Monkey survey created, in both English and Spanish, along with printed surveys in English and Spanish. Copies of first page of online surveys attached, along with copies of printed surveys.

Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

In one way or another, our transportation system affects our daily lives. We travel back and forth to work, school, shopping, medical appointments, and recreation activities. The goods we buy are shipped between factories, warehouses, and stores. People and goods travel in cars, trucks, trains, or busses; we also walk, bicycle, carpool, take a taxi or an Uber/Lyft, or telecommute. Over time, our transportation needs outgrow the current transportation system and changes are needed.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is a committee of local officials that engage in transportation planning for Berks County. It reviews the transportation needs of our area and prepares several required plans and programs. One of those, called the Public Participation Process, outlines the policies and methods used by RATS to gather and use meaningful public input as part of the transportation planning process. Please help us improve this Process by answering the questions below. Thanks!

1. Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

Yes

No

2. Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County?

Yes

No

3. Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

Yes

No

4. Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements?

Yes

No

Next

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)
Public Participation Plan Survey**

(Take this survey online! <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>)

In one way or another, our transportation system affects our daily lives. We travel back and forth to work, school, shopping, medical appointments, and recreation activities. The goods we buy are shipped between factories, warehouses, and stores. People and goods travel in cars, trucks, trains, or busses; we also walk, bicycle, carpool, take a taxi or an Uber/Lyft, or telecommute. Over time, our transportation needs outgrow the current transportation system and changes are needed.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is a committee of local officials that engage in transportation planning for Berks County. It reviews the transportation needs of our area and prepares several required plans and programs. One of those, called the *Public Participation Process*, outlines the policies and methods used by RATS to gather and use meaningful public input as part of the transportation planning process. Please help us improve this Process by answering the questions below. Thanks!

Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)? Yes No

If you checked 'No' above,

- Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County Yes No
- Are you familiar with the transportation planning process? Yes No
- Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements? Yes No

If you checked 'Yes' above, where have you seen or heard about RATS?

- Print Media (specify) _____
- Television (specify) _____
- Social Media (specify) _____
- Municipal Newsletter (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____

As we develop plans and projects that may impact you, what would be the best ways for us to get information to you? (Check all that apply)

- Direct notification (by postal mail or email) of meetings and documents
- BCTV Programs and BCTV Community Calendar notices
- Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups
- Newspaper articles and press releases
- Legal Advertisements and/or block ads in newspaper
- Website information, including downloadable documents
- Documents on file at libraries and other community organizations
- Municipal Newsletters
- Paper notices posted on bulletin boards
- Social Media (Specify) _____
- Advertising-type newspapers (the *Merchandiser*)
- Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)

If you have concerns as we develop those plans or about transportation projects, which of the following methods are effective ways for you to get information to us? (Check all that apply)

- Public meetings, special presentations & workshops
- Paper Surveys returned by postal mail
- Electronic Surveys completed online
- Social Media (Specify) _____
- Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups
- Small group meetings (community organizations, agencies, & individuals)
- Telephone or fax
- Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)

What obstacles prevent you from attending a meeting about transportation planning? (Check all that apply)

- Not an interesting subject
- No specific project that directly affects me
- Need special accommodations (please explain below)
- Fear/distrust of government
- Can't leave work to attend meetings
- Child / Elder care concerns
- Meeting time / location conflicts (please explain below)
- Language barrier (please explain language needed below)
- Lack of available transportation
- Other (please describe at the end of this survey)

Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

Yes No

If No, which challenges do you face? (Check all that apply)

- I don't use or have access to a computer or phone
- I'm not comfortable using technology
- I'd rather meet face-to-face
- Other reason (specify) _____

If Yes, which benefits do you receive? (Check all that apply)

- It saves me time
- I don't have to drive anywhere
- I don't have access to transportation
- I can view recorded meetings at a more convenient time
- I prefer virtual vs. face-to-face

Which types of platform(s) do you use regularly? (Check all that apply)

- Desktop Computer / Laptop
- Tablet / Mobile Phone
- Neither

Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading Encuesta del Plan de Participación Pública

De una forma u otra, nuestro sistema de transporte afecta nuestras vidas cotidianas. Viajamos de ida y vuelta al trabajo, a la escuela, para ir de compras, a las citas médicas y a las actividades recreativas. Los productos que compramos se transportan entre fábricas, almacenes y tiendas. Las personas y las mercancías viajan en automóviles, camiones, trenes o autobuses; también caminamos, pedaleamos, compartimos el automóvil, tomamos un taxi o un Uber / Lyft, o trabajamos desde la casa. A lo largo del tiempo, nuestras necesidades de transporte superan la oferta del sistema de transporte actual y se necesitan cambios.

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading, RATS por sus siglas en inglés) es un comité de funcionarios locales que participan en la planificación del transporte para Berks County (Condado de Berks). Revisa las necesidades de transporte de nuestra área y prepara varios planes y programas requeridos. Uno de estos, llamado Public Participation Process (Proceso de Participación Pública), describe las políticas y métodos utilizados por RATS para recopilar y usar aportes públicos significativos como parte del proceso de planificación del transporte. Ayúdenos a mejorar este proceso respondiendo a las siguientes preguntas. ¡Gracias!

1. ¿Alguna vez ha visto o escuchado sobre el Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

Sí

No

2. ¿Sabe quién lleva a cabo la planificación del transporte en Berks County?

Sí

No

3. ¿Está familiarizado con el proceso de planificación del transporte?

Sí

No

4. ¿Sabe de dónde provienen los fondos para mejoras en el transporte?

Sí

No

Sig.

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)
(Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading)**

**Public Participation Plan Survey
(Encuesta del Plan de Participación Pública)**

(¡Conteste esta encuesta en línea! <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>)

De una forma u otra, nuestro sistema de transporte afecta nuestras vidas cotidianas. Viajamos de ida y vuelta al trabajo, a la escuela, para ir de compras, a las citas médicas y a las actividades recreativas. Los productos que compramos se transportan entre fábricas, almacenes y tiendas. Las personas y las mercancías viajan en automóviles, camiones, trenes o autobuses; también caminamos, pedaleamos, compartimos el automóvil, tomamos un taxi o un Uber / Lyft, o trabajamos desde la casa. A lo largo del tiempo, nuestras necesidades de transporte superan la oferta del sistema de transporte actual y se necesitan cambios.

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading, RATS por sus siglas en inglés) es un comité de funcionarios locales que participan en la planificación del transporte para Berks County (Condado de Berks). Revisa las necesidades de transporte de nuestra área y prepara varios planes y programas requeridos. Uno de estos, llamado Public Participation Process (Proceso de Participación Pública), describe las políticas y métodos utilizados por RATS para recopilar y usar aportes públicos significativos como parte del proceso de planificación del transporte. Ayúdenos a mejorar este proceso respondiendo a las siguientes preguntas. ¡Gracias!

¿Alguna vez ha visto o escuchado sobre el Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)? Sí No

Si marcó “No” arriba,

- ¿Sabe quién lleva a cabo la planificación del transporte en Berks County? Sí No
¿Está familiarizado con el proceso de planificación del transporte? Sí No
¿Sabe de dónde provienen los fondos para mejoras en el transporte? Sí No

Si marcó “Sí” arriba, ¿dónde ha visto o escuchado sobre RATS?

- Medios impresos (especifique) _____
 Televisión (especifique) _____
 Redes sociales (especifique) _____
 Boletín municipal (especifique) _____
 Otro (especifique) _____

A medida que desarrollamos planes y proyectos que pueden impactarlo a usted, ¿cuáles serían los mejores métodos para brindarle información? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Notificación directa sobre documentos o reuniones (vía postal o correo electrónico)
- Programas de BCTV y anuncios del BCTV Community Calendar
- Reuniones públicas, reuniones de RATS, y presentaciones a grupos comunitarios
- Artículos de periódicos y comunicados de prensa
- Anuncios legales y/o bloqueo de anuncios en periódicos
- Información en la web, incluidos los documentos descargables
- Documentos archivados en bibliotecas y otras organizaciones comunitarias
- Boletines municipales
- Avisos impresos publicados en tabloneros de anuncios
- Redes sociales (especifique)_____
- Periódicos publicitarios (como el *Merchandiser*)
- Otros métodos (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

Si usted tuviera inquietudes a medida que desarrollamos los planes o sobre los proyectos de transporte, ¿cuáles de los siguientes métodos serían formas efectivas para que usted pueda brindarnos información? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Reuniones públicas, presentaciones especiales y talleres
- Encuestas impresas devueltas por correo
- Encuentras electrónicas completadas en línea
- Redes sociales(especifique)_____
- Reuniones públicas, reuniones de RATS, y presentaciones a grupos comunitarios
- Reuniones en grupos pequeños (organizaciones comunitarias, agencias e individuos)
- Teléfono o fax
- Otros métodos (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

¿Qué obstáculos le impedirían asistir a una reunión sobre planificación de transporte? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- No es un tema interesante.
- No es un proyecto específico que me afecte directamente.
- Necesito acomodados especiales. (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Miedo/ falta de confianza en el gobierno
- No puedo ausentarme del trabajo para asistir a reuniones.
- Tengo preocupaciones con el cuidado de niños o envejecientes.
- Conflictos con el horario o localización (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Barreras con el idioma (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Falta de transportación disponible
- Otros (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

¿Participa usted en reuniones virtuales(en línea)?

Sí **No**

Si contestó “**No**”, ¿qué dificultades enfrenta? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- No uso o no tengo acceso a una computadora o teléfono.
- No me siento cómodo usando la tecnología.
- Prefiero reuniones presenciales.
- Otra razón (especifique) _____

Si contestó “**Sí**”, ¿qué beneficios recibe? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Me ahorra tiempo.
- No tengo que manejar a ningún sitio.
- No tengo acceso a transportación.
- Puedo ver las reuniones grabadas en un horario que me convenga.
- Prefiero las reuniones virtuales en lugar de las presenciales.

¿Qué tipo de plataforma(s) usa regularmente? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Computadora “desktop” (de escritorio) / “laptop” (portátil)
- Tableta/ teléfono celular
- Ninguno

Por favor, díganos sus sugerencias para mejorar la participación pública en el proceso de planificación del transporte.

Por favor, devuelva esta encuesta a:

Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Para más información sobre RATS y el proceso de planificación del transporte, por favor visite nuestro sitio web:

<https://countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>

Nos esforzamos constantemente por mantener listas de contactos precisas y actualizadas. Aunque tratamos de comunicarnos electrónicamente, entendemos que el correo postal sigue siendo la mejor manera para que algunos residentes escuchen sobre nosotros. Si usted desea estar en nuestras listas de correo para recibir avisos de reuniones y oportunidades para revisar documentos, provea **UN** (1) método para contactarlo, ya sea por correo electrónico **o** correo postal.

correo electrónico _____

o

Nombre _____

Dirección _____

Ciudad _____

Código postal _____

Gracias por completar nuestra encuesta. Su aportación se usará para crear el Public Participation Process(Proceso de Participación Pública), que asegurará una mejor comunicación entre el público y los responsables de tomar decisiones.

2. Initial email, including Public Notice and electronic links to surveys and documents, forwarded to over 250 groups, organizations and individuals. Copy of email attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan
Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 2:32:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_English.pdf](#)

Good afternoon, all!

Apologies for any multiple copies of this email you may receive. We ask that you please pass this information on to those who may be interested. Thank you!

PUBLIC NOTICE
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
And
DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the *Draft Public Participation Plan* and the *Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan* for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

Copies of the *Draft Plans* and links to online surveys are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

**Berks County Planning
5-0
Commission
Street
633 Court St – 14th Floor
18101
Reading, PA 19601**

BARTA Executive Offices

1700 North 11th Street

Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District

1002 Hamilton

Allentown, PA

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler,

Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**

633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

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3. Links to documents and surveys added to Berks County Planning Commission website. Images attached.

County of Berks - Planning Commission


countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

Government Services Community How Do I Search...

Welcome to the Office of County Planning

Our Mission

The Berks County Planning Commission serves as the area-wide planning organization for Berks County. The Commission provides a regional blueprint for land use, transportation and community facilities. It assists local units of government with development and preservation activities and provides guidance to the Berks County Board of Commissioners and other departments of county government. The Commission and its professional staff also serve as community advisors for modern planning practices and advocates for sound regional growth management. Finally, since the Commission is involved with a range of activities with a number of partners, it plays a very important coordinating role in community development issues and projects.



News / Announcements

RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan


Public Comment Period Open

[View](#)


BCPC 2022 Annual Report

See what the Planning Commission did in 2022

[View](#)



David N. Hunter, AICP
Executive Director



County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT P

countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/plans-and-programs/public-participation-pl...

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2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited English Proficiency Plan

[Survey \(English\) \(Print Version\)](#) [Survey \(Spanish\) \(Print Version\)](#)

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Español) and the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan (en Español) for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plans. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the Draft Plans: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.

Copies of the Draft Plans are available for public review at the links above and in print at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission 633 Court St - 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601	BARTA Executive Offices 1700 North 11th Street Reading, PA 19604	PENNDOT District 5-0 1002 Hamilton Street Allentown, PA 18101
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Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.

Si necesita servicios de traducción/interpretación, le pedimos que se comunique con nosotros a más tardar del 7 de junio del 2023 a las planning@countyofberks.com, o llame al 610-478-6300.

Quick Links

- County Buildings/Facilities
- County Park Locations

Resources

- Pennsylvania State Website

Looking for Information?

If you are having trouble finding information
Please contact *the Webmaster*.

4. 6/4/2023, Legal Advertisement run in the Reading Eagle. Advertisement attached.

To place a Classified ad
call 610-376-1527 #3 or
send an email to

CLASSIFIED@READINGEAGLE.COM

cla

C4

Sunday, June 4, 2023 » MORE UPDATES AT FACEBOOK.COM/READINGEAGLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auction vehicles
V&M Towing
81 Berkley Park Rd.
Reading, Pa 19605
610-926-3724
Auction on Monday 6/5/23 at
8:00 a.m.

2004 Sterling Tractor,
VIN 2FZHATDC34AN18669
2008 Chevy Malibu,
VIN 2G1WS553089277519

DICK HENRY
AUCTIONEER/REALTOR
610-858-3065

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MERCHANDISE

MISCELLANEOUS

Beam scale - \$40; 2 Golf Bags
w/misc. clubs - \$50 ea. Golf
Hand Cart - \$30; Craftsman
Sabre Saw - \$35; Back mas-
sager - \$25; ConAir Bath Spa
- \$25; Revlon Hot Rollers - \$20.
610-375-7199

S & W 40 cal. handgun - \$350;
Mossburg Rifle slug gun w/
scope - \$350. 484-256-5993

MERCHANDISE

0BUYING-Antqs./collectibles
1 item to contents. Moving or
downsize. 484-529-0851

Vinyl Record Collections
Wanted, Cash paid for LPs and
45s. Rock/Soul/Jazz. Leave a
message. 484-655-2881.

MERCHANDISE

Wanted to Buy - Estate Jew-
elry, incl. costume & watches,
Vtg. clothing pre 80's, An-
tiques. 484-432-9770

ANIMALS

DOGS

AKC Golden Retriever Pups
8 wks. Shots & wormed:
\$900. Call 570-449-9147

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PUBLIC NOTICE READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN And DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan and the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plans. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the Draft Plans: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.

Copies of the Draft Plans are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St - 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

BARTA Executive Offices
1700 North 11th Street
Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.
RE June 4 A-1

5. 6/5/2023, information included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Image attached.

County of Berks - Planning Com | X Berks County Planning Commis | X +

facebook.com/berkscpc

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Berks County Planning Commission

Page · Public & Government Service

633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania


(610) 478-6300

countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

Open now

Berks County Planning Commission
June 2 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is obligated to have plans in place in order to ensure consistent public outreach and dialog throughout the transportation planning process. Now six years old, these documents have been updated to reflect changing demographics and communication methods. English and Spanish versions are available. A Public Review Period is now open until July 18th. For more information and to see the documents, click the link below:

 COUNTYOFBERKS.COM
County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited...
The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

2 1

Like Comment Share

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6. 6/5/2023, Article/Notices included on the Berks Community Television (BCTV) website. Images attached.

Juneteenth Parade and Festival
 Join the celebration on Saturday, June 10th, 2023, at...
 COMMUNITY
 JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)

Vice President & Provost
 Alvernia University appoints Dr. Leamor Kahanov as the new...
 EDUCATION
 JUN 06, 2023
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Transportation Program to Medical Care for Local Patients
 South Central Pennsylvania Veterans are now able to participate...
 HEALTH & WELLNESS
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Explore Playlists by Local Creators
 Upcoming Local Events

- JUN June 7 @ 9:00 am - July 16 @ 8:00 pm
7 LGBTQ+ Art Showcase
- JUN June 10 @ 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
10 Reading Juneteenth Day Parade & Festival
- JUN June 17 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am
17 Safe Berks Celebration of Peace/Walk For NO MORE

[View Calendar](#)



VISIONS Celebrates 10 Years with Ty Muse, President/CEO
 This May, Visions Federal Credit Union celebrated the 10th...
 BUSINESS & ECONOMY
 JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)

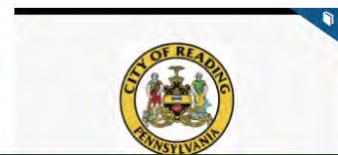


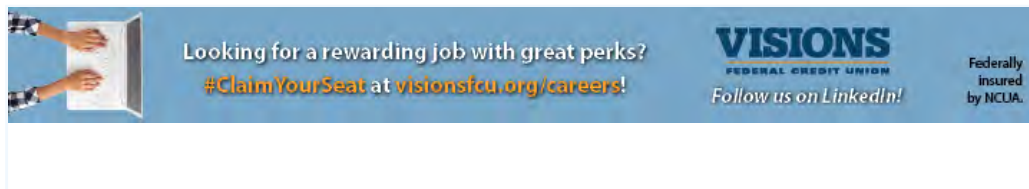
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Reading Area Transportation Study Draft Public Participation Plan

by The County of Berks

Jun 05, 2023



The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the [Draft Public Participation Plan](#) and the [Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan](#) for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

Copies of the *Draft Plans* and links to [online surveys](#) are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission: 633 Court St – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601

BARTA Executive Offices: 1700 North 11th Street, Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District 5-0: 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**

El Comité Coordinador del Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading (RATS) ha preparado el [Borrador del Plan de Participación Pública](#) y el [Proyecto de Plan de Dominio Limitado del Inglés](#) para el Condado de Berks. Estos son documentos operativos que abordan métodos para difundir información y recopilar comentarios del público sobre diversos esfuerzos de planificación de transporte en el condado de Berks. Este anuncio está diseñado para dar a los ciudadanos, gobiernos locales y organizaciones interesadas la oportunidad de comentar sobre el *borrador del plan*. Se llevarán a cabo dos (2) reuniones públicas para recibir comentarios sobre el *borrador del plan*: miércoles 14 de junio, 2023, comenzando a las 7:00 p.m. en el auditorio del Centro Agrícola del Condado de Berks, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, y martes 27 de junio de 2023 a partir de las 2:00 p.m. en la Sala de Juntas del Comisionado del Condado de Berks ubicada en el Centro de Servicios del Condado de Berks, 633 Calle Corte Piso 13, Reading, PA 19601. La reunión del 27 de junio también estará disponible en línea a través de Microsoft Teams utilizando el enlace <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **Estas reuniones no son sobre proyectos o temas específicos; más bien, son sobre el intercambio de información y cómo involucrar mejor al público en el proceso de planificación del transporte.**

Las copias del *Borrador del Plan* están disponibles para su revisión pública en la página web de la Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks en <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> y en los siguientes lugares:

Comisión de Planificación Condado de Berks: 633 Calle Corte Piso 14, Reading, PA 19604

BARTA-Oficinas Ejecutivas: 1700 Norte, Calle 11, Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT Distrito 5-0: 1002 Calle Hamilton, Allentown, PA 18101

Por favor envíe comentarios por escrito a: Sr. Michael Golembiewski, Modelador de Transporte, Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks, 633 Calle Corte. Piso 14, Reading, PA 19601. Los comentarios se aceptarán a partir del 4 de junio de 2023, hasta el cierre de operaciones el martes 18 de julio, 2023. Los comentarios también pueden enviarse por fax al (610) 478-6316 o enviarse por correo electrónico a planning@countyofberks.com.

al 610-478-6300.

ALSO ON BCTV

<p>Many Threads, One Fabric: Vol. 10 – ...</p> <p>a month ago · 1 comment</p> <p>DO NOT BE CONFORMIST! Hi I'm Yuritzkiri Sixtos Medina, ...</p>	<p>Royals Announce Training Camp ...</p> <p>8 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>The Reading Royals, ECHL affiliate of the Philadelphia Flyers and Lehigh Valley ...</p>	<p>Muhlenberg Summer Style Program Cuts ...</p> <p>8 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>The Muhlenberg School District developed MSD Summer Style in the ...</p>	<p>Report: Child Pop Declines ...</p> <p>a month ago · 1 comm</p> <p>The population is m: of fewer children – ii Pennsylvania and ac</p>
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BCTV Comment Policy

We welcome the sharing of ideas and feedback. Off-topic, spam, or harassing comments may be removed.

Got it

0 Comments

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Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

Name



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- [Pa. election 2022: Where the candidates for governor Mastriano, Shapiro stand on energy and the environment](#)
- [FTC Data Show Romance Scams Hit Record High](#)
- [Houlahan Delivers 3rd Annual State of the Sixth Address at Historic Colonial Theatre](#)

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7. 6/14/2023, Evening (7:00 p.m.) Public Meeting held at Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium facility. Meeting held in rural area. Meeting survey created and made available; 0 returned. There were no attendees from the public and one (1) Berks County Planning Commission staff member (presenter). Meeting materials, including PowerPoint discussion, attached.

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 14, 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY**

In an effort to ensure that public meetings serve their intended purpose, we're asking for your input. Kindly answer the following questions so we may improve our presentation formats.

- 1. Was the meeting time and place convenient for you? If not, what would be a better time and place?**

- 2. How did you hear about this meeting? Did the announcement or news story adequately describe the time, place, and purpose of the meeting? Did you see/hear the announcement in a reasonable amount of time for your planning purposes?**

- 3. Was the meeting space adequate for this size group? Could you clearly see the speaker and any visual aids? Could you clearly hear all discussions? Were the seating arrangements adequate? If you needed any accommodations, were they made for you in a respectful and useful manner?**

- 4. Did you understand the presentation? Was there any jargon used that you were unclear about?**

- 5. Were your questions answered and/or concerns addressed? Were you given adequate time to voice your opinion? In general, do you feel the meeting served its intended purpose?**

- 6. Are there any other questions/concerns you may have?**

If you would like to be added to our contact list for future transportation planning updates, please include your information below.

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP

EMAIL:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
c/o Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601-4309
610-478-6300; FAX: 610-478-6316

planning@countyofberks.com; www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**

Public Meeting #1
June 14, 2023
Berks County Agricultural Center

1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Why are we here?
 - To review the **Transportation Planning Process**
 - To discuss **Information Sharing**
 - To examine effective methods of **Communication**
 - To talk about **Process**
- Tonight is NOT about Projects!

2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.' ?
 - Born out of a legal agreement in 1964, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County
 - Required by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 in order to receive federal funding for transportation projects

3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.' ?
 - In other words, it is a group of officials appointed by various public agencies that specifically focus on transportation planning for all of Berks County
- Two separate Committees
 - *Technical Committee*
 - *Coordinating Committee*

4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Technical Committee
 - Advisory body only (8 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Planning Commission (2)
 - City of Reading (2)
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets Monthly

5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Coordinating Committee
 - Policy Board (10 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Commissioners
 - Berks County Planning Commission
 - City of Reading
 - Berks County Townships (2nd Class, 1st Class)
 - Berks County Boroughs
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets every other month

6

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Advisory Committees and Staff
 - Formed and meet as needed
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
 - Berks County Planning Commission staff serves as staff to RATS
 - Other Planning Partners
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Dept. of Environmental Resources (DEP)
 - Legislators, municipalities, non-profits, economic development

7

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What does RATS do?
 - Long- and Short-range planning
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP, 20+ years)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP, 4 years)
 - Congestion Management Process (CMP, ongoing and focused)
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2020, 2022 Update)
 - Other planning processes
 - Safety, Mobility, Transit
 - Coordination
 - Air Quality
 - Title VI / Environmental Justice / Executive Orders
 - **Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency**

8

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What doesn't RATS do?
 - Projects
 - Contracting, construction, management
 - Engineering
 - We are planners, not engineers
 - Financial Assistance
 - We don't provide direct grants/loans/financing; but...
 - We coordinate with PennDOT for project funding through the TIP
 - Accept applications for certain programs (TA-SA)
 - Contracts/contract management

9

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - 428,849 persons (2020 Decennial Census)
 - 17.7% Aged 65+
 - 29.2% Racial Minority
 - 23.9% Latino
 - 7.6% non-English speakers (aged 5+)
 - 85.7% Latino
 - 14.1% Disabled
 - 11.8% Below poverty level
 - 12.5% Less than High School graduate (aged 25+)
 - 3.2% No vehicles available (workers 16+)

10

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - Federal Guidance dictates that the process include:
 - Citizens
 - Affected public agencies
 - Representatives of public transportation employees
 - Representatives of users of public transportation
 - Freight shippers
 - Providers of freight transportation services
 - Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities
 - Representatives of the disabled
 - Other interested parties

11

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - We also include
 - Business and Industry representatives
 - Economic Development representatives
 - Local governments
 - Agricultural community
 - State and federal legislators

12

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- "HOW WELL ARE WE REACHING OUR AUDIENCE?"
- "IF WE'RE NOT REACHING OUR AUDIENCE, WHY?"

13

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Public Participation **throughout** the planning process is a key component of a successful process.
- The **Public Participation Plan (PPP)** and the **Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP)** guide RATS' efforts to successfully engage the public in a meaningful exchange of information.

14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **Public Participation Plan (May, 2023 Draft)**
 - Introduction
 - Public Participation Goals
 - Outreach Techniques and Strategies
 - Consultation with Interested Parties
 - Title VI and Environmental Justice
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Public Participation in Meetings
 - Public Notices
 - Public Review and Comment Periods
 - Access to Information
 - Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings
 - Future Efforts

15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)**
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data

16

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Our goal is to update the PPP and LEP to:
 - Update/analyze demographics
 - Improve current methods used to disseminate information and collect input;
 - Include better methods of reaching out to those who may not use 'mainstream' methods, including:
 - Print media
 - Television news
 - Websites
 - **Social Media**
 - **Virtual Public Engagement**

17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN!!!!**
 - Give us input as to how to better reach you / your neighbors / your clientele;
 - What can we do that we don't already do;
 - What can we improve on;
 - What works and What doesn't work?

18

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Please,
 - Stand up and speak up so everybody can hear you;
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Tonight is about information exchange, not about projects!*

19

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Next Steps?
 - Another meeting, June 27, 2:00 p.m., Commissioner's Boardroom and Virtual;
 - Survey online
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission, or paper available;
 - Formal 45-day Public Comment Period June 4 – July 18;
 - Adoption by RATS July 20th

20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Wrapping up this evening:
 - Please complete meeting survey before leaving
 - **THANK YOU FOR COMING AND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

21

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT ST FL 14
READING PA 19601
610-478-6300 X6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
Facebook: [facebook.com/berkspc](https://www.facebook.com/berkspc)

22

8. 6/23/2023, Follow-up email sent as a reminder of the second Public Meeting and to complete surveys. Copy of email attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: Reminder, RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan Public Meeting #2
Date: Friday, June 23, 2023 1:49:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_Draft_May2023_Spanish.pdf](#)
[LEP_Assesment_May2023_DRAFT_Spanish.pdf](#)
[LEP_ASSESSMENT-MAY2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)
[PPP_Draft_May2023.pdf](#)

Good Friday afternoon!

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. [The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams](#). There are online surveys in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) that we would ask you and your constituents to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

Mike



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

PUBLIC NOTICE
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
And
DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the *Draft Public Participation Plan* and the *Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan* for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

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Berks County Planning 5-0 Commission	BARTA Executive Offices	PENNDOT District 5-0
Street 633 Court St – 14 th Floor 18101 Reading, PA 19601	1700 North 11 th Street Reading, PA 19604	1002 Hamilton Allentown, PA

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

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**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com



Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

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Thank you.

9. 6/23/2023 and 6/26/2023, information regarding second Public Meeting included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Images attached.

County of Berks - Planning Comm | Berks County Planning Commis

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facebook

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Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania
 (610) 478-6300
countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
 Open now

Photos See all photos

Berks County Planning Commission 4d

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams. There are online surveys in both English and Spanish that we would ask you to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

For links to the survey, the meeting link, and more - click on the link below:

COUNTYOFBERKS.COM
County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited...
 The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

1

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Berks County Planning Commission

Intro

Mission
 The Berks County Planning Commission serves as the area-wide planning organization for Berks

Page - Public & Government Service

633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania
 (610) 478-6300
countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
 Open now

Photos See all photos

Berks County Planning Commission 1d

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams. There are online surveys in both English and Spanish that we would ask you to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

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County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited...
 The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

Connect with Berks County Planning Commission on Facebook

Log In or Create new account

10.6/27/2023, Second Public Meeting held at Berks County Services Center (Commissioner's Boardroom, 13th Floor). Afternoon (2:00 p.m.) meeting held in facility that is transit accessible, located in City of Reading. Meeting also held virtually to allow for non-in-person attendance. Meeting survey created and made available; none returned. Four (4) in-person attendees total, including Berks County Planning Commission staff (2 persons), Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person) and one (1) Berks County Commissioner. Three (3) persons attended virtually, including SCTA/BARTA staff (1 person), Western Berks Ambulance Assn. staff (1 person) and Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person). Only comment germane to the PPP/LEP update was from SCTA/BARTA staff noting their experiences reaching out to the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and various faith-based organizations have been helpful. Meeting materials including image of virtual meeting attached.

PUBLIC MEETING
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 27, 2023

Name	Affiliation	Mailing Address or E-Mail
MICHAEL COLOMBIEWSKI	BCPC/READING MPO	mgs@embiewski@countyofberks.com
ALAN PIPER	BCPC/READING MPO	apiper@countyofberks.com
KEITH BOATMAN	SCTA (V)	
ANTHONY TUCCI	(V) WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE	
MICHAEL RIVERA	Berks County Commissioner	
CAROL LONG	IS	
MALCOLM TOWERS	IS (V)	

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 27, 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY**

In an effort to ensure that public meetings serve their intended purpose, we're asking for your input. Kindly answer the following questions so we may improve our presentation formats.

- 1. Was the meeting time and place convenient for you? If not, what would be a better time and place?**

- 2. How did you hear about this meeting? Did the announcement or news story adequately describe the time, place, and purpose of the meeting? Did you see/hear the announcement in a reasonable amount of time for your planning purposes?**

- 3. Was the meeting space adequate for this size group? Could you clearly see the speaker and any visual aids? Could you clearly hear all discussions? Were the seating arrangements adequate? If you needed any accommodations, were they made for you in a respectful and useful manner?**

- 4. Did you understand the presentation? Was there any jargon used that you were unclear about?**

- 5. Were your questions answered and/or concerns addressed? Were you given adequate time to voice your opinion? In general, do you feel the meeting served its intended purpose?**

- 6. Are there any other questions/concerns you may have?**

If you would like to be added to our contact list for future transportation planning updates, please include your information below.

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP


EMAIL:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
c/o Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601-4309
610-478-6300; FAX: 610-478-6316

planning@countyofberks.com; www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**


Public Meeting #2
June 27, 2023
Commissioner's Board Room, Berks Co. Services Ctr.
&
Virtual



1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.'?
 - Born out of a legal agreement in 1964, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County
 - Required by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 in order to receive federal funding for transportation projects



3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- RATS Technical Committee
 - Advisory body only (8 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Planning Commission (2)
 - City of Reading (2)
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets Monthly



5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Why are we here?
 - To review the **Transportation Planning Process**
 - To discuss **Information Sharing**
 - To examine effective methods of **Communication**
 - To talk about **Process**
- Today is NOT about Projects!



2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.'?
 - In other words, it is a group of officials appointed by various public agencies that specifically focus on transportation planning for all of Berks County
 - Two separate Committees
 - *Technical Committee*
 - *Coordinating Committee*



4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Coordinating Committee
 - Policy Board (10 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Commissioners
 - Berks County Planning Commission
 - City of Reading
 - Berks County Townships (2nd Class, 1st Class)
 - Berks County Boroughs
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets every other month



6

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Advisory Committees and Staff
 - Formed and meet as needed
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
 - Berks County Planning Commission staff serves as staff to RATS
 - Other Planning Partners
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Dept. of Environmental Resources (DEP)
 - Legislators, municipalities, non-profits, economic development




7

7

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What doesn't RATS do?
 - Projects
 - Contracting, construction, management
 - Engineering
 - We are planners, not engineers
 - Financial Assistance
 - We don't provide direct grants/loans/financing; but...
 - We coordinate with PennDOT for project funding through the TIP
 - Accept applications for certain programs (TA-SA)
 - Contracts/contract management




9

9

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - Federal Guidance dictates that the process include:
 - Citizens
 - Affected public agencies
 - Representatives of public transportation employees
 - Representatives of users of public transportation
 - Freight shippers
 - Providers of freight transportation services
 - Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities
 - Representatives of the disabled
 - Other interested parties




11

11

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What does RATS do?
 - Long- and Short-range planning
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP, 20+ years)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP, 4 years)
 - Congestion Management Process (CMP, ongoing and focused)
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2020, 2022 Update)
 - Other planning processes
 - Safety, Mobility, Transit
 - Coordination
 - Air Quality
 - Title VI / Environmental Justice / Executive Orders
 - **Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency**




8

8

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - 428,849 persons (2020 Decennial Census)
 - 17.7% Aged 65+
 - 29.2% Racial Minority
 - 23.9% Latino
 - 85.7% Latino
 - 7.6% non-English speakers (aged 5+)
 - 14.1% Disabled
 - 11.8% Below poverty level
 - 12.5% Less than High School graduate (aged 25+)
 - 3.2% No vehicles available (workers 16+)




10

10

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - We also include
 - Business and Industry representatives
 - Economic Development representatives
 - Local governments
 - Agricultural community
 - State and federal legislators




12

12

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- "HOW WELL ARE WE REACHING OUR AUDIENCE?"
- "IF WE'RE NOT REACHING OUR AUDIENCE, WHY?"



13

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Public Participation Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - Public Participation Goals
 - Outreach Techniques and Strategies
 - Consultation with Interested Parties
 - Title VI and Environmental Justice
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Public Participation in Meetings
 - Public Notices
 - Public Review and Comment Periods
 - Access to Information
 - Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings
 - Future Efforts




15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)


Exhibit 1	
Limited English Proficient Population in RATS Region By Language Spoken	
Language	Estimated Number of Non-English Speakers Age 5+ Years
Spanish	26,401
Other Indo-European	877
German or Other West Germanic	865
French - Haitian or Cajun	499
Other and Unspecified Languages	465
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	462
Vietnamese	424
Russian, Polish or other Slavic	376
Other Asian and Pacific Island	243
Yagalog (incl. Filipino)	81
Korean	66
Arabic	53



17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Public Participation **throughout** the planning process is a key component of a successful process.
- The Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP) guide RATS' efforts to successfully engage the public in a meaningful exchange of information.



14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data



16

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data



18

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Our goal is to update the PPP and LEP to:
 - Update/analyze demographics
 - Improve current methods used to disseminate information and collect input;
 - Include better ways of reaching out to those who may not use 'mainstream' methods, including:
 - Print media
 - Television news
 - Websites
 - Social Media
 - Virtual Public Engagement



19

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Please, for those in the room:
 - Stand up and speak up so everybody can hear you;
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Today is about information exchange, not about projects!*



21

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Next Steps?
 - Survey online www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission, or paper available;
 - Formal 45-day Public Comment Period June 4 - July 18;
 - Adoption by RATS July 20th



23

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- **HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN!!!!**
 - Give us input as to how to better reach you / your neighbors / your clientele;
 - What can we do that we don't already do;
 - What can we improve on;
 - What works and What doesn't work?



20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Please, for those online:
 - Use the "Raise your Hand" feature and we will acknowledge you, or leave your comment in the "Chat"
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Today is about information exchange, not about projects!*
 - Be sure to mute yourself when you are finished



22

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Wrapping up this afternoon:
 - Please complete meeting survey before leaving (for those in-person)
 - **THANK YOU FOR COMING AND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**




24

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT ST FL 14
READING PA 19601
610-478-6300 X6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
Facebook: facebook.com/berkspcp



25

The video player displays a presentation slide with the following text:

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**

Public Meeting #2
June 27, 2023
Commissioner's Board Room, Berks Co. Services Ctr.
&
Virtual

Logos for BCPC Planning Commission and Berks County are visible at the bottom left of the slide.

Participant avatars on the right side of the player include:

- KB: Keith Boatman
- AT: Anthony T...
- MG: Golembie...
- CL: Long, Carl

At the bottom of the player, the name "Golembiewski, Michael" is visible. The video progress bar shows 0:12 / 25:28. Playback controls include a play button, 10-second rewind and fast forward buttons, a volume icon, and a 1x speed setting.

RATS Public Participation Plan Public Meeting

June 27, 2023 Expires in 120 days • 5 views • Commissioner Boardroom • ... > Documents > Recordings

Add a description to explain what this video is about.

11. Comments were received via two separate emails (07/14/2023) from Michael Donchez, PennDOT District 5-0 staff. Comments germane to the LEP were limited to text formatting and two date corrections. Comments germane to the PPP include spelling, grammar, and formatting corrections. Additionally, recommendations for minor text additions/corrections were made. MPO staff will make those corrections. Both emails attached.

From: [Donchez, Michael](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Cc: [Koenigkramer, Vanessa A](#); [Ruth, Jennifer](#); [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: RATS Public Participation Plan Public Review Comments
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:34:54 AM
Attachments: [Draft RATS PPP Review Comments 7-13-23.docx](#)

County of Berks Warning: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.

Mike

Attached are my review comments on the draft RATS Public Participation Plan for your consideration. Thanks for the providing an opportunity to review and comment.

Mike

Michael Donchez | Transportation Planning Specialist 1
PA Department of Transportation | District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street | Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610.871.4423 | Fax: 610.871.4124
www.penndot.pa.gov

File: Draft RATS PPP Review Comments 7/13/23

Thanks you for providing the opportunity to review an comment on the RATS Public Participation Plan (PPP). I offer the following comments:

Comment:

Section 3.1 Overview – 3rd last bullet – “Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish and made available digitally and in print” - may wish to revise to include “Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish **or other languages if applicable** and made available digitally and in print”.

Staff might consider providing T.V. (WFMZ Berks Edition) and radio stations with public service announcements to disseminate information regarding public review and comment periods on its various documents.

Section 3.2 Contact Lists – Staff might consider reaching out to PennDOT District 5 office to obtain and utilize the department’s contact list for use in RATS outreach efforts.

Section 5.2 Target Outreach Areas – “Specifically, RATS will use its geographic analysis of target outreach areas to ensure that public meetings are held at accessible locations within these communities...”. Staff may wish to consider expanding this to include: “Specifically, RATS will use its geographic analysis of target outreach areas to ensure that public meetings are held at accessible locations **and times** within these communities...”. Holding public meetings both during the day and evening provides more opportunities for public involvement.

Section 6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals – 6th bullet – “The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, along with over multiple other languages”. A suggested edit is “The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, **along with over as well as translation between** multiple other languages”.

Section 6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals – 8th bullet – “RATS will **include** notices on all documents and on the website that certain translated documents are available, and other translations are available on request” - Lower case i in Include.

Section 8.1 Overview – “RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area”. Planning related issues can be larger than just regional issues. Freight movement is one example that can affect multiple counties, MPOs, and states. As such I suggest the following revision – “RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area **as well as adjacent counties/MPOs as applicable**”.

Section 9.2 Public Notice Requirements – too many returns between bullets

Public Notices will provide the following information (where applicable):

- Type or name of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- Subject of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- The date, time, and location of meeting/participation event/activity
- The web link for a virtual meeting
- Start and end dates for public comment periods
- Contact information (Address, Telephone Number, E-mail address and/or website)
- Brief summary of the proposed action, plan, program or amendment
- Where to obtain copies of the plan or materials
- How to provide formal public comments
- If formal action on a major decision will be taken by the Board, the date, time and location of the meeting where that action will be taken
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with Limited English Proficiency; and
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with disabilities; and
- Directions on how to file complaints under Title VI and other nondiscrimination statutes

Section 10.2 Public Comment and Review Period Requirements – 2nd Paragraph – “Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be **make** available to stakeholders...”
revise to “Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be **made** available to stakeholders...”

Also, public libraries could provide another location for the general public to access and review documents during public review and comment periods. Berks County Public Libraries is made up of more than 23 public library sites throughout Berks County. Utilization of select libraries in areas traditionally underrepresented in the transportation planning process might help to increase input.

Section 10.5 The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – last bullet – remove double comma after “...PennDOT District 5-0’s offices,,...”

***Public Participation Plan
DRAFT 2023***

Report) will be produced and made available on the BCPC website <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, at the BCPC offices, BARTA’s offices, PennDOT District 5-0’s offices,, or by contacting the BCPC. Vital TIP documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities.

Section 10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report – last sentence – need space between asrequired.

10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report

The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is a companion document to the regional LRTP and to the TIP. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report documents the process used by RATS for making the transportation-related conformity determination for the regional LRTP and TIP for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The Conformity Determination is required by the federal Clean Air Act. RATS conformity finding is based on criteria and procedures in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93) and satisfies all applicable conformity requirements. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is developed as part of the regional LRTP or TIP update, in which case public participation and public comment procedures for the regional LRTP or TIP update will be followed as described in Sections 10.4 and 10.5, respectively. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is also updated **asrequired** by certain amendments to the TIP or regional LRTP, in which case public participation and comment procedures for major amendments to the regional LRTP or TIP will be followed as described in Section 10.6.

From: [Donchez, Michael](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Cc: [Koenigkramer, Vanessa A](#); [Ruth, Jennifer](#); [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: Draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan Review Comments 7-14-23
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 11:36:55 AM
Attachments: [Draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan Review Comments 7-14-23.docx](#)

County of Berks Warning: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.

Mike

Attached are my review comments on the draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan for your consideration. Thanks for the providing an opportunity to review and comment.

Mike

Michael Donchez | Transportation Planning Specialist 1
PA Department of Transportation | District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street | Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610.871.4423 | Fax: 610.871.4124
www.penndot.pa.gov

7/14/23

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and comment on the draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP). I offer the following comments:

Overall the plan was informative, well written, and concise. Otherwise, I have two minor specific comments:

On page 1, Four Factor Self- Assessment

This self-assessment is designed to balance four factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or service,
2. The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter the program and/or activities,
3. The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided to people's lives, and
4. The resources available to the federal financial recipient and costs.

Alignment of highlighted text on second row of the four factors.

On page 2, second full paragraph

The Review Team finds that RATS did not address the recommendations using the specific techniques identified in the 2017 report; however, the Team finds that the MPO addressed the intent of most of the recommendations. Specifically, the Review Team finds the MPO has made certain documents available to the region's largest LEP population in its native language; and, provided notices to that language group concerning the availability of language assistive services in its native language as a foreword to the document. Nonetheless, the Review Team finds that based on demographic data provided in the LEP Plan, the region has other LEP language groups that need to be made aware of the language assistive services the MPO provides. Accordingly, the Team encourages the MPO to add language Tag Lines for its current "frontpiece", relevant to its linguistic population, for inclusion in vital documents. Examples of language Tag Lines can be found in Pennsylvania's 2021 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance document.

Examples of Tag Lines may also be found in *Pennsylvania's 2025 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance* document. A copy of translated language taglines for inclusion in documents available for public comment is available in the Title VI folder on SharePoint.

12. Comments were received via email (07/17/2023) from Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff. These comments were substantive enough that staff chose to delay adoption of the draft PPP and LEP in order to further review and respond to these comments. A copy of Ms. Shamberg's email along with MPO staff responses is attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Vanessa Shamberg \(FHWA\)](#)
Cc: [Piper, Alan](#); [David Alas](#); [Mosca, James](#); [Mitchell, Khan \(FHWA\)](#); [Waters, Stacey](#); [Allen, Debra C.](#)
Subject: FW: REVISED RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and LEP Plan per FHWA Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 2:30:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[LEP_ASSESSMENT-SEPT2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)
[PPP_September2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)

All:

Over the last month, staff has been reviewing comments from Vanessa Shamberg (FHWA, received July 17, 2023) and incorporating her suggestions and necessary reformatting into our revised draft PPP and LEP. Below **in red** are our responses to her comments. Each comment will have an individual response. Her initial feedback was valuable and we look forward to additional comments and suggestions. Our goal is to have the revised documents out to the Technical Committee for their review no later than 2:00 p.m. next Thursday, August 31st. The revised draft documents are included with this email.

If anybody has any additional comments/concerns, please let us know prior to then so they may be considered. I am including Khan Mitchell (FHWA) and Stacey Waters & Debra Allen (both PennDOT BEO) in this response as well so they have opportunities to provide feedback. Thank you to all for taking the time to review these two revised drafts!

Mike



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**

633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

Good afternoon, Michael –

Thanks again for the opportunity to review the draft PPP and for all the great work that went into plan development. As I mentioned on our call a few minutes ago, I wanted to share a few comments for RATS' consideration. If you'd like to have a follow-up discussion on any of these, please don't hesitate to reach out.

- **Title VI Notice**

- On page 2, add ADA point of contact. We'll be covering this requirement in more detail during Wednesday's Bi-Monthly Planning Partners call with PennDOT.

ADA Point of Contact (POC) added. Per the Planning Partners call and subsequent email, my name has been added as POC.

- **Section 5 Title VI and Environmental Justice**

- On page 7, it mentions RATS has specific and explicit procedures to identify, seek out, and engage Title VI and EJ populations. I found it somewhat unclear where in the PPP those procedures were outlined. Generally, RATS seems to have a well-developed plan and approach for reaching Spanish speaking populations, but additional clarity on the approach for engaging other groups would be beneficial.

- Note that under EJ, the MPO should seek out and consider the needs of low income, minority, and other disadvantaged communities as identified in your EJ Analysis.

- Under Section 5.2, consider listing the accessible locations that will be used in target outreach areas, if already identified.

- **Section 5.1 Overview and Section 5.2 Target Outreach Areas have been revised to reference the RATS *Environmental Justice Summary* as the document that we use to identify concentrations of Title VI and EJ communities. Once those communities are identified, RATS will work with organizations that target these communities to identify possible accessible locations for public meetings as necessary. Additionally, a recommendation has been added that RATS develop and maintain a listing of accessible locations that may be used in targeted outreach areas.**

- **Section 6 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**

- In both the LEP Assessment and Section 6 of the PPP, recommend clarifying the text to clearly state for which languages translation and interpretations services will be provided for. Generally, I found it somewhat unclear if RATS is providing document translation and interpreters at public meetings for all languages upon request, or just Spanish, or Spanish and all Indo-European languages, etc. The text in some places says translation will occur "upon request" and in other places says key documents will be translated. To ensure compliance with Title VI, generally the MPO needs to:

- Provide translation and interpretation for any language upon request. For this reason, we encourage the use of taglines. It seems like RATS has this capability; I would just suggest finetuning the text in the LEP Assessment and PPP to more clearly/consistently describe it.
- The MPO has different procedures for Spanish (proactive translation of executive summaries). This is acceptable, however, we recommend providing a brief justification for why you have different procedures for this group. For example, a justification could be you previously received requests for documents to be translated into Spanish. **Language has been added to both the PPP (bottom of**

page 8) and LEP (top of page 5) that specifies Spanish is currently the only language translated into based on the analysis in the LEP (justification requested above). Language Taglines (provided by PennDOT) have been added to the front of these documents that tell of accommodations for many other languages.

- Under 6.3 Meaningful Access to LEP Individuals, suggest listing the local minority media outlet and community service organizations RATS provides notices to. **Local media outlets have been added to the fourth bullet point in this section.**

- **Section 7 American with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
 - 7.4 Notices and Services should reference the ADA point of contact. **The RATS ADA Point of Contact has been listed in Section 7.1. The requested reference has been added to Section 7.4.**

- **Section 9 Public Notice Requirements**
 - Consider libraries and SCTA (post notices on buses, bus stops, etc.) **Public Libraries and SCTA/BARTA (transit provider) have been added as separate bullet points.**
 - Add ADA point of contact. **ADA Point of Contact has been added as a separate bullet point.**

- **Section 10 Public Review and Comment Period at Key Discussion Points**
 - The PPP outlines the steps RATS will use to facilitate public participation for the LRTP and TIP (beginning on page 14 of 21).
 - In Step 3, consider stating that at least 1 public meeting/workshop will be held prior to the development of the draft LRTP/TIP or further elaborate on what the next phase of outreach and participation typically includes. **Language has been added in Step 3 that includes at least one (1) Public Meeting/Workshop which may be scheduled in conjunction with a regularly scheduled RATS Technical or Coordinating Committee meeting.**
 - Step 5 specifies that draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website, BCPC offices, BARTA offices, and PennDOT District 5-0 offices. Consider adding the local library system to this list, which presumably has higher foot-traffic from members of the public. In lieu of printed copies, a poster/banner that promotes public input and review, with details on how to access the online version (QR code) or to request a hardcopy, may be appropriate. **Language has been added in Step 5 that includes local libraries. Additionally language stating that details on how to access documents in printed or electronic forms will be included in the notice.**
 - Consider adding discussion on meeting format (in-person, virtual, or hybrid). MPOs should demonstrate meeting formats are effective in garnering feedback and are also accessible. **Language pertaining to meeting format / locations has been added to Step 5, along with a statement that staff strives to accommodate requests for presentations at other meetings.**
 - On page 17 of 21, it indicates that the definition of major amendment can be found in the LRTP and TIP documents at this [link](#). However, the URL does not directly link to the LRTP/TIP, which I think may be more helpful for members of the public. **Berks County government recently redid their entire web presence. The included links will be updated to take the viewer directly to [Appendix A: Procedures for TIP Administrative](#)**

Actions (TIP) and Chapter 7: Appendix (LRTP) that outlines what constitutes a 'Major Amendment'. Additionally, within Section 10.6, the definition of a Major Amendment has been highlighted in bold text. Going through the LRTP documents, I could not find "major amendment" using a Word search function. **LRTP Amendment procedures are contained in Chapter 7: Appendix, starting on Page 57.** Could you clarify what constitutes a major amendment for which you would go through additional public participation as outlined? **See link provided in previous response.**

- In Section 10.3, suggest using the regulatory language here and consider shortening the review period to 15 days (it does not need to be 30): **Review period shortened to 15 days**
 - 23 CFR 450.316(1)(viii) - Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan transportation plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement effort.
- In Section 10.4
 - Step 5 - Add public meeting during public comment period **Language pertaining to Public Meetings has been added**
 - Step 6 - Language should be revised to read, "All comments received will be considered and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft regional plan materials." **Additional language has been added**
 - Step 9 - Recommend clarifying, as it seems to repeat the public participation process. Where will the final version be posted? **Final versions will be posted to the BCPC website and will be available in print at BCPC offices, BARTA's offices and PennDOT District 5-0 office in Allentown.**
- In Section 10.5
 - Same comments as above on Steps 5, 6, and 9. **Same amendments added.**
- **Other Considerations**
 - Tribal consultation requirements should be added. MPOs/RPOs must consult with federally recognized Tribes and Nations to provide opportunities for review and comment on key planning documents. The updated list for tribal consultation in planning is found [here](#) (see pages 4-7). Many Tribes and Nations accept electronic submissions. If a Tribe or Nation requests hardcopy submissions, RATS should provide a hardcopy of the draft document. **A new Section 4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies has been added. The first paragraph references PennDOT's Tribal Consultation Guide which describes which Tribes and Nations have interests throughout the Commonwealth, specifies which are to be included in review activities and how they are to be addressed.**
 - The regulations require coordination with Federal land management agencies in the development of the LRTP and TIP when the MPO's area includes Federal public lands. Based on our records, there are Federal lands in Berks County (Hopewell Furnace). I would recommend adding resource agency coordination in the PPP. Generally, we are encouraging more collaboration between MPOs/RPOs and state and federal resource

agencies in the early stages of LRTP and TIP development. **A new Section 4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies has been added. The second paragraph references the two Federal lands in Berks County (Hopewell Furnace National Historic Park administered by the National Park Service, and Blue Marsh Lake administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).**

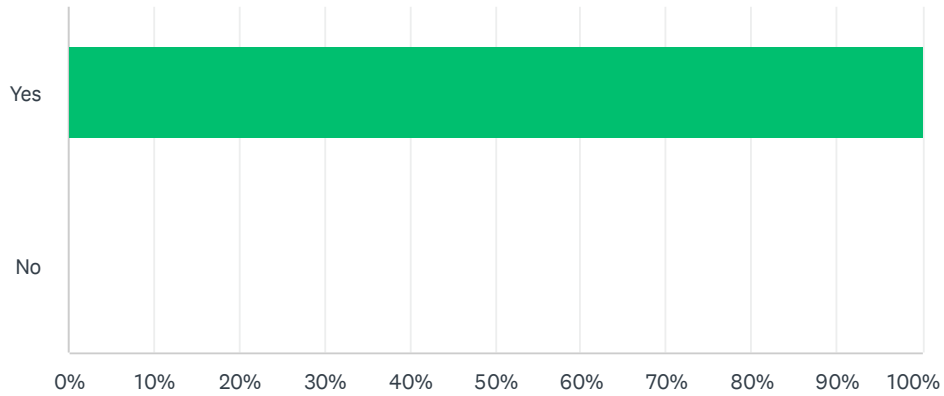
Thanks so much,
Vanessa

Vanessa Shamberg, AICP
Senior Community Planner
USDOT | FHWA | Pennsylvania Division
30 North Third Street, Suite 700
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 221-4406 | vanessa.shamberg@dot.gov

13. As of the close of the Public Comment Period (07/18/2023), a total of ten (10) online surveys and no (0) written surveys were returned. All responses received were English; no Spanish responses to the Surveys were received. The summary of responses is attached.

Q1 Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

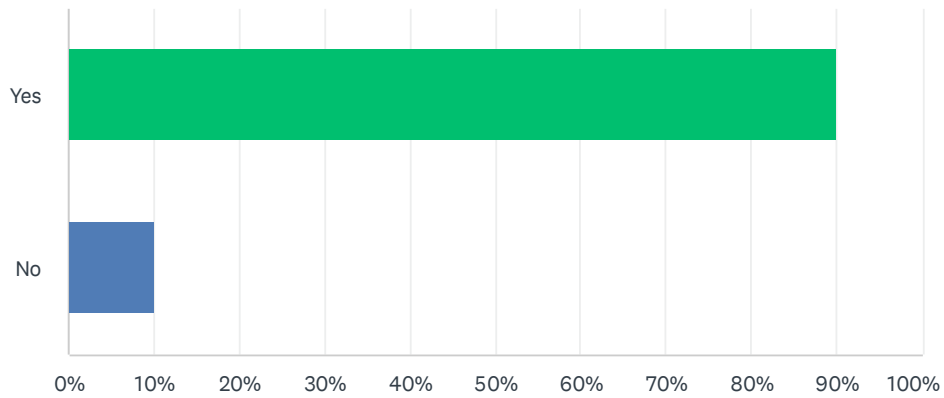
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	10
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		10

Q2 Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County?

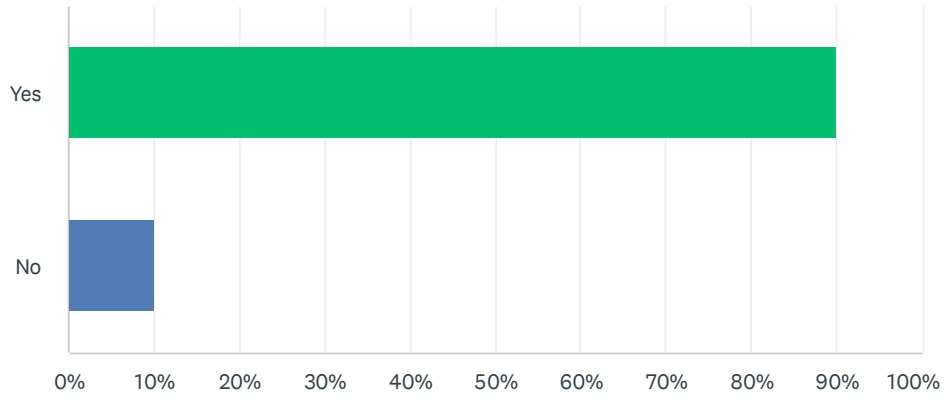
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q3 Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

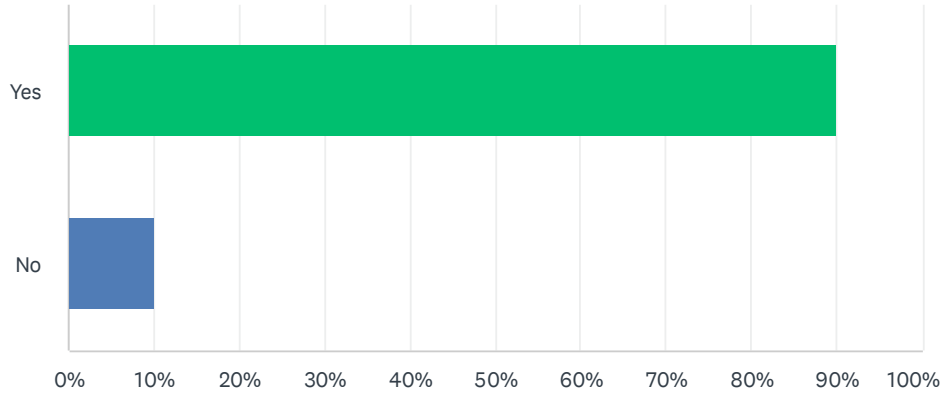
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q4 Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements?

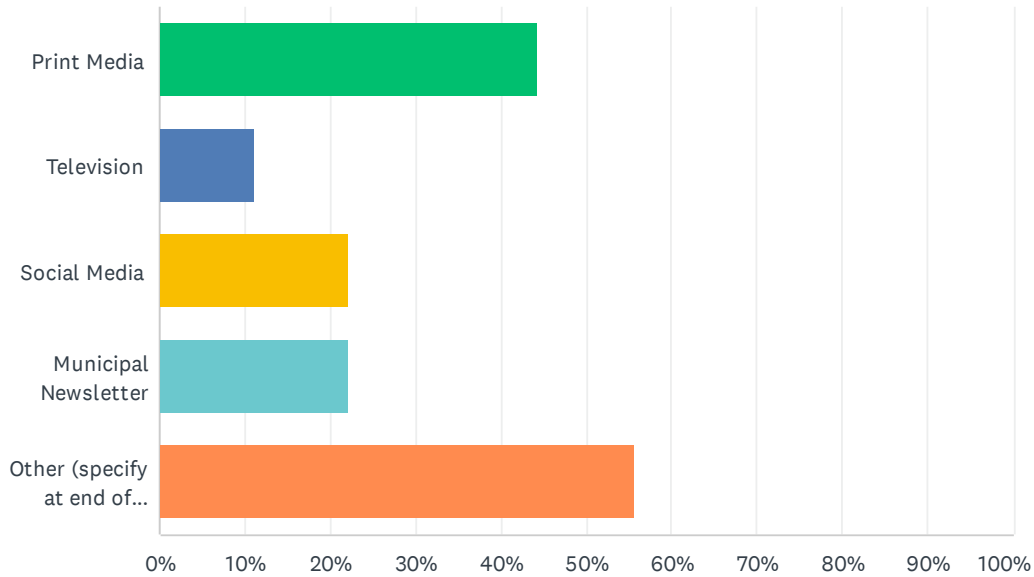
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q5 If you checked 'Yes' above, where have you seen or heard about RATS?

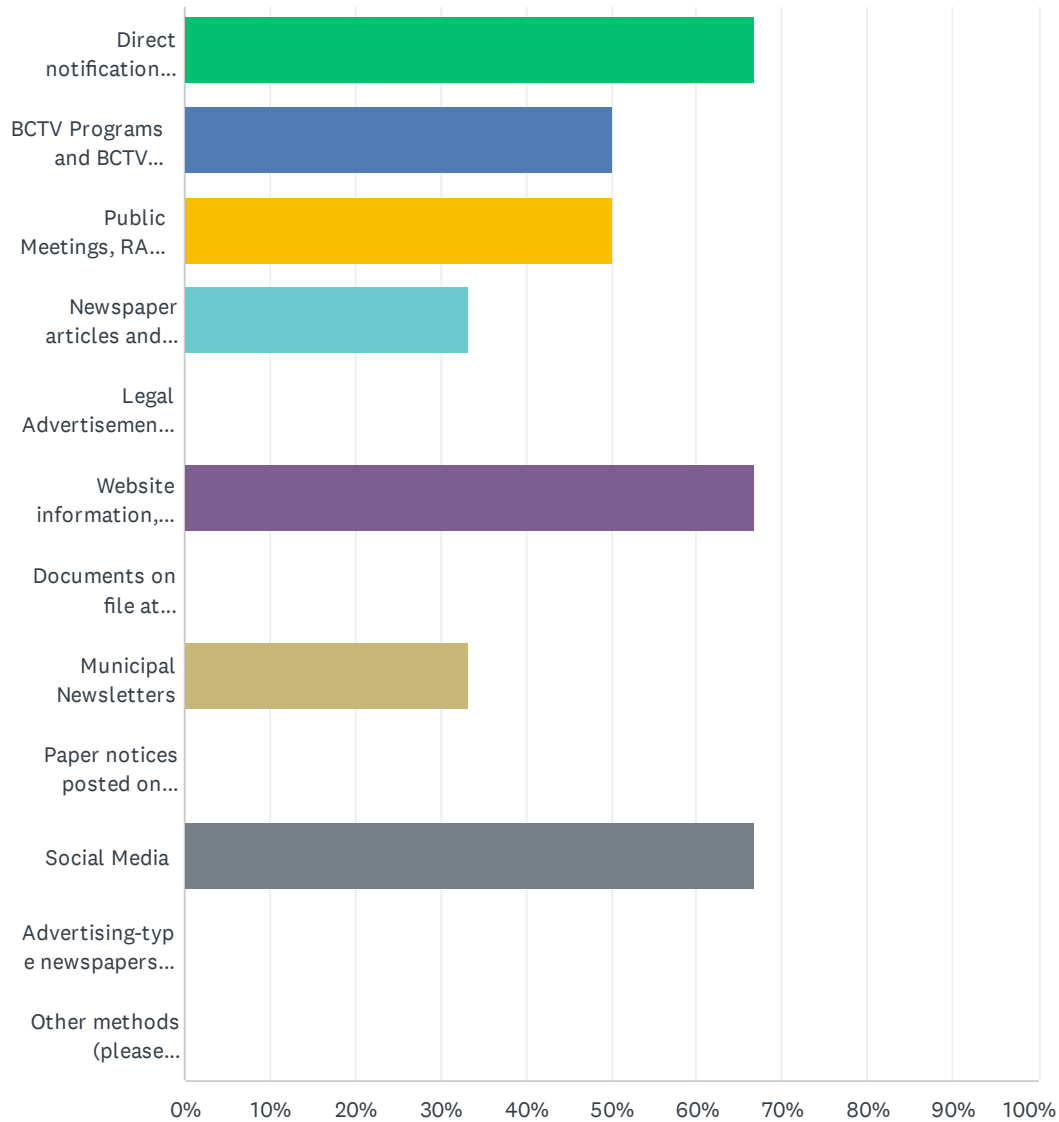
Answered: 9 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Print Media	44.44% 4
Television	11.11% 1
Social Media	22.22% 2
Municipal Newsletter	22.22% 2
Other (specify at end of Survey)	55.56% 5
Total Respondents: 9	

Q6 As we develop plans and projects that may impact you, what would be the best ways for us to get information to you? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4

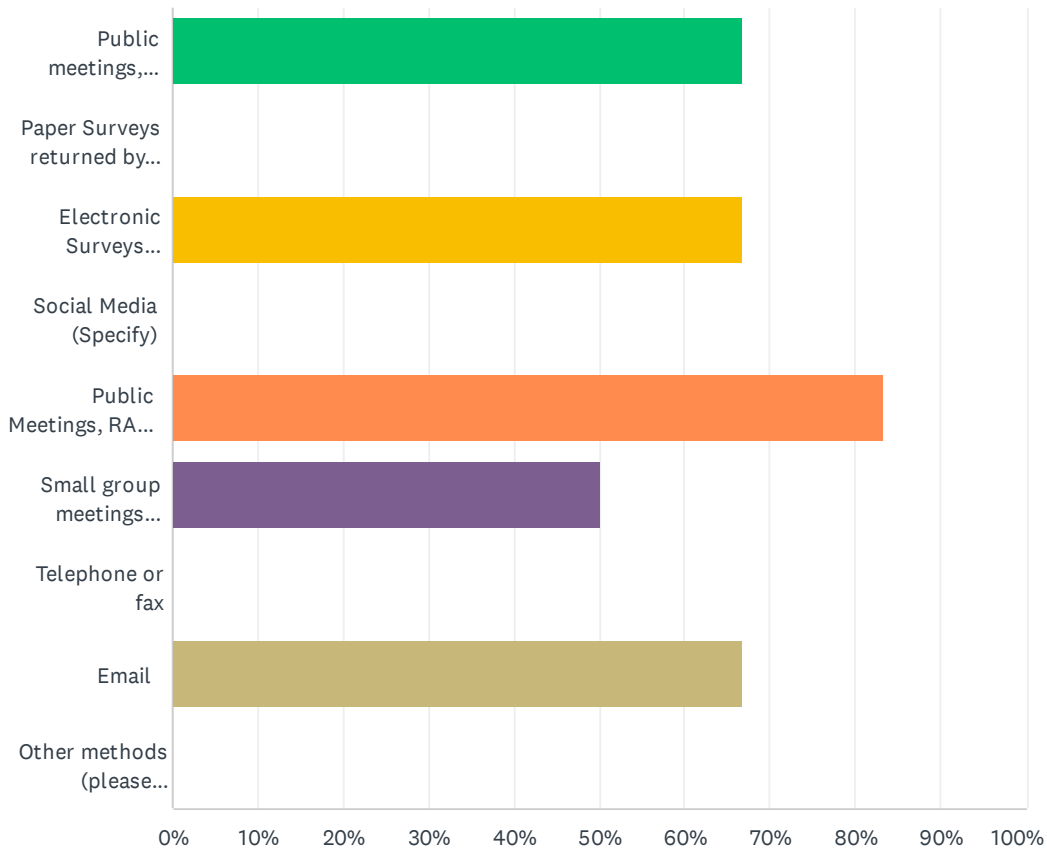


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Direct notification (by postal mail or email) of meetings and documents	66.67%	4
BCTV Programs and BCTV Community Calendar notices	50.00%	3
Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups	50.00%	3
Newspaper articles and press releases	33.33%	2
Legal Advertisements and/or block ads in newspaper	0.00%	0
Website information, including downloadable documents	66.67%	4
Documents on file at libraries and other community organizations	0.00%	0
Municipal Newsletters	33.33%	2
Paper notices posted on bulletin boards	0.00%	0
Social Media	66.67%	4
Advertising-type newspapers (the Merchandiser)	0.00%	0
Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q7 If you have concerns as we develop those plans or about transportation projects, which of the following methods are effective ways for you to get information to us? (Check all that apply)

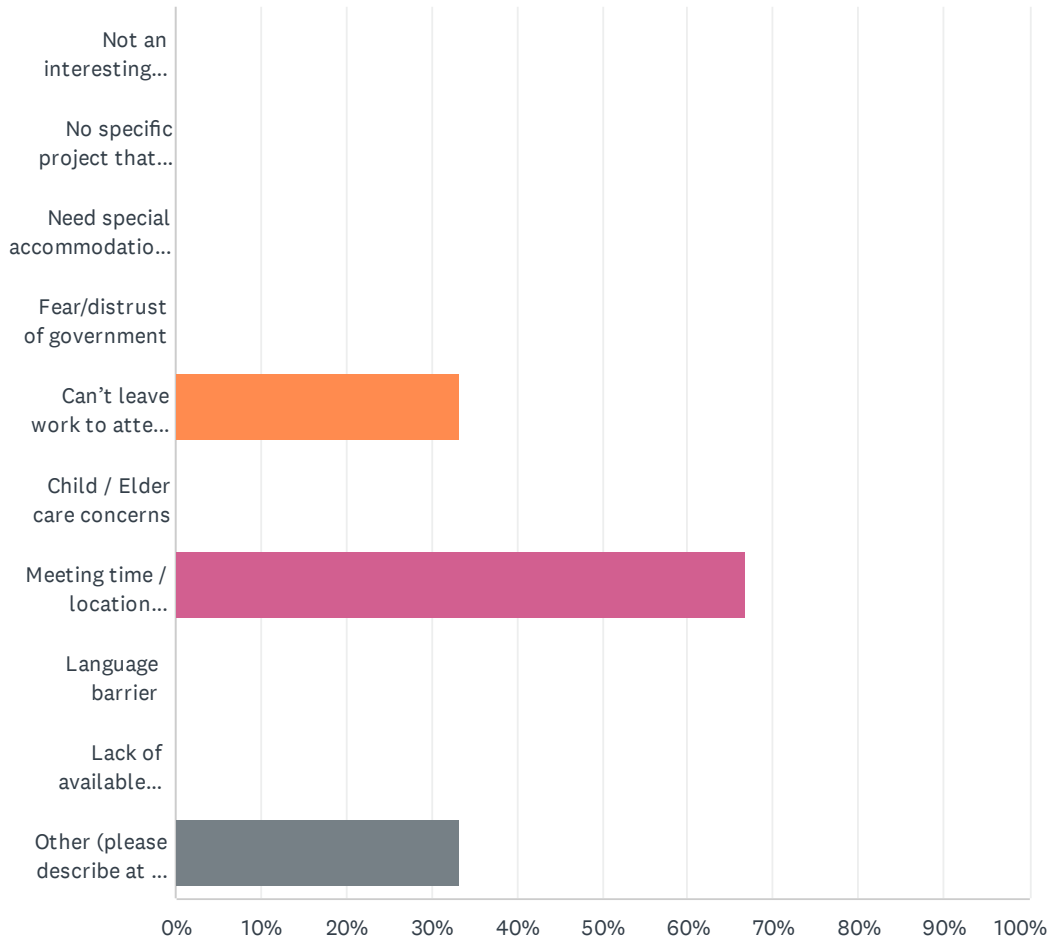
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public meetings, special presentations & workshops	66.67%	4
Paper Surveys returned by postal mail	0.00%	0
Electronic Surveys completed online	66.67%	4
Social Media (Specify)	0.00%	0
Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups	83.33%	5
Small group meetings (community organizations, agencies, & individuals)	50.00%	3
Telephone or fax	0.00%	0
Email	66.67%	4
Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q8 What obstacles prevent you from attending a meeting about transportation planning? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 3 Skipped: 7

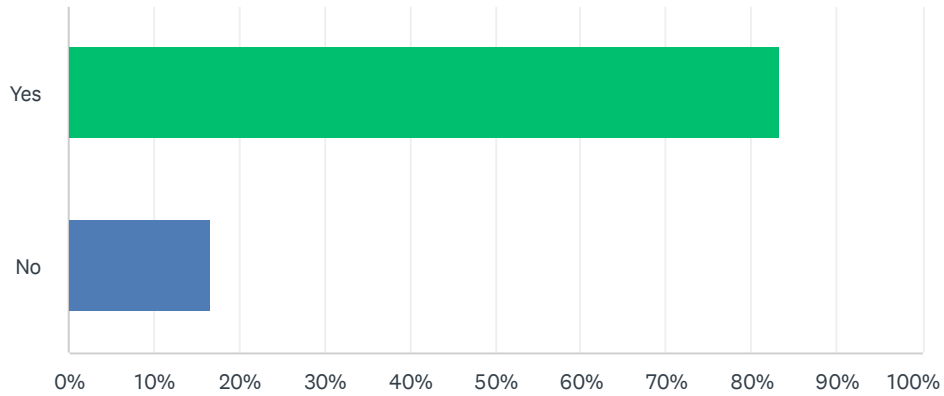


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not an interesting subject	0.00%	0
No specific project that directly affects me	0.00%	0
Need special accommodations (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Fear/distrust of government	0.00%	0
Can't leave work to attend meetings	33.33%	1
Child / Elder care concerns	0.00%	0
Meeting time / location conflicts (please describe at the end of this survey)	66.67%	2
Language barrier	0.00%	0
Lack of available transportation	0.00%	0
Other (please describe at the end of this survey)	33.33%	1
Total Respondents: 3		

Q9 Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

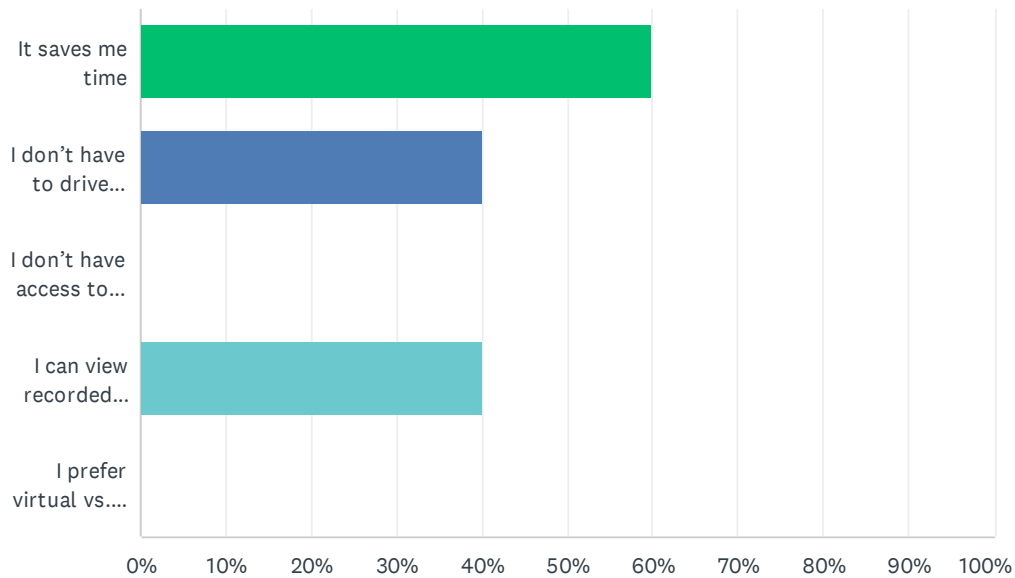
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.33%	5
No	16.67%	1
TOTAL		6

Q10 If Yes, which benefits do you receive? (Check all that apply)

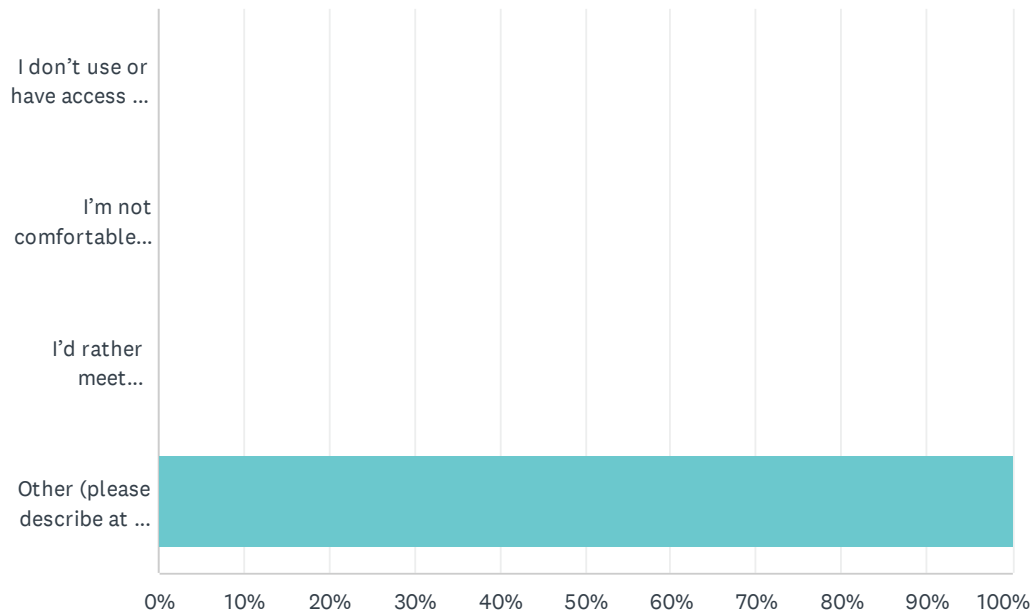
Answered: 5 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
It saves me time	60.00%	3
I don't have to drive anywhere	40.00%	2
I don't have access to transportation	0.00%	0
I can view recorded meetings at a more convenient time	40.00%	2
I prefer virtual vs. face-to-face	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 5		

Q11 If No, which challenges do you face? (Check all that apply)

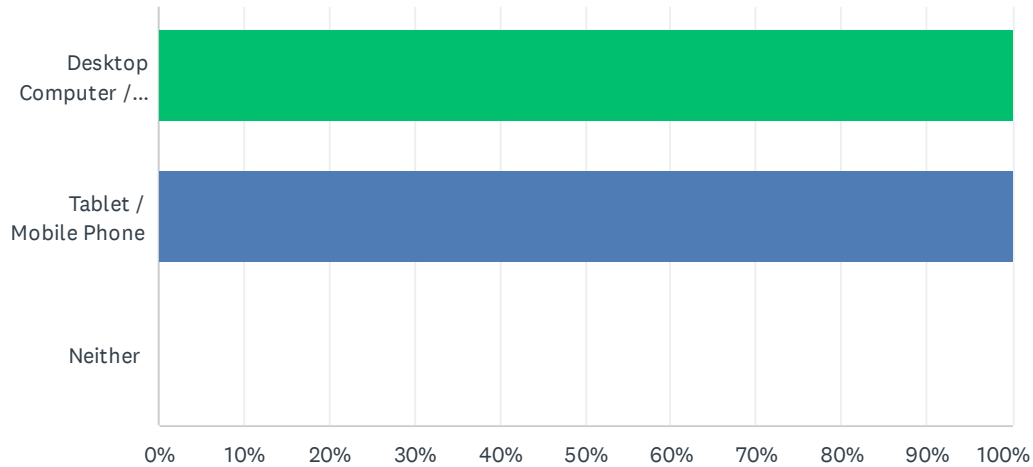
Answered: 1 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't use or have access to a computer or smart phone	0.00%	0
I'm not comfortable using technology	0.00%	0
I'd rather meet face-to-face	0.00%	0
Other (please describe at the end of this survey)	100.00%	1
Total Respondents: 1		

Q12 Which types of platform(s) do you use regularly? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Desktop Computer / Laptop	100.00%	6
Tablet / Mobile Phone	100.00%	6
Neither	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q13 Please tell us below any ideas you have for improving public participation in the transportation planning process.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Targeted business group presentations	7/14/2023 6:12 PM
2	I think RATS is providing various ways the public can participate in the the transportation planning process in Berk County. The issue is that the public will not get involved unless the transportation issue affects them directly in their daily lives. The planning process is long and involves the TYP, LRTP, etc, funding for projects slip or are directed to other projects that require additional funding and the public may not fully understand why the project they were interested in moving forward was delayed or removed from the TYP due to funding issues. It is difficult to explain to the average citizen what steps are necessary for a project to be placed on a planning document, receive the necessary funding in the years required to design and fully fund the construction to complete the project. I think RATS should approach the municipalities in Berks and offer to attend either a Planning Commission Meeting or a Township/Borough Supervisor meeting and explain the ins and outs of the transportation planning process.	7/14/2023 9:25 AM
3	Ed Granger egranger@abilitiesinmotion.org	7/14/2023 9:08 AM
4	Do lots of advertising and social media so that people know when meetings will be. Give a virtual option for meetings.	6/5/2023 9:53 AM

14. Staff submitted (8/23/2023) revised documents to Vanessa Shamborg, FHWA staff per her previously submitted comments for additional review. Staff also included Khan Mitchell (FHWA Civil Rights Specialist) along with Stacey Waters and Debra Allen (both PennDOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity). On 8/28/2023, staff received documents with embedded comments from both FHWA officials (unable to reproduce for this document). Staff reviewed and incorporated changes suggested by those comments.

15. Both documents set for review/recommendation by RATS Technical Committee 9/7/2023. If a favorable recommendation is received, the RATS Coordinating Committee (Reading MPO) should adopt on 9/21/2023. Minutes from both meetings to be attached upon approval.

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
(ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE DEL ÁREA DE READING)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE
(ACTUALIZACIÓN DEL PLAN DE PARTICIPACIÓN PÚBLICA)

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
(ADOPTADO EL 21 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2023)

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
C/o

Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court St. FL 14

Reading, PA 19601-4302

tel.: 610-478-6300

fax: 610-478-6316

“email”: planning@countyofberks.com

Web: <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>

La preparación de este informe ha sido financiada, en parte, mediante subsidios del U.S. Department of Transportation (Departamento de Transporte de los Estados Unidos) y del Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Departamento de Transporte de Pensilvania). El contenido de este informe refleja las opiniones de sus autores, quienes son responsables de los hechos y la exactitud de los datos presentados en este documento. Al momento de su publicación, el contenido de este informe no refleja necesariamente las políticas oficiales de las siguientes agencias: U.S. Department of Transportation (Departamento de Transporte de Estados Unidos), Federal Highway Administration (Administración Federal de Carreteras, FHWA por sus siglas en inglés), Federal Transit Administration (Administración Federal de Tránsito, FTA por sus siglas en inglés) o Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Estado de Pensilvania). Este informe no constituye una norma, especificación o regulación.

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de transporte del área de Reading, RATS, por sus siglas en inglés) cumple totalmente en todos sus programas y actividades con el Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964), con la Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice (Orden Ejecutiva 12898 sobre Justicia Ambiental) y con las leyes y regulaciones contra la discriminación. El sitio web de Berks County/RATS (condado de Berks) proporciona un “software” para traducción de idiomas que permite traducir entre inglés, español y otros idiomas adicionales. Las publicaciones y otros documentos públicos pueden estar disponibles en lenguajes y formatos alternativos, si así se solicita. Cualquier persona que considere que ha sido perjudicada por una práctica discriminatoria ilegal por parte de RATS, bajo el Título VI tiene derecho a presentar una querrela/queja formal (“formal complaint”). Dicha querrela debe someterse por escrito y presentarse a RATS’s Title VI Compliance Officer (Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI de RATS) y/o a la agencia estatal o federal correspondiente dentro de los 180 días posteriores a la alegada situación discriminatoria. Por favor, comuníquese con el Title VI Compliance Officer para obtener más información sobre el programa del Título VI de RATS, o para obtener copias de RATS’ Title VI Policies (Políticas del Título VI de RATS), Complaint Procedures (Procedimientos para Querellas), o Complaint Form (Formulario para Querellas). Puede llamar al (610) 478-6300 x6304, escribir un “email” a [/planning@berkspa.gov](mailto:planning@berkspa.gov), o visitar el sitio web <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>.

De acuerdo con los requisitos del Título II de la ley Americans with Disabilities Act de 1990, (Ley ADA, por sus siglas en inglés), RATS no discriminará en sus servicios, programas o actividades contra personas calificadas con discapacidades. Las reuniones públicas de RATS siempre se llevan a cabo en instalaciones accesibles conforme la ley ADA y en ubicaciones accesibles para el tránsito siempre que sea posible. Se pueden proporcionar servicios auxiliares a las personas que presenten una solicitud al menos siete (7) días antes de una reunión. Las solicitudes realizadas dentro de los siete (7) días previos se atenderán en la mayor medida de lo posible. Por favor, cualquier persona que requiera una ayuda o servicio auxiliar para una comunicación efectiva, o una modificación de políticas o procedimientos para poder participar en un programa, servicio o actividad de RATS, o que se queje de que un programa, servicio o actividad de RATS no está accesible para personas con discapacidades, debe comunicarse a través de alguno de los modos de contacto con ADA: el (610) 478-6300 x6304, el “email” planning@countyofberks.com, o el sitio web <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>.

Los documentos estarán disponibles en lenguajes o formatos alternativos si se solicitan. Las personas que requieran acomodos adicionales o que tengan preguntas deben llamar al 610-478-6300.

English

ATTENTION: If you speak another language, language assistance is available to you FREE OF CHARGE. Call 610.478.6300

Español

Atención: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 610.478.6300

中文

注意：如果您講廣東話或普通話，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 610.478.6300

Tiếng Việt

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 610.478.6300

한국어

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 610.478.6300

Français

ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 610.478.6300

العربية

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم المبرقة الكاتبة: 610.478.6300

עברית

שים לב: אם אתה מדבר עברית, סיוע בשפה, ללא תשלום, זמינים עבורך. התקשר 610.478.6300

Hmoob

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 610.478.6300

Русский

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 610.478.6300

Tagalog

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong se wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 610.478.6300

ไทย

ความสนใจ: หากคุณพูดภาษาไทยคุณสามารถขอความช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาฟรีได้ โทร 610.478.6300

ភាសាខ្មែរ

ចំណាំ: ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកនិយាយជាភាសាខ្មែរ សេវាកម្មជំនួយផ្នែកភាសាមានផ្តល់ជូនសម្រាប់លោកអ្នកដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ។ សូមទំនាក់ទំនងតាមរយៈលេខ៖ 610.478.6300. ។

Deutsche

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, erhalten Sie kostenlose sprachliche Unterstützungsdienste. Telefonnummer 610.478.6300

हिंदी

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिन्दी बोलते हैं तो आपके लिए मुफ्त में भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। 610.478.6300 पर कॉल करें

日本人

注：日本語を話す人は、無料で言語サポートを利用することができます。電話番号 610.478.6300

Italiano

ATTENZIONE: se parli italiano, l'assistenza linguistica, a titolo gratuito, è a tua disposizione. Chiama il numero 610.478.6300

Português

POR FAVOR, OBSERVE: se você fala português, assistência linguística, grátis, está à sua disposição. Ligue para 610.478.6300

Nederlands

LET OP: als u Nederlands spreekt, is taalondersteuning gratis. Bel 610.478.6300

Ελληνικά

ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ: αν μιλάτε ελληνικά, η υποστήριξη γλώσσας είναι διαθέσιμη δωρεάν. Καλέστε 610.478.6300

Polskie

UWAGA: jeśli mówisz po polsku, obsługa języków jest dostępna bezpłatnie. Zadzwoń 610.478.6300

Српски

ПАЖЊА: Ако говорите српски, на располагању вам је бесплатна помоћ. Позив 610.478.6300

Hrvatski

Pažnja: Ako govorite hrvatski, besplatna vam je pomoć dostupna. Nazovite 610.478.6300

Українська

Увага: якщо ви розмовляєте по-українськи, ви можете отримати безкоштовну допомогу. Зателефонуйте за номером 610.478.6300

فارسی

توجه: اگر حرف فارسی رایگان رایگان دریافت کمک. تماس 610.478.6300

ગુજરાતી

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ÍNDICE

Sección 1: Introducción.....

- 1.1 Introducción al Plan de Participación Pública
- 1.2 Trasfondo
- 1.3 Recomendaciones de la Revisión de Certificación Federal
- 1.4 Información de contacto de RATS

Sección 2: Objetivos de participación pública

- 2.1 Visión general

Sección 3: Técnicas y estrategias de divulgación

- 3.1 Visión general
- 3.2 Listas de contactos
- 3.3 Técnicas de visualización
- 3.4 Participación pública virtual

Sección 4: Consulta con entidades interesadas

- 4.1 Visión general
- 4.2 Consulta con tribus y con la Federal Land Management Agencies
- 4.3 Consulta para el desarrollo de este Plan de Participación Pública

Sección 5: Título VI y Justicia Ambiental.....

- 5.1 Visión general
- 5.2 Áreas de enfoque para la divulgación

Sección 6: Dominio Limitado del Inglés (LEP)

- 6.1 Visión general
- 6.2 Evaluación LEP
- 6.3 Acceso significativo para personas LEP
- 6.4 Documentos "vitales"

Sección 7: Americans with Disabilities Act (Ley ADA).....

- 7.1 Visión general
- 7.2 Acceso significativo para personas con discapacidades
- 7.3 Acceso a la Web para personas con discapacidades
- 7.4 Notificaciones y servicios

Sección 8: Participación pública en reuniones

- 8.1 Visión general
- 8.2 Comentarios públicos en reuniones de la Junta
- 8.3 Comités de RATS

Sección 9: Avisos Públicos.....

- 9.1 Visión general
- 9.2 Requisitos de Aviso Público

Sección 10: Períodos de Revisión Pública y Comentarios sobre puntos clave de decisión.....

- 10.1 Visión general
- 10.2 Requisitos de los Períodos de Revisión Pública y Comentarios
- 10.3 Períodos adicionales de Revisión Pública y Comentarios
- 10.4 El *Plan de Transporte Regional a Largo Plazo* (LRTP)
- 10.5 El *Programa de Mejoras al Transporte* (TIP)
- 10.6 Enmiendas importantes al Plan Regional LRTP o al TIP
- 10.7 *Informe de Determinación de Conformidad de la Calidad del Aire*
- 10.8 El *Plan de Participación Pública*

Sección 11: Acceso a la información

- 11.1 Visión general
- 11.2 Respuesta a solicitudes especiales

Sección 12: Evaluación del *Plan de Participación Pública* y *Reuniones Públicas*....

Sección 13: Aplicabilidad

Sección 14: Esfuerzos futuros

- 14.1 Visión general

Public Participation Plan
(PLAN DE PARTICIPACIÓN PÚBLICA)
FINAL September 2023
FINAL (SEPTIEMBRE DE 2023)

Sección 1: Introducción

1.1 Introducción al Plan de Participación Pública

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading/ RATS, por sus siglas en inglés) es la Metropolitan Planning Organization (Organización de Planificación Metropolitana /MPO, por sus siglas en inglés) designada para todo el condado de Berks y es responsable de las actividades de planificación de transporte regional. RATS se comunica con las entidades interesadas para garantizar una planificación de transporte efectiva e innovadora que sea representativa **de** y que responda **a** las necesidades de toda la región. Para lograr este objetivo, RATS le ofrece al público un rol activo en el desarrollo de planes de transporte, programas y proyectos, comenzando desde las primeras etapas y a lo largo de los procesos de planificación.

Este *Public Participation Plan* (*Plan de Participación Pública* /PPP, por sus siglas en inglés) proporciona un marco para garantizar que el proceso de planificación de transporte de RATS incluya un proceso de participación proactiva y que cumpla con los requisitos federales del plan de participación. Este PPP identifica los esfuerzos anteriores y actuales de divulgación y describe los pasos a seguir para mejorar.

1.2 Trasfondo

Los procesos de participación pública implican la notificación oportuna de información al público para que aporte su opinión tempranamente y a lo largo de los procesos de planificación y programación. RATS brinda oportunidades a las entidades interesadas para que comenten sobre esos procesos, incluido este *Plan de Participación Pública*. El *Plan de Participación Pública* garantiza que las actividades de participación pública de

los procesos de planificación de transporte de RATS cumplan con los requisitos proactivos de participación pública establecidos en el Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (Código de Regulaciones Federales/CFR, por sus siglas en inglés). Los requisitos de participación pública se establecen principalmente en el 23 CFR, Sección 450.316(a)(1)(2)(3) y (b), que aborda elementos del proceso de planificación metropolitana. Los requisitos relativos al *Long Range Transportation Plan (Plan de Transporte a Largo Plazo /LRTP*, por sus siglas en inglés) (23 CFR 450.322) también incluyen disposiciones que abordan la divulgación pública [450.322(f)(7), 450.322(g), 450.322(i) y 450.322(j)]. El proceso que atiende la participación pública en el *Transportation Improvement Program (Programa de Mejoras al Transporte /TIP*, por sus siglas en inglés), (CFR 450.32), se describe en la Sección 450.316(a). Además, las regulaciones requieren una oportunidad para al menos una reunión pública en las áreas con incumplimiento de la calidad del aire de la Transportation Management Areas (Áreas de Gestión del Transporte /TMA, por sus siglas en inglés), que deben abordarse a través del PPP según se describe en el 450.316(a). La Federal Highway Administration (Administración Federal de Carreteras /FHWA, por sus siglas en inglés) designa un TMA como un área urbanizada con una población mayor a 200,000 según ha determinado el Decennial Census (Censo Decenal) más reciente.

El PPP detalla las estrategias y procedimientos que RATS utilizará para cumplir con su compromiso de largo alcance para la participación en los esfuerzos de planificación de transporte regional. El PPP aplica a las actividades de planificación de transporte para las cuales la participación de las entidades interesadas es un componente requerido, y describe las actividades de planificación de transporte de RATS que cumplen con la Administración Federal de Carreteras (FHWA), la Federal Transit Administration (Administración Federal de Tránsito /FTA, por sus siglas en inglés) y otras normas aplicables para recopilar y abordar los comentarios públicos.

1.3 Recomendaciones de la Revisión de Certificación Federal

En virtud del código 23 [(sección 134(k), y 49 (sección 5303(k)] del United States Code (Código de los Estados Unidos /USC, por sus siglas en inglés), la Administración Federal de Carreteras (FHWA) y la Administración Federal de Tránsito (FTA) deben certificar en conjunto la planificación de transporte metropolitano en las Áreas de Gestión del Transporte (TMA) cada cuatro años. Una TMA es un área urbanizada, según se define por la U.S. Census Bureau (Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos), con una población superior a 200,000 habitantes. La más reciente Certification Review (Revisión de Certificación) realizada para RATS ocurrió en noviembre de 2020, con un informe final de esa revisión publicado el 3 de marzo de 2021. La revisión no hizo

ninguna recomendación formal de mejoras para este PPP. Sin embargo, hubo varias áreas dentro del Limited English Proficiency (Plan de Dominio Limitado del Inglés /LEP, por sus siglas en inglés) donde se estimuló a la MPO a realizar mejoras. Esas áreas se abordarán dentro del Plan LEP, pero se mencionan aquí para que haya consistencia.

1. El Review Team (Equipo de Revisión) concluye que RATS no abordó las recomendaciones utilizando las técnicas específicas identificadas en el informe de 2017; sin embargo, el Team (Equipo) considera que la MPO abordó la intención de la mayoría de las recomendaciones. Específicamente, el Equipo de Revisión encuentra que la MPO ha puesto ciertos documentos, en su idioma nativo, a la disposición de la población LEP más grande de la región; y ha divulgado avisos a ese grupo lingüístico sobre la disponibilidad de servicios de asistencia lingüística en su idioma materno como prólogo al documento. No obstante, el Equipo de Revisión encuentra que, según los datos demográficos proporcionados en el Plan LEP, la región tiene otros grupos lingüísticos LEP a los que hay que hacer conscientes de los servicios de asistencia lingüística que brinda la MPO. Por lo tanto, el Equipo alienta a la MPO a agregar “taglines” (etiquetas de idioma) en su “documento frontal” actual, relevante para esas poblaciones lingüísticas, para que se incluya en documentos vitales. Se pueden encontrar ejemplos de etiquetas de idioma en el documento Pennsylvania’s 2021 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance (Programa general de transporte y guía de procedimientos de Pensilvania 2021).

2. El Equipo de Revisión encontró que la recomendación sobre el sitio web, aunque estaba abordada en el Plan LEP de la MPO, no es fácilmente observable en ese sitio web. El Equipo encontró que la razón por la que no se habían hecho cambios en el sitio web, como se recomendaba, es que este sitio no está dentro de la autoridad y el control directos de la MPO. Durante la discusión virtual de revisión, la MPO reveló que el sitio web es administrado y mantenido por el condado de Berks. Como resultado, RATS no puede alterar unilateralmente ese sitio web.

3. Para mejorar el proceso en general, el Equipo de Revisión alienta a RATS a revisar el lenguaje en el Plan LEP, y en cualquier otro lugar que aparezca, con relación a la disponibilidad de traducción del sitio web. Esta información debe revisarse para que refleje con precisión cómo la MPO comunica la información contenida en su sitio web a los grupos lingüísticos LEP.

1.3 Información de contacto de RATS

Para más información sobre este *Plan de Participación Pública* o sobre las actividades de planificación de transporte regional de RATS, por favor contáctenos a través de la

Berks County Planning Commission (Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks) utilizando la información que se muestra en la portada de este documento.

Sección 2: Objetivos de participación pública

2.1 Visión general

RATS reconoce la obligación de proveer información adecuada a las personas con respecto a los planes y programas de transporte. También busca y fomenta la participación en el desarrollo de estos planes y programas, así como en cualquier enmienda sustancial a estos. Por lo tanto, RATS garantizará que se proporcione información adecuada a individuos y grupos para evaluar diversas propuestas. RATS también proveerá foros para obtener opiniones sobre asuntos relacionados con la planificación y proyectos de transporte.

RATS reconoce que las personas afectadas por la acción pública deben tener voz en la formulación de políticas. Aunque las diversas actividades de planificación y programación de transporte están diseñadas para tener efectos beneficiosos a largo plazo en la comunidad, estas actividades también pueden tener un impacto adverso en algunas personas. Por lo tanto, es importante que todos sepan qué se está planeando y también que se les brinden todas las oportunidades para presentar sus opiniones.

RATS reconoce la necesidad de consultar y coordinar con agencias públicas y privadas apropiadas, como departamentos federales y estatales, municipios locales, departamentos del condado y organizaciones privadas. También se consultará con agencias de servicios sociales con respecto a las necesidades de sus clientes, incluyendo a envejecientes, personas con discapacidades, personas de bajos ingresos y aquellas organizaciones de grupos minoritarios y/o con dominio limitado del inglés.

Para cumplir con los diversos requisitos, RATS establece estos Public Participation Goals (Objetivos de Participación Pública), que incluyen:

- Asegurar que las entidades interesadas en el condado de Berks tengan un papel activo y continuo en el proceso de planificación de transporte regional.
- Garantizar un proceso establecido y confiable con reuniones abiertas y acceso público a información de datos técnicos y no técnicos.
- Aumentar el nivel de comprensión del proceso de planificación de transporte en la región e identificar cómo las entidades interesadas pueden integrarse más.

- Proporcionar a las entidades interesadas múltiples oportunidades para una participación significativa en el proceso de planificación de transporte regional.
- Identificar, buscar y comprometer a poblaciones minoritarias, poblaciones con bajos ingresos, poblaciones con dominio limitado del inglés, personas con discapacidades y todos los grupos y organizaciones identificados en la Sección 4.1 como Interested Parties (entidades interesadas).
- Emplear técnicas efectivas para la divulgación y comunicación.
- Servir como guía para el personal de RATS / BCPC en actividades de divulgación y participación, y en esfuerzos para el transporte y otras actividades de planificación.
- Documentar la información que obtenemos de las entidades interesadas en un formato para su consideración y uso por parte del MPO Board (“the Board” / “la Junta”), la Berks County Planning Commission (Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks, el personal de BCPC y otros, para mejorar nuestros esfuerzos de divulgación y participación.

Sección 3: Técnicas y estrategias de divulgación

3.1 Visión general

RATS utiliza una amplia gama de mecanismos de comunicación y técnicas de participación comunitaria para promulgar una participación significativa de las entidades interesadas, que incluyen:

- Comunicación por correo, teléfono, fax, correo electrónico (“email”) o contacto personal
- El sitio web de BCPC, que contiene documentos, horarios de reuniones, agendas y actas, anuncios relacionados con el transporte y herramientas educativas
- Aportaciones en reuniones públicas, audiencias públicas y talleres que se llevan a cabo en lugares y horarios convenientes y accesibles
- Colaboración con grupos comunitarios, cívicos y empresariales para organizar foros y sesiones de participación cuando se soliciten
- Distribución de documentos de planificación, folletos, hojas informativas y mapas que documentan los esfuerzos de planificación

- Distribución de avisos públicos y comunicados de prensa
- Encuestas por Internet y por correo regular
- Uso de “eFlash” (notificaciones electrónicas) de BCPC para eventos importantes.
- Uso de la página de Facebook de BCPC
- Explorar la creación de una página separada de RATS en Facebook, junto con otras redes sociales
- Técnicas de visualización para ayudar a los miembros de la Junta y al público a comprender los posibles resultados de los planes y/o programas de transporte
- Consulta con agencias y funcionarios responsables de la planificación de actividades dentro del condado que pueden verse afectadas por el transporte
- Asegurarse de que los documentos vitales se traduzcan al español y estén disponibles digitalmente e impresos
- Incluir avisos en todos los documentos y en el sitio web de que ciertos documentos traducidos están disponibles, y que otras traducciones estarían disponibles cuando se soliciten
- Incorporación virtual de la divulgación pública y de la participación

3.2 Listas de contactos

El personal de RATS continuamente desarrolla y mantiene bases de datos de participantes, medios de comunicación, grupos y organizaciones interesadas. Estas listas se actualizan regularmente para reflejar la información al día. Las listas de contactos se extienden a lo largo del proceso de planificación de transporte a medida que las personas, organizaciones y agencias se involucran y ofrecen sus opiniones o simplemente desean obtener más información. Para establecer nuevos contactos, RATS utiliza una variedad de estrategias, como:

- El registro de la lista de correo está disponible en todas las reuniones / audiencias públicas.
- El registro de la lista de correo está disponible a través del sitio web o “email” de BCPC.
- Anuncios de reuniones públicas, audiencias públicas, talleres y otras oportunidades específicas del proyecto se hacen disponibles en línea, a través de comunicados de

prensa, notificaciones por “email”, correo dirigido, redes sociales (Facebook) o se anuncian en reuniones públicas.

- Trabajar con entidades interesadas existentes para sugerir posibles participantes o para fomentar la participación
- Trabajar con organizaciones profesionales, cívicas y comunitarias para proporcionar representantes, sugerir participantes y fomentar la participación
- Realizar esfuerzos especiales para involucrar a los proveedores de servicios sociales que trabajan con clientes con dificultades de transporte

3.3 Técnicas de visualización

RATS usa una amplia gama de recursos de información accesibles para ayudar a los participantes a comprender diferentes propuestas, impactos y posibles resultados relacionados con programas y planes de transporte regionales. Las técnicas de visualización utilizadas para ilustrar estos conceptos pueden incluir, pero no se limitan a, uno o varios de los siguientes materiales y prácticas:

- Mapas impresos a pequeña y gran escala.
- Fotografías aéreas, solas o con superposiciones de mapas GIS
- Fotografías, bocetos, representaciones artísticas, imágenes, diagramas, tablas y otras gráficas
- Mapas impresos que permitan comparar propuestas
- Discusiones de planificación de escenarios
- Mapas en línea
- Participación pública virtual que incluya ayudas visuales y descripciones de voz
- Contenido web en Internet que:
 - Sea fácil de leer [tipo de letra “sans serif” (sin serifa)]
 - No requiera mucho “scrolling” (desplazamiento) de páginas o múltiples clics.
 - No tenga publicidad
 - Tenga documentos disponibles para descargar en formatos estándar de “software”, como PDF de Adobe y productos de Microsoft.

3.4 Participación pública virtual

La pandemia del COVID-19 obligó durante muchos meses a que las reuniones públicas pasaran a entornos virtuales en lugar de ser presenciales. El personal de RATS se adaptó a estos desafíos y continúa mejorando en lo posible. Dado que todos los procesos en línea están controlados por las políticas y procedimientos del County of Berks Information Services Department (Departamento de Servicios de Información del Condado de Berks), el personal de RATS usa los siguientes productos y técnicas:

- Microsoft Teams Live, Facebook Live y YouTube para la transmisión en vivo de reuniones
- Incorporación de pantallas “screen-shared”(compartidas) para agendas, anejos, documentos y presentaciones
- Asegurarse de que el público sepa que las reuniones se graban con fines de transcripción
- Permitir comentarios del público al principio y al final de todas las reuniones
- Publicar las agendas y los enlaces de las reuniones en los sitios web del condado de la Comisión de Planificación de Berks County (BCPC) y RATS al menos siete (7) días antes de la reunión
- Publicar todos los materiales de la reunión al menos 48 horas antes de la reunión

Sección 4: Consulta con entidades interesadas

4.1 Visión general

La norma federal, originada en la legislación SAFETEA-LU, dicta lo siguiente:

"El MPO deberá desarrollar y utilizar un plan de participación documentado que defina un proceso para proveer oportunidades razonables para participar en el proceso de planificación metropolitana a los ciudadanos, agencias públicas afectadas, representantes de empleados del transporte público, transportistas de carga, proveedores de servicios de transporte de carga, proveedores privados de transporte, representantes de usuarios del transporte público, representantes de usuarios de

senderos peatonales y facilidades de transporte en bicicleta, representantes de personas con discapacidad y otras entidades interesadas ". [§ 450.316(a) Interested parties, participation and consultation]

4.2 Consulta con tribus y con Federal Land Management Agencies

El MPO debe consultar a las Tribes and Nations (tribus y naciones indígenas) reconocidas federalmente para proveerles oportunidades de revisión y comentarios en documentos clave de planificación. PennDOT tiene su Tribal Consultation Guide (Guía de consultas sobre tribus) que describe cuáles tribus y naciones indígenas tienen intereses a lo largo del estado, especifica cuáles deben incluirse en actividades de revisión y cómo deben ser atendidas. Muchas tribus y naciones aceptan comunicación electrónica, aunque todavía hay algunas que necesitan copias escritas de todos los borradores de los documentos.

Las regulaciones también requieren coordinación con las agencias de la Federal Land Management (Administración Federal de Terrenos) para el desarrollo del TIP y LRTP. En el condado de Berks hay dos de estos terrenos: Hopewell Furnace National Historic Park, administrado por el National Park Service (Servicio Nacional de Parques), y Blue Marsh Lake, administrado por el U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de los Estados Unidos).

4.3 Consulta para el desarrollo de este *Plan de Participación Pública*

El Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading desarrolla todos los planes y programas en consulta con las entidades interesadas mencionadas anteriormente. Para desarrollar este *Plan de Participación Pública*, RATS primero realizó un borrador con una lista de estrategias e ideas de participación basadas en una revisión del Public Involvement Process Resolution (Resolución del Proceso de Participación Pública) vigente, experiencias previas y directrices de la legislación federal de planificación del transporte. En el Apéndice se documentan todas las actividades realizadas durante el Public Comment Period (Período de comentario público).

Sección 5: Título VI y Justicia Ambiental

5.1 Visión general

El *Environmental Justice Summary* (Resumen de Justicia Ambiental) de RATS le sirve a RATS como guía de uso para identificar concentraciones de poblaciones bajo el Título VI y bajo Justicia ambiental, incluyendo a minorías y a poblaciones de bajos ingresos. Este Resumen se actualiza al mismo tiempo que TIP y LRPT: como mínimo, cada dos años. Los fundamentos de estos esfuerzos se establecen en el Title VI de Civil Rights Act (Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964):

"Ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos, por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional, será excluida de la participación, se le negarán los beneficios o será objeto de discriminación en virtud de cualquier programa o actividad que reciba asistencia financiera federal". – Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S. C.2000)

La President's 1994 Executive Order on Environmental Justice (Orden Ejecutiva de 1994 del Presidente sobre Justicia Ambiental) establece que:

"Cada agencia federal deberá incorporar el hecho de la justicia ambiental como parte de su misión, por medio de identificar y abordar, según corresponda, los efectos que sean extremadamente altos y adversos para la salud humana o el medio ambiente causados por sus programas, políticas y actividades en poblaciones minoritarias y poblaciones de bajos ingresos". -Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 1994

Según se vayan localizando las concentraciones de estos grupos, RATS trabajará con las agencias y organizaciones que los agrupan para asegurarse de que conozcan el borrador de los Planes y Programas de modo que puedan tener oportunidades para ofrecer aportaciones.

5.2 Áreas de enfoque para la divulgación

RATS utiliza sus capacidades de recopilación y análisis de datos dentro del *Resumen de Justicia Ambiental* para respaldar los esfuerzos de participación y ayudar a garantizar un acceso significativo a sus oportunidades de participación pública. RATS usa este *Resumen* para analizar la relación entre las poblaciones de la región y sus inversiones, planes y programas regionales. El análisis geográfico ayuda a RATS a

identificar comunidades de justicia ambiental y a enfocar la divulgación en estas áreas según sea necesario. Utilizando el *Resumen de Justicia Ambiental*, RATS específicamente:

- Identificará las ubicaciones de comunidades de justicia ambiental a lo largo de todo el condado de Berks

- Siempre que sea posible, organizará reuniones públicas en lugares y horarios accesibles dentro de estas comunidades, y también

- Identificará una o más organizaciones que sirvan a estas comunidades y les compartirá información de manera proactiva para que estas a su vez difundan dicha información a través de sus respectivas redes y canales de comunicación

Además, el personal trabajará con funcionarios de PennDOT para ayudar a orientar sus esfuerzos de divulgación pública cuando se planifiquen reuniones de proyectos específicos. RATS mantendrá una lista actualizada de lugares accesibles que puedan utilizarse para celebrar reuniones públicas en las comunidades de justicia ambiental.

Sección 6: Dominio Limitado del Inglés (LEP)

6.1 Visión general

Las personas Limited English Proficient (con dominio limitado del inglés/LEP, según sus siglas en inglés), son aquellas que no hablan inglés como su idioma principal, y que además tienen una capacidad limitada para leer, hablar, escribir o entender inglés. La característica común clave entre las personas LEP es su incapacidad para comunicarse efectivamente en el idioma inglés, independientemente de su lengua materna. A las personas multilingües, quienes hablan más de un idioma además de ser proficientes en inglés, no se les considera LEP.

6.2 Evaluación LEP

Como beneficiario de asistencia económica federal, RATS tiene la obligación de reducir las barreras lingüísticas que puedan impedir el acceso significativo a los programas, información y servicios de RATS por parte de las personas LEP. Una parte integral de este esfuerzo es completar el "Limited English Proficiency Self-Assessment" o LEP

Assessment (Autoevaluación del Dominio Limitado del Inglés o Evaluación LEP), que está diseñado para balancear cuatro factores:

1. El número o proporción de personas LEP elegibles para ser atendidas o que es probable que el programa o servicio las encuentre
2. La frecuencia con la que las personas LEP encuentran el programa y/o sus actividades
3. La naturaleza e importancia del programa, actividad o servicio proporcionado a la vida de las personas, y
4. Los recursos disponibles para el beneficiario de asistencia económica federal y los costos

Esta evaluación, junto con revisiones detalladas de los últimos datos del Censo, examina las poblaciones más prevalentes que no hablan inglés y su dispersión geográfica a través de todo el condado de Berks. Ese análisis se detalla por separado en un Limited English Proficiency Plan/LEP (Plan de Dominio Limitado del Inglés) que acompaña a este PPP. Al presente, bajo las normas de LEP, la traducción de “documentos vitales” solo está disponible en español. Claro está, la portada de todos los documentos de RATS incluirá “taglines” de sobre 30 idiomas distintos, y se establecerá que se proveerá asistencia en esos idiomas cuando se solicite.

6.3 Acceso significativo para personas LEP

RATS tomará medidas razonables para garantizar que las personas LEP tengan un acceso significativo a las decisiones clave de planificación del transporte y tengan oportunidades para participar en los procesos de planificación del transporte regional. RATS utilizará una o más de las siguientes herramientas para acomodar razonablemente a las personas LEP:

- Proporcionar, cuando se solicite, con aviso previo de siete (7) días (según el tamaño y la complejidad del documento), copias traducidas de materiales en español, así como en otros idiomas. Cuando se solicite, RATS, a través del condado de Berks, tiene un contrato activo con una empresa que proporciona servicios de traducción.
- Proporcionar, cuando se solicite, con un aviso previo de siete (7) días, servicios de interpretación oral para reuniones públicas. RATS, a través del condado de Berks, tiene un contrato activo con una empresa que proporciona servicios de interpretación.

- Distribuir anuncios de reuniones, comunicados de prensa y avisos públicos a organizaciones que se enfocan en grupos LEP para poder involucrar activamente a las personas LEP en los idiomas apropiados,
- RATS divulgará noticias a los medios de comunicación locales de minorías y a las organizaciones de servicios comunitarios sobre la disponibilidad de servicios de traducción de idiomas. Actualmente, esos medios y organizaciones incluyen al Daniel Torres Hispanic Center, WFMZ-Spanish Edition (televisión), Rumba 92.3 (WRAW) FM (radio), WXAC 91.3 FM Albright College (radio), y Palo (revista impresa publicada mensualmente).
- Los documentos vitales de RATS incluirán avisos que adviertan que las traducciones estarán disponibles de forma gratuita cuando se soliciten. Estas advertencias estarán en español, el idioma más prevalente en lugar del inglés según identifican los datos del Censo. RATS, a través del condado de Berks, tiene un contrato activo con una empresa que proporciona servicios de traducción.
- El sitio web del condado de Berks, que alberga contenido para RATS, seguirá proporcionando un “software” de traducción de idiomas. Este “software provee traducción entre inglés y español, así como traducción entre muchos otros idiomas. RATS continuamente seguirá esforzándose para establecer puntos de contacto con representantes de comunidades que no hablan inglés.
- RATS tendrá disponibles en español documentos vitales y Executive Summaries (Resúmenes Ejecutivos) cuando corresponda.
- RATS incluirá avisos en todos los documentos y en el sitio web de que ciertos documentos traducidos están disponibles, y que otras traducciones están disponibles cuando se soliciten.
- A través de contratos provistos por el condado de Berks, el personal de BCPC recibirá capacitación periódica en productos y procedimientos que se usarán para comunicarse con personas que necesiten asistencia con idiomas.

6.4 Documentos "vitales"

RATS considera que los documentos "vitales" son aquellos que transmiten información crítica al público o que son requeridos por ley o por regulación federal. Según esa definición, el MPO considera que los documentos “vitales” incluyen, pero no se limitan, a los siguientes:

- *Title VI Policy* (Política del Título VI)

- *Title VI Complaint Procedures* (Procedimientos para Querellas del Título VI)
- *Title VI Complaint Forms* (Formularios para Querellas del Título VI)
- *Annual Meeting Schedule* (Calendario de Reuniones Anuales)
- *Notices for Special Public Meetings* (Avisos para Reuniones Públicas Especiales)

Además, los cinco documentos que se enumeran a continuación podrán: o bien, condensarse dentro de los formatos de “Executive Summary” (Resumen Ejecutivo) y esos resúmenes se traducirán al español; o bien, se traducirán en su totalidad (según el tamaño y la complejidad del documento):

- *Long Range Transportation Plan* (Plan de Transporte a Largo Plazo)
- *Transportation Improvement Program* (Programa de Mejoras al Transporte)
- *Environmental Justice Summary* (Resumen de Justicia Ambiental)
- *Public Participation Plan* (Plan de Participación Pública)
- *Limited English Proficiency Plan* (Plan de Dominio Limitado del Inglés)

Estos documentos estarán disponibles impresos y en línea. Los documentos vitales estarán disponibles en lenguajes y formatos alternativos cuando se soliciten. Otros documentos podrían estar disponibles también en lenguajes y formatos alternativos si se solicitan.

Sección 7: Americans with Disabilities Act (Ley ADA)

7.1 Visión general

Para garantizar el cumplimiento con Americans with Disabilities Act (Ley ADA), RATS ofrece múltiples métodos de participación en sus Public Meeting Notices and comment opportunities (Avisos para Reuniones Públicas y oportunidades de comentarios). Las reuniones y audiencias públicas siempre se llevan a cabo conforme la Ley ADA en lugares accesibles que se encuentran en rutas establecidas de transporte público. Cualquier persona que necesite una ayuda auxiliar o servicio para una comunicación efectiva, o una modificación de políticas o procedimientos para participar en un programa, servicio o actividad de RATS, o que tenga querellas/quejas de que un

programa, servicio o actividad de RATS no está accesible a personas con discapacidades, debe comunicarse al punto de contacto de ADA: al (610) 478-6300 x6304, "email" planning@countyofberks.com, o en el sitio web <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>

7.2 Acceso significativo para personas con discapacidades

El personal de RATS coordina con grupos locales de apoyo a personas con discapacidades para garantizar que la información esté fácilmente disponible para todos. RATS puede utilizar una o más de las siguientes herramientas para acomodar razonablemente a las personas con discapacidades:

- Proporcionar, cuando se solicite, y con aviso anticipado, copias de materiales en un tamaño de letra más grande, tipo "sans serif"
- Proporcionar, cuando se solicite, y con aviso anticipado razonable (según el tamaño y la complejidad del documento), avisos y materiales en braille o en relieve
- Proporcionar, cuando se solicite, y con aviso anticipado, intérpretes de lenguaje de señas
- Grabar materiales en medios audiovisuales
- Verbalizar la información proporcionada a través de presentaciones visuales o materiales escritos
- Cuando se solicite, acomodar los asientos para garantizarles la visibilidad a los participantes que leen los labios o que no pueden escuchar adecuadamente las deliberaciones
- Cuando sea necesario, montar micrófonos a la altura de sillas de ruedas
- Cuando sea necesario, proveer micrófonos portátiles a los participantes
- Asegurarse de que las personas que hablan durante las reuniones virtuales puedan ser escuchadas
- Proporcionar "Closed Captioning" (subtítulos) para reuniones públicas virtuales, cuando se solicite, y con aviso anticipado razonable.

7.3 Acceso a la Web para personas con discapacidades

El condado de Berks ha implementado contenido web para los departamentos del gobierno del condado. El condado utiliza el mismo “software” de administración de contenido web proporcionado por la County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (Asociación de Comisionados del Condado de Pensilvania/CCAP, por sus siglas en inglés). Una de las muchas razones detrás de esa decisión incluyó las opciones de accesibilidad dentro del “software”. Estas opciones, junto con los estándares de diseño del sitio web en todo el Condado, incluyen:

- Uso mínimo de imágenes
- Las imágenes que existen deben tener una opción de “ALT-TEXT” (texto alternativo).
- Los mapas de imagen deben tener un texto equivalente.
- Una opción “text only” (solo texto) del navegador de la página web que elimina todas las imágenes.
- Sin "roll-overs" (retornos)
- Uso de tipo de letra legible “sans-serif” (sin serifa)
- Páginas y contenido diseñados con la menor cantidad necesaria de clics
- Páginas diseñadas para minimizar el “scrolling” (desplazamiento)
- Los documentos diseñados para descarga se crean en paquetes de “software” estándar, como productos de Microsoft y Adobe PDF.

7.4 Notificaciones y servicios

Se ha incluido a representantes de personas con discapacidades en nuestras listas de correo y se les ha enviado encuestas (Sección 4.2) para recopilar sus opiniones. En todas las reuniones presenciales organizadas por RATS, se harán acomodos para el acceso en silla de ruedas y, con un aviso previo de cuatro (4) días, se proporcionarán servicios de interpretación de American Sign Language. Los documentos en braille o en letra grande y las grabaciones de audio pueden estar disponibles con la solicitud anticipada correspondiente, dependiendo del tamaño y la complejidad del documento. La disponibilidad de estos servicios se detalla en los Public Notices (Avisos Públicos). Cualquier pregunta, preocupación, solicitud de acomodos o querellas/quejas se deben presentar al punto de contacto ADA especificado en la sección 7.1.

Sección 8: Participación pública en reuniones

8.1 Visión general

RATS da la bienvenida a ideas y comentarios relacionados con asuntos regionales por parte de las entidades interesadas del área del condado de Berks, así como de otros condados adyacentes del MPO, según sea aplicable. Para las personas hay muchas oportunidades y niveles de participación relacionados con el proceso de planificación regional y para aquellos quienes deseen dirigirse directamente al Board (la Junta). Con excepción de reuniones propias de las Executive Sessions (sesiones ejecutivas), todas las otras reuniones de los comités Reading Area Transportation Study Technical y Coordinating Comitties están abiertas a las entidades interesadas e incluyen oportunidades para comentarios sobre la agenda, así como sobre elementos fuera de la agenda.

8.2 Comentarios públicos en reuniones de la Junta

Se solicitará a todos los asistentes que se registren en el lugar de la reunión o, si es virtual, que anuncien su presencia para propósitos del registro. A aquellos que deseen hacer comentarios, se les pedirá que lo indiquen al momento de registrarse o a través de la función del chat. Se puede solicitar que las personas limiten la extensión de sus comentarios, y también se les puede solicitar a las personas que no repitan comentarios similares a los de otros que los precedieron.

Las actas de las reuniones de las Juntas se ponen a disposición como minutas o resúmenes de las reuniones, que se publican en el sitio web de Berks County Planning Commission (Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks):

<https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>. También están disponibles para su revisión en las oficinas de Berks County Planning Commission. Para obtener más información, por favor llame a la BCPC al 610-478-6300.

8.3 Comités de RATS

RATS tiene varios comités que se reúnen según sea necesario, en los cuales los ciudadanos, grupos defensores o de apoyo, representantes del sector privado y otros pueden obtener la misma información que se les brinda a los representantes de las agencias de profesionales de planificación y transporte involucradas en las actividades de RATS. Las reuniones de los comités brindan a las entidades interesadas la oportunidad de conocer datos pertinentes en torno a un tema. Todas las reuniones de los comités se anuncian y están abiertas al público.

Sección 9: Avisos Públicos

9.1 Visión general

Para garantizar que el público tenga amplias oportunidades de participación en el proceso de planificación regional, RATS se compromete a proporcionar notificaciones con tiempo oportuno, información completa y acceso público total a decisiones clave. Esta sección describe los procedimientos que RATS utilizará para todos los avisos públicos.

9.2 Requisitos de Aviso Público

RATS utiliza Public Notices (Avisos Públicos) para anunciar los siguientes tipos de eventos y oportunidades de participación:

- Calendarios de la reunión anual del Board (la Junta) - anunciados anualmente a través de Berks County Commissioners (los comisionados) y en el sitio web de RATS
- Reuniones especiales, reprogramadas o canceladas de la Junta- anunciadas conforme los requisitos de la ley PA Sunshine Law
- Comment Periods (Períodos de Comentarios)- anunciados al menos 30 días antes de la fecha en que se espera que la Junta tome decisiones formales sobre cualquier decisión importante (45 días para el PPP; vea la Sección 10); y
- Reuniones relacionadas con los Períodos de Comentarios- anunciadas con al menos siete (7) días de anticipación (vea la Sección 10.2)

Los Avisos Públicos para estos eventos y oportunidades de participación serán:

- Anunciados por medio de anuncios legales pagados. Se publicará un anuncio pagado en un periódico de circulación general en la región (*Reading Eagle*) y, de estar disponible, otro en un periódico con circulación dirigida a comunidades minoritarias.
- Los avisos públicos para reuniones públicas especiales o foros importantes pueden anunciarse por medio de anuncios de visualización pagados.
- Distribuidos a otros medios de comunicación u organizaciones que sirvan a determinados grupos de divulgación identificados en este documento
- Publicados en la página web de la agencia:

<https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>

- Enviados electrónicamente a través del sistema de correo electrónico “eFlash” del BCPC
- Publicados en la página de Facebook del BCPC
- Enviados a bibliotecas con una solicitud de publicación
- Enviados a SCTA/BARTA (proveedor transitorio) con una solicitud de publicación

Los Avisos Públicos proporcionarán la siguiente información (cuando corresponda):

- Tipo o nombre de la reunión/evento de participación/actividad/período de comentarios públicos
- Tema de la reunión/evento de participación/actividad/período de comentarios públicos
- Fecha, hora y lugar de la reunión/evento de participación/actividad
- Enlace web para una reunión virtual
- Fechas de inicio y finalización de los períodos de comentarios públicos
- Información de contacto (dirección, número de teléfono, “email” y/o sitio web)
- Información sobre punto de contacto ADA

- Breve resumen de la acción, plan, programa o enmienda propuestos
- Dónde obtener copias del plan o materiales
- Cómo ofrecer comentarios públicos formales
- La fecha, hora y lugar de la reunión si la Junta fuera a tomar acción formal sobre una decisión importante
- Oferta de proporcionar acomodos para personas LEP
- Oferta de proporcionar acomodos para personas con discapacidades; e
- Instrucciones sobre cómo presentar querellas/quejas bajo el Título VI y otras leyes antidiscriminatorias

Sección 10: Períodos de Revisión Pública y Comentarios sobre puntos claves de decisión

10.1 Visión general

RATS valora los esfuerzos que hacen los participantes y el público para participar en el proceso de planificación regional. RATS ofrecerá al menos 30 días para revisión pública y comentarios antes de tomar medidas formales sobre cualquier decisión importante (45 días para el PPP). Este *Plan de Participación Pública* define una decisión importante como la adopción oficial de:

- el *Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)* / Plan de Transporte Regional a Largo Plazo
- el *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* / Programa de Mejoras al Transporte
- *Air Quality Conformity Determination* / Determinación de Conformidad con la Calidad del Aire
- *Public Participation Plan (PPP)* / Plan de Participación Pública
- una enmienda mayor al plan regional o TIP

10.2 Requisitos de los Períodos de Revisión Pública y Comentarios

RATS informará al público y a las entidades interesadas sobre los Períodos de Comentarios Públicos, utilizando los procedimientos de Public Notice (Aviso Público) descritos anteriormente, al menos 30 días antes de la fecha programada para que la Junta adopte o realice una enmienda importante del LRTP Regional, TIP, *Air Quality Conformity Determination* u otra enmienda importante (45 días para el PPP).

Los documentos e información sobre los cuales se solicitan comentarios públicos estarán disponibles para los participantes, otras entidades interesadas y el público general en ubicaciones a través de todo el condado. Estas ubicaciones incluyen las oficinas de BARTA, las oficinas de BCPC, las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0 y el sitio web de BCPC: <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>. La información sobre dónde y cómo acceder a los documentos de comentarios públicos se incluirá en el Aviso Público.

Antes de que la Junta tome medidas formales sobre la adopción de un LRTP regional, TIP, *Air Quality Conformity Determination*, *Plan de Participación Pública* o enmienda importante, se llevará a cabo al menos una reunión pública con el propósito de proporcionar información al público y obtener sus comentarios. La reunión pública podría llevarse a cabo como parte de una reunión regular de la Junta o como una reunión pública separada. El Aviso Público para esta reunión puede combinarse con el Aviso Público emitido para el Período de Comentarios Públicos relacionado según se describe en la Sección 10.2.

10.3 Períodos adicionales de Revisión Pública y Comentarios

Si el borrador del LRTP regional, TIP, *Air Quality Conformity Determination* o enmienda importante cambiara de manera considerable de la versión que se hizo disponible por el MPO para comentarios del público y se traen nuevos asuntos materiales que las entidades interesadas razonablemente no hubiesen previsto desde el esfuerzo inicial de participación, se proporcionará un período adicional de 15 días al Período de Comentarios Públicos.

Si el borrador del *Plan de Participación Pública* cambiara de manera considerable durante el período de revisión y comentarios, se proporcionará un período adicional de 30 días para la revisión pública y los comentarios antes de que la Junta tome medidas formales.

Los períodos adicionales de Revisión Pública y Comentarios se llevarán a cabo de acuerdo con los procedimientos regulares para los períodos de Public Review and Comment (Revisión Pública y Comentarios) expuestos en la Sección 11.2.

10.4 El Plan de Transporte Regional a Largo Plazo (LRTP)

El LRTP regional es una estrategia a largo plazo (20 años o más) y un programa de mejora de capital económico desarrollado para guiar la inversión efectiva de fondos públicos en instalaciones multimodales de transporte en el contexto de la visión regional. El plan regional provee el contexto del cual se deriva el *Transportation Improvement Program* /TIP de la región (Programa de Mejoras al Transporte), un programa de mejora de capital económico a corto plazo para implementar proyectos de transporte. El LRTP se actualiza cada cuatro años en consulta con las entidades interesadas.

El proceso de participación pública temprana y continua de RATS en el desarrollo del LRTP seguirá estos pasos:

- Paso 1: Se utilizarán Public Participation Surveys (encuestas de participación pública) a través de correo regular dirigido e Internet para recopilar ideas y aportes iniciales (cuando los ciclos de actualización correspondan, esto puede ocurrir al mismo tiempo que la actualización del TIP). Cuando estén disponibles, el personal también utilizará los aportes recopilados como parte de cualesquiera procesos de participación pública de PennDOT.
- Paso 2: Al mismo tiempo, se usarán Public Officials Surveys (encuestas a funcionarios públicos) a nivel local y de la delegación legislativa para recopilar ideas y aportes gubernamentales.
- Paso 3: Los aportes iniciales, incluida al menos un (1) Public Meeting/Workshop (reunión pública/ taller), se recopilarán y se utilizarán en el diseño de la próxima fase de divulgación y participación, tales como talleres y otras reuniones públicas. Estos talleres/ reuniones públicas pueden celebrarse en conjunto con las reuniones regularmente programadas por RATS MPO Technical o Coordinating Committee.
- Paso 4: En consulta con las entidades interesadas, los aportes continuos se utilizarán para desarrollar borradores de materiales para el plan regional.
- Paso 5: Los borradores de materiales del plan regional se presentarán para su revisión y comentario por parte del público y las entidades interesadas utilizando los procedimientos de Public Review and Comment (Revisión Pública y Comentarios) para

un período de comentario público de 30 días. Los borradores estarán disponibles durante el período de comentario público de 30 días en el sitio web de BCPC <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, en las oficinas de BCPC, en las oficinas de BARTA, en las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0 y en bibliotecas locales. La información sobre dónde y cómo acceder a los documentos de comentarios públicos se incluirá en el Public Notice (Aviso Público), con información que detalle cómo obtener los documentos de manera electrónica o impresa. De acuerdo con los procedimientos contenidos en este *Plan de Participación Pública* para acomodar a personas Limited English Proficient (con dominio limitado del inglés) y a personas con discapacidades, los documentos vitales del plan regional estarán disponibles en español y en formatos alternos cuando se soliciten. Durante esta etapa, se llevarán a cabo dos (2) Public Meetings (reuniones públicas). Estas, por lo general, incluyen una durante el día en un formato híbrido que permite tanto acceso presencial como electrónico en un local de la ciudad de Reading, y una segunda reunión que es generalmente solo presencial en un lugar rural durante la noche. El personal se esfuerza por atender las solicitudes de presentaciones en otras reuniones.

-Paso 6: Se considerarán todos los comentarios recibidos y las respuestas a los comentarios serán documentadas y presentadas a la Junta antes de que tome medidas sobre los materiales del borrador para el plan regional.

-Paso 7: La Junta toma acción formal sobre el plan regional.

-Paso 8: Se desarrollará un Public Participation Report (Informe de Participación Pública) para el plan regional. El informe documentará todos los comentarios recibidos y las respuestas a dichos comentarios, y también documentará todas las actividades de participación pública y divulgación. Este informe podría constituir un capítulo o apéndice en el LRTP.

-Paso 9: Los materiales del plan regional que se adopten finalmente estarán disponibles en el sitio web de BCPC <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, en las oficinas de BCPC, en las oficinas de BARTA y en las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0. De acuerdo con los procedimientos contenidos en este *Plan de Participación Pública* para acomodar a personas con dominio limitado del inglés y personas con discapacidades, los documentos vitales del plan regional estarán disponibles en español y en formatos alternos cuando se soliciten. Se incluirá información que detalle cómo tener acceso a los documentos de manera electrónica o impresa.

10.5 El Programa de Mejoras al Transporte (TIP)

El *Transportation Improvement Program* TIP regional identifica los proyectos de transporte de mayor prioridad en la región, desarrolla un programa de implementación multianual e identifica fuentes de financiamiento federal y no federal disponibles para los proyectos identificados. El TIP cubre un período de inversión de cuatro años y se actualiza cada dos años por medio de un esfuerzo cooperativo de agencias locales, estatales y federales, que incluye la participación del público en general y la consulta con entidades interesadas. Los proyectos de transporte incluidos en el TIP deben ser consistentes con el LRTP regional. Toda la gama de proyectos incluidos en el TIP debe cumplir con los estándares federales de calidad del aire.

El proceso de participación pública temprana y continua de RATS en el desarrollo del TIP seguirá estos pasos:

- Paso 1: Se utilizarán Public Participation Surveys (encuestas de participación pública) a través de correo regular dirigido e Internet para recopilar aportes iniciales. Cuando los ciclos de actualización correspondan, esto puede ocurrir al mismo tiempo que la actualización del LRTP regional y/o cualquier proceso de participación pública de PennDOT.
- Paso 2: Al mismo tiempo, Public Officials Surveys (encuestas a funcionarios públicos) se enviarán a funcionarios a nivel local y de la delegación legislativa para recopilar ideas y aportes gubernamentales.
- Paso 3: Los aportes iniciales se recopilarán y se utilizarán en el diseño de la próxima fase de divulgación y participación, tales como talleres y otras reuniones públicas.
- Paso 4: En consulta con las entidades interesadas, se utilizarán aportes continuos para desarrollar borradores de materiales para el TIP.
- Paso 5: Los borradores de materiales del TIP se presentarán para su revisión y comentario por parte del público y las entidades interesadas utilizando los procedimientos de Public Review and Comment (Revisión Pública y Comentarios) para un período de comentario público de 30 días. Los borradores estarán disponibles durante el período de comentario público de 30 días en el sitio web de BCPC: <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, en las oficinas de BCPC, en las oficinas de BARTA, en las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0 y en bibliotecas locales. La información sobre dónde y cómo acceder a los documentos de comentarios públicos se incluirá en el Public Notice (Aviso Público) con información que detalle cómo tener acceso a los documentos de manera electrónica o impresa. De acuerdo con los procedimientos contenidos en este *Plan de Participación Pública* para acomodar a personas con dominio limitado del inglés y personas con discapacidades, los documentos vitales del plan regional estarán

disponibles en español y en formatos alternos cuando se soliciten. Durante esta etapa, se llevarán a cabo dos (2) Public Meetings (reuniones públicas). Estas, por lo general, incluyen una durante el día en un formato híbrido que permite tanto acceso presencial como electrónico en un local de la ciudad de Reading, y una segunda reunión que es generalmente solo presencial en un lugar rural durante la noche. El personal se esfuerza por atender las solicitudes de presentaciones en otras reuniones.

-Paso 6: Se considerarán todos los comentarios recibidos y las respuestas a los comentarios se documentarán y se presentarán al Board (la Junta) antes de que tome medidas sobre los materiales del borrador para el TIP.

-Paso 7: La Junta toma acción formal sobre el TIP.

-Paso 8: Se desarrollará un Public Participation Report (Informe de Participación Pública) para el TIP. El informe documentará todos los comentarios recibidos y las respuestas a dichos comentarios, y también documentará todas las actividades de participación pública y divulgación.

-Paso 9: Los materiales del plan regional que se adopten de manera final estarán disponibles en el sitio web de BCPC

<https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, en las oficinas de BCPC, en las oficinas de BARTA y en las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0. De acuerdo con los procedimientos contenidos en este *Plan de Participación Pública* para acomodar a personas con dominio limitado del inglés y personas con discapacidades, los documentos vitales del plan regional estarán disponibles en español y en formatos alternos cuando se soliciten. Se incluirá información que detalle cómo tener acceso a los documentos de manera electrónica o impresa.

10.6 Enmiendas importantes al Plan Regional LRTP o al TIP

Una vez que se haya desarrollado y aprobado un TIP o LRTP, el programa está sujeto a revisiones a medida que el programa presupuestado de transporte experimente cambios en la programación de proyectos y costos estimados. La Federal Highway Administration (Administración Federal de Carreteras/FHWA) y la Federal Transit Administration (Administración Federal de Tránsito /FTA) solo autorizarán proyectos y aprobarán subvenciones para proyectos cuyo costo total esté programado en el TIP aprobado y vigente. RATS debe modificar el TIP o el LRTP regional para ajustarse a los cambios de costos y programación si un socio de planificación o el Estado desean continuar adelantando el proyecto.

La definición de una enmienda importante o mayor varía según el tipo y/o costo del programa que se vaya a enmendar. Las definiciones y procedimientos para las enmiendas importantes al LRTP regional y al TIP se incluyen en los respectivos documentos del LRTP regional y del TIP, y están disponibles en el sitio web de BCPC <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>. **Si una revisión propuesta al TIP o al LRTP regional agrega un proyecto, elimina un proyecto o impacta la programación o alcance de trabajo de un proyecto significativo para la calidad del aire, RATS revisará la propuesta y determinará si se requiere una nueva *Air Quality Conformity Determination* (Determinación de Conformidad con la Calidad del Aire) antes de la aprobación formal del cambio. Si la revisión requiere una nueva *Determinación de Conformidad con la Calidad del Aire*, también se desarrollará una enmienda al LRTP regional.**

La participación pública y los comentarios de RATS sobre las enmiendas importantes al LRTP regional o al TIP seguirán estos pasos:

- Paso 1: RATS informará al público y a las entidades interesadas sobre el período de comentarios para la enmienda importante propuesta utilizando los procedimientos de Public Notice (Aviso Público) descritos en la Sección 10.2, al menos 30 días antes de la fecha programada para la acción del Board (la Junta) sobre esa enmienda importante propuesta.
- Paso 2: La información sobre la enmienda importante propuesta se presentará para su revisión y comentarios por parte del público y las entidades interesadas utilizando los procedimientos de Public Review and Comment (Revisión Pública y Comentarios) para un período de comentario público de 30 días según se describe en la Sección 10.2. La información sobre la enmienda importante propuesta se hará disponible durante el período de comentario público de 30 días en el sitio web de BCPC, en las oficinas de BCPC, en las oficinas de BARTA y en las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0. La información sobre dónde y cómo acceder a los documentos de comentarios públicos se incluirá en el Aviso Público.
- Paso 3: Se considerarán todos los comentarios recibidos y las respuestas a los comentarios se documentarán y se presentarán al Board (la Junta) antes de que tome medidas sobre la enmienda importante propuesta.
- Paso 4: La Junta toma acción sobre la enmienda importante.
- Paso 5: Después de la aprobación federal y estatal de los cambios solicitados, RATS actualizará los documentos apropiados del TIP o del LRTP regional en el sitio web de BCPC. Los documentos actualizados también estarán disponibles en las oficinas de BCPC, en las oficinas de BARTA y en las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0.

10.7 Informe de *Determinación de Conformidad de la Calidad del Aire*

El informe *Air Quality Conformity Determination* (Determinación de Conformidad de la Calidad del Aire) es un documento complementario al LRTP regional y al TIP. El informe *Air Quality Conformity Determination* documenta el proceso utilizado por RATS para realizar la determinación de conformidad relacionada con el transporte para el LRTP regional y el TIP en relación con el ozono a nivel del suelo y el particulado fino (PM2.5). La Determinación de Conformidad es requerida por la Clean Air Act (Ley Federal de Aire Limpio). El hallazgo de conformidad de RATS se basa en los criterios y procedimientos establecidos en la EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule (Regla de Conformidad de Transporte de la EPA (40 CFR Parte 93) y cumple con todos los requisitos de conformidad aplicables. El informe *Air Quality Conformity Determination* se desarrolla como parte de la actualización del LRTP regional o del TIP, en cuyo caso se seguirán los procedimientos de participación pública y comentarios para la actualización del LRTP regional o del TIP según se describe en las Secciones 10.4 y 10.5, respectivamente. El informe de *Air Quality Conformity Determination* también se actualizará según se requiera por ciertas enmiendas al TIP o al LRTP regional, en cuyo caso se seguirán los procedimientos de participación pública y comentarios para enmiendas importantes al LRTP regional o al TIP según se describe en la Sección 10.6.

10.8 El *Plan de Participación Pública*

Este *Plan de Participación Pública* describe los diversos objetivos, estrategias y herramientas para involucrar al público y estimular su participación en el desarrollo de planes y programas de transporte. RATS actualizará periódicamente el *Plan de Participación Pública*. Esto podría deberse a nuevas regulaciones y procedimientos oficiales de planificación, o luego que haya habido alguna evaluación pública o del Board (la Junta) sobre la efectividad del Plan.

El proceso de participación y comentarios públicos de RATS para actualizar el *Plan de Participación Pública* seguirá estos pasos:

Paso 1: Las revisiones al *Plan de Participación Pública* se desarrollarán en consulta con las entidades interesadas antes de que el documento borrador se someta al proceso de revisión y comentarios públicos.

Paso 2: El borrador del *Plan de Participación Pública* se presentará para revisión y comentarios del público y de las entidades interesadas usando los procedimientos de Public Review and Comment (Revisión Pública y Comentarios) para un período de comentario público de 45 días, según se describe en la Sección 10.2. El borrador del *Plan de Participación Pública* estará disponible durante el período de comentario público de 45 días en el sitio web de BCPC <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, en las oficinas de BCPC, en las oficinas de BARTA y en las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0. La información sobre dónde y cómo acceder a los documentos de comentarios públicos se incluirá en el Aviso Público. De acuerdo con los procedimientos contenidos en este *Plan de Participación Pública* para acomodar a personas Limited English Proficient (con dominio limitado del inglés) y personas con discapacidades, el borrador del *Plan de Participación Pública* estará disponible en español y en formatos alternos cuando se soliciten.

Paso 3: Se considerarán todos los comentarios recibidos y las respuestas a los comentarios se documentarán y se presentarán a la Junta antes de que tome medidas sobre el borrador del *Plan de Participación Pública*.

Paso 4: La Junta toma acción sobre el borrador del *Plan de Participación Pública*.

Paso 5: Se producirá un *Plan de Participación Pública* y estará disponible en el sitio web de BCPC <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, en las oficinas de BCPC, en las oficinas de BARTA y en las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0. De acuerdo con los procedimientos contenidos en este *Plan de Participación Pública* para acomodar a personas Limited English Proficient (con dominio limitado del inglés) y personas con discapacidades, el *Plan de Participación Pública* estará disponible en español y en formatos alternos cuando se soliciten.

Sección 11: Acceso a la información

11.1 Visión general

RATS proporcionará un acceso razonable a la información pública, incluyendo información técnica y avisos de reuniones:

- En formatos accesibles electrónicamente en el sitio web de BCPC <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>.
- Se proporcionarán enlaces al sitio web en la página de Facebook de BCPC.

- Los enlaces también se anunciarán digitalmente a través del servicio “eFlash” de BCPC.
- En formato impreso en la oficina Berks County Planning Commission office en Berks County Services Center, 633 Court St., 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601.
- En las oficinas de BARTA localizadas en 1700 N. 11th St., Reading, PA 19604; y
- en las oficinas de PennDOT District 5-0, localizadas en 1002 Hamilton St, Allentown, PA 18101.

11.2 Respuesta a solicitudes especiales

Para facilitar la participación pública a la vez que se utilizan de manera eficiente los limitados recursos de personal, RATS se asegurará de que la información esté disponible para las entidades interesadas de manera regular a través de los diversos procesos y actividades descritos en este *Plan de Participación Pública*.

Cuando RATS reciba solicitudes especiales para realizar un análisis que no esté considerado como parte del proceso de planificación, u otra información o datos especiales, la agencia determinará la razonabilidad de esa solicitud. Los parámetros para determinar la razonabilidad (según se utilizan en este documento) estarán relacionados con el tiempo de preparación y los costos para responder, así como la relevancia para el proceso de planificación del transporte y para la misión de la agencia. RATS determinará la razonabilidad y responderá a todas las solicitudes de manera individual.

Sección 12: Evaluación del *Plan de Participación Pública* y Reuniones Públicas

- En términos de su efectividad para proveer acceso completo y abierto a todos, el Board (la Junta) revisará el *Plan de Participación Pública* y los procesos a base de ideas y aportes del público, las entidades interesadas y la Document Review Network (Red de Revisión de Documentos).
- Las reuniones públicas, las audiencias públicas y los talleres especiales programados para el público y las entidades interesadas incluirán maneras para proporcionar

retroalimentación sobre la efectividad del proceso de comunicación y el formato de las reuniones.

- El *Plan de Participación Pública* se revisará al menos cada dos años, en el año previo a una actualización del TIP, para garantizar su eficacia e integridad.

Sección 13: Aplicabilidad

Este *Plan de Participación Pública* y cualquier enmienda posterior estarán en efecto de inmediato después de su adopción por parte del Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee (la Junta). Este *Plan de Participación Pública* reemplaza cualesquiera resoluciones adoptadas anteriormente por el Public Involvement Process (Proceso de Participación Pública).

Sección 14: Esfuerzos futuros

14.1 Visión general

RATS reconoce la necesidad de mejorar continuamente nuestros esfuerzos de divulgación y la necesidad de actualizar periódicamente este Public Participation Process (Proceso de Participación Pública). Se llevarán a cabo las siguientes actividades para lograr estos objetivos:

- Identificar y consultar más a fondo con las entidades interesadas (en curso)
- Continuar buscando organizaciones EJ/LEP, recursos y puntos de contacto en las diversas comunidades (en curso)
- Revisar y evaluar la efectividad del *Plan de Participación Pública* (cada dos años, en el año previo a una actualización del TIP)
- Continuar revisando y, si es necesario, actualizar el Limited English Proficiency Assessment (Evaluación de Dominio Limitado del Inglés) cada dos años, de acuerdo con la revisión del *Plan de Participación Pública*
- Conforme la Ley ADA, realizar una revisión de las características de accesibilidad de los espacios de reunión y el sitio web (anualmente)

- Continuar trabajando con defensores de personas con discapacidades para lograr continuamente que los materiales en línea estén accesibles más fácilmente mediante el uso de métodos electrónicos
- Considerar la formación de un Public Participation Panel o Subcommittee (Panel o Subcomité de Participación Pública), con oportunidades de nombramiento extendidas al público y a las entidades interesadas (cuando se adopte este Proceso)

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APPENDIX F

Limited English Proficiency Plan

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN**

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

C/o

Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court St. FL 14

Reading, PA 19601-4302

Ph: 610-478-6300

FAX: 610-478-6316

Email: planning@countyofberks.com

Web: <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of publication. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The Berks County/RATS website provides language translation software, offering translation between English, Spanish, and multiple other languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by RATS under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with RATS's Title VI Compliance Officer and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on RATS' Title VI program, or to obtain copies of RATS' Title VI Policies, Complaint Procedures, or Complaint Form, please call the Title VI Compliance Officer at (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the RATS will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities based on disability in its services, programs, or activities. RATS' public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven (7) days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven (7) days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of RATS, or has complaints that a program, service, or activity of RATS is not accessible to persons with disabilities please call the ADA Point of Contact at (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>

Documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610-478-6300.

Estos informes y/o documentos estarán disponibles en diversos lenguajes y formatos si es necesario. Personas que necesiten acomodo razonable o con preguntas pueden comunicarse al 610-478-6300.

English

ATTENTION: If you speak another language, language assistance is available to you FREE OF CHARGE. Call 610.478.6300

Español

Atención: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 610.478.6300

中文

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Tiếng Việt

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한국어

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 610.478.6300

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العربية

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم المبرقة الكاتبة: 610.478.6300

עברית

שים לב: אם אתה מדבר עברית, סיוע בשפה, ללא תשלום, זמינים עבורך. התקשר 610.478.6300

Hmoob

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 610.478.6300

Русский

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 610.478.6300

Tagalog

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong se wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 610.478.6300

ไทย

ความสนใจ: หากคุณพูดภาษาไทยคุณสามารถขอความช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาฟรีได้ โทร 610.478.6300

ភាសាខ្មែរ

ចំណាំ: ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកនិយាយជាភាសាខ្មែរ សេវាកម្មជំនួយផ្នែកភាសាមានផ្តល់ជូនសម្រាប់លោកអ្នកដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ។ សូមទំនាក់ទំនងតាមរយៈលេខ៖ 610.478.6300. ។

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हिंदी

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिन्दी बोलते हैं तो आपके लिए मुफ्त में भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। 610.478.6300 पर कॉल करें

日本人

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Polskie

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Reading Area Transportation Study
Limited English Proficiency Assessment

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act states that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Federal Executive Order 13166 of 2001 “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency” directed federal agencies to: a) publish guidance on how their recipients can provide access to persons with limited English proficiency; b) improve the language accessibility of their own federal programs; and c) break down language barriers by implementing consistent standards of language assistance across federal agencies and amongst all recipients of federal financial assistance.

“Limited English Proficient” or “LEP” persons are those individuals who do not speak English as their primary language, and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English. The key commonality among all LEP persons is their inability to communicate effectively in the English language, regardless of their native tongue. Persons who are multi-lingual, in that they speak a language *in addition to English*, are not considered to be Limited English Proficient.

As a recipient of federal financial assistance, the Reading Area Transportation Study has an obligation to reduce language barriers that can preclude meaningful access to RATS’s programs, information, and services by non-English speakers. The first step is the completion of a “Limited English Proficiency Self-Assessment” or LEP Assessment.

This self-assessment is designed to balance four factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or service,
2. The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter the program and/or activities,
3. The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided to people’s lives, and
4. The resources available to the federal financial recipient and costs.

2020 Federal Certification Review

In the last RATS TMA Certification Review, the Review Team made two recommendations based on the MPOs administration of its LEP Plan. Specifically, the Review Team recommended the MPO create and distribute executive summaries of its vital documents in Spanish to organizations with Spanish speaking constituents. Additionally, the Team recommended the MPO revisit its outreach methods to ensure

that LEP individuals were provided meaningful access to information. The method recommended included reviewing and providing language assistive services availability notices in vital documents and on the MPOs website.

RATS adopted its LEP Plan in August 2017. According to the Plan, the MPO will provide “written translations of its planning documents upon request.” The LEP Plan assures the notice of availability of translation services is included as a “front piece” to its documents in Spanish. Notices of public comment periods for vital documents will also be translated. Additionally, the Plan provides that the website provides on-demand translation. Oral translation services are provided by contract. In addition, the LEP Plan provides that RATS outreach efforts will be targeted based on project level or neighborhood meeting needs.

The Review Team finds that RATS did not address the recommendations using the specific techniques identified in the 2017 report; however, the Team finds that the MPO addressed the intent of most of the recommendations. Specifically, the Review Team finds the MPO has made certain documents available to the region’s largest LEP population in its native language; and, provided notices to that language group concerning the availability of language assistive services in its native language as a foreword to the document. Nonetheless, the Review Team finds that based on demographic data provided in the LEP Plan, the region has other LEP language groups that need to be made aware of the language assistive services the MPO provides. Accordingly, the Team encourages the MPO to add language Tag Lines for its current “front piece”, relevant to its linguistic population, for inclusion in vital documents. Examples of language Tag Lines can be found in Pennsylvania’s *2025 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance* document.

The Review Team found that the recommendation concerning the website, although addressed in the MPOs LEP Plan, is not readily observable on the website. The Team found that the reason that changes have not been made to the website as indicated is that the website is not within the MPOs direct authority and control to address. During the virtual review discussion, the MPO revealed that the website is administered and maintained by Berks County. As a result, RATS is unable to unilaterally alter the website.

To improve the overall process, the Review Team encourages RATS to revisit the language in the LEP Plan, and anywhere else that it appears, concerning the availability of translation of the website. This information should be revised to accurately reflect how the MPO communicates information contained on its website to LEP language groups.

1. LEP Population

The LEP self-assessment begins with the identification of the potential LEP population through a demographic analysis to determine the number or proportion of LEP persons from a particular language group served or likely to be encountered in the eligible service area. The greater the number or the higher the proportion of LEP persons served or encountered, the more likely language services are needed.

American Community Survey (ACS) Information

The resulting American Community Survey is a monthly nationwide survey taken of roughly 3 million households per year, with data aggregated for time frames based on geographic populations. Areas with populations over 65,000 persons (i.e., Berks County, Reading City) receive their data aggregated to a one-year time span, while areas with less than 65,000 persons (boroughs, most townships, plus 1-year areas) receive their data aggregated over five years.

Since information needs to be reviewed at the municipal level and we need to maintain consistency between measures, the most recent data to be used is from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. Users are cautioned that ACS data represent an estimation over a longer period versus a ‘snapshot’ of a single point in time and should be viewed appropriately. Additionally, though not shown in this document, these data are subject to margins-of-error equivalent to a 90-percent confidence interval.

The RATS Region

The “service area” for the Reading Area Transportation Study is all of Berks County. According to the 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS), the number of persons aged 5-years and over was approximately 402,848 persons.

Information on the ability of residents of the RATS region to speak English was also obtained from the Census Bureau’s 2017-2021 ACS. The language information obtained lists the number of speakers of more than one language other than English. The data are based on responses to the question, “Does this person speak a language other than English at home?” on the ACS questionnaire, which was distributed annually to approximately 1-in-46 households nationwide. Respondents who answered in the affirmative were then asked to name the language they spoke.

County level data indicate that approximately 325,565 persons speak only English, leaving approximately 77,283 persons who speak a language other than English. Most of these individuals were *multi-lingual* in that they indicated that they spoke English or “Very Well” in addition to speaking another language. These persons are not Limited English Proficient, or LEP, and were excluded from further analysis based on their ability to communicate effectively in English.

The region’s LEP persons speak many languages though the ACS only reports on a certain number of ‘major’ language groups with Spanish, French/Haitian/Cajun, Other West Germanic, Other Indo-European, and Chinese being the five most spoken. Exhibit 1 identifies the number individuals in the region speaking these languages. Out of a total of approximately 30,812 total LEP persons, the language most spoken by LEP persons is Spanish, with 26,401 speakers or 85.7 percent of the region’s total LEP population.

All languages most frequently spoken by non-English speakers in the region, according to the ACS information are identified in Exhibit 1, Limited English Proficient Population in RATS Region, below.

Exhibit 1	
Limited English Proficient Population in RATS Region By Language Spoken	
Language	Estimated Number of Non-English Speakers Age 5+ Years
Spanish	26,401
Other Indo-European	877
German or Other West Germanic	865
French, Haitian or Cajun	499
Other and Unspecified Languages	465
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	462
Vietnamese	424
Russian, Polish or other Slavic	376
Other Asian and Pacific Island	243
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	81
Korean	66
Arabic	53

SOURCE: 2017-2021 5-year American Community Survey, Table C16001

Analysis of the concentrations of non-English speakers in the region reveal that more non-English speakers live in Reading City (69.9%) than any other municipality, where 24.9% of the City's population identifies themselves as speaking English “less than well” or “not at all.” Regionally, 7.6% of the region’s residents speak English “less than very well”. This 7.6% of the regional population represents the Limited English Proficient population in the RATS region. Of that 7.6% regional LEP population, 71.6% reside within the Reading City limits.

More specifically, of the 26,401 non-English Spanish speakers in Berks, 20,396 (77.3%) resided in the City. Conversely, Berks’ next largest group of non-English speakers (Other Indo-European) were more distributed throughout the county. Only 185 (18.6%)

were estimated to have resided in the City. Appendix A contains language data for each of the Census-specified language groups and their municipal distributions. Based on the foregoing RATS has determined that Spanish is the most prevalent language spoken among both LEP and non-LEP individual in the region.

2. Frequency of Contact

The more frequent the contact with a particular language group, the more likely that enhanced language services are needed. If an LEP person from a specific language group contacts or accesses a program or service daily, the federally funded agency has greater language assistance requirements than if the same person's frequency of contact with the program or service is unpredictable or infrequent. However, federal aid recipients must bear in mind the possibility that the frequency of contact with LEP populations could increase when appropriate outreach to those LEP populations is enhanced.

The next factor to be considered in the LEP Assessment is the frequency with which LEP persons encounter the services and programs of the Reading Area Transportation Study.

The Reading Area Transportation Study provides transportation planning and programming services on behalf of all of Berks County and serves as the regional forum for transportation decision making. Decisions made by RATS affect all residents of the service area. As residents of the region, LEP persons may be affected by the decisions, services, and programs of RATS. Public input is routinely sought in the development and advancement of key planning processes, including the Long Range Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Public Participation Plan and other key plans, programs, and initiatives. During these public comment periods, comments are solicited from any interested party. To date, no comments or requests for information have been received in a language other than English, nor has any advocacy group informed RATS of the need for expanded outreach in any language other than English.

3. Importance of Services Provided

Once the languages spoken by LEP persons in the service area have been identified, and the frequency of contact has been analyzed, the nature and importance of the services provided must be assessed. As a rule of thumb, the more important the activity, service, or program, or the greater the possible consequences of the contact to the LEP individuals, the more likely language services are needed. The key question to be addressed is "will the denial or delay of access to services have serious implications for the LEP individual?"

The nature of the programs and services provided by RATS affect the mobility and quality of life for area residents. No element of the RATS program requires the compulsory participation of area residents, nor does RATS administer or oversee any programs or services that impose involuntary restrictions on area residents. Finally, the delay or denial of RATS services or participation in any RATS program is unlikely to result in a detrimental effect on the health or well-being of any individual.

4. Resource Availability and Cost

Finally, the assessment of language service provisions must assess the costs of providing such services, and the resources available to the agency. RATS has assessed its available resources that could be used for providing language assistance. Through contracts administered by the County of Berks, services available to RATS include both document translation and oral interpretation, along with on-demand website translation. Annual budget planning includes reviews of past expenditures and potential upcoming needs. Through this process RATS staff determines which documents will be translated in full vs. Executive Summaries, and also estimates interpretive needs for public meetings.

Language Assistance Obligations by RATS

RATS will take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to key transportation planning decisions and have opportunities to become involved in the regional transportation planning process.

Language Assistance Measures

There are two language assistance services that RATS will provide: translation and interpretation. These terms are often used interchangeably; however, they are quite distinct and there are different rules for each.

- **Translation** refers to the process of transferring information expressed in writing from one language to another language.
- **Interpretation** is the process by which the spoken word is used when transferring meaning between languages.

To determine in which languages these assistance measures will be provided by RATS depends on the results of data that was analyzed as part of the 4-Factor LEP Assessment. The results of this assessment are shown in Exhibits I and II and indicate that there are approximately 30,812 residents of the region that speak English “less than very well” and that these non-English speakers are fluent in many different languages.

Given the number and percentage of non-English speakers in Berks County, the potential need to provide services in so many languages could become cost

prohibitive. However, to help agencies such as RATS who serve large areas with multiple language needs, the Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation have guidance on serving LEP populations that identify “safe harbor” provisions that recommend that language assistance be provided when the LEP population reaches five percent (5%) of the population in the service area, or when the number of non-English speakers with a common native language reach 1,000 persons, whichever is less. At these levels, the federal guidance recommends that written translation of vital documents be available upon request, and that the agency have plans to address the potential need for oral translation services.

Review of ACS data for the region’s LEP analysis shows that Spanish language speakers are estimated at approximately 26,401 LEP persons, thus meeting the thresholds. Other Indo-European speakers are estimated at 877 (0.2%); Other West Germanic speakers are estimated at 865 (0.2%); French, Haitian or Cajun are estimated at 499 (0.1%); and Other Unspecified speakers are estimated at 465 (0.1%). These language groups contain the four next-highest number of LEP persons but fall below "safe harbor" thresholds.

RATS Limited English Proficient Policy

RATS has completed its assessment of Limited English Proficient Population in the Berks County region and has identified Spanish and Other Indo-European languages as the languages most frequently spoken by non-English speakers in the region.

RATS is identifying and will implement mechanisms for the translation of vital documents and program information into the most frequently spoken language in the region, as well as additional languages. RATS has also identified a mechanism for the oral interpretation of telephone inquiries via a third party interpretation service capable of providing interpretation services in more than 80 languages 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

RATS will issue press releases to local minority media outlets, including television and radio stations and newspapers with information regarding RATS’s language translation services when those services are identified. In addition, RATS has made contact with the Daniel Torres Hispanic Center and will continue to inform them of these language translation services. In our outreach to organization, RATS will continue to monitor language needs among the residents of the region and revise this plan accordingly.

Written Translation

Through contracts administered by the County of Berks, RATS will provide written translations of its planning documents upon request. In addition, On-Demand translators are available on the Berks County-administered RATS website, thus allowing digital translations of web pages. RATS will also translate notices of public

comment periods for the vital documents identified in the Public Participation Plan: The Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and Public Participation Plan. In addition, RATS, through the County of Berks, has a contract in place for the provision of document translation services as necessary.

The front piece of RATS documents will include language in English and Spanish that the document is available in other languages upon request. Additionally, language taglines are added to written documents to provide availability for non-threshold language speakers to obtain written translations upon request. RATS will provide language translations of its website, which will have the capability of translating any RATS web page instantly into several languages.

Oral Interpretation

Oral interpretation services are appropriate for several situations, including routine inquiries from citizens who call RATS or come into our offices, as well as public meetings and events. Through contracts administered by the County of Berks, RATS will use interpretation services to provide oral interpretation assistance to LEP individuals.

Telephonic Interpretation Service

Through the County of Berks, RATS has services available to provide telephonic interpretation services to assist LEP callers, walk-ins, and in cases where requests for an in-person interpretation were either not made or where insufficient notice was given to allow RATS to arrange for an interpreter.

In-Person Interpretation Services

Through the County of Berks, RATS has services available to provide in-person interpretation to respond to requests for language assistance. Meeting notices for public meetings include language requesting that RATS be notified in advance of any specialized services. If a qualified interpreter cannot be identified in a timely fashion, efforts will be made to work with the LEP individual(s) to identify a family member or community member capable of assisting with their language needs, in compliance with FHWA Guidance on outreach to LEP individuals.

Outreach to LEP Populations

ACS data identifying the geographic location (by municipality) of non-English speaking residents have been created. These tables will be used to assess the need for non-English meeting materials and interpretation services during project level or neighborhood level community meetings.

RATS will provide Press Releases to local media outlets and community service

organization regarding the availability of language translation. The front piece of RATS documents will include language in English and Spanish that language translation services are available.

APPENDIX A

**BERKS COUNTY
AND
MUNICIPAL LANGUAGE DATA**

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 5-year American Community Survey, Table C16001

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY

Label	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	402,848	±58
Speak only English	325,565	±2,007
Spanish:	62,789	±1,688
Speak English "very well"	36,388	±1,686
Speak English less than "very well"	26,401	±1,550
French, Haitian, or Cajun:	1,192	±360
Speak English "very well"	693	±219
Speak English less than "very well"	499	±191
German or other West Germanic languages:	3,461	±452
Speak English "very well"	2,596	±363
Speak English less than "very well"	865	±256
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:	1,361	±529
Speak English "very well"	985	±340
Speak English less than "very well"	376	±263
Other Indo-European languages:	3,793	±793
Speak English "very well"	2,916	±761
Speak English less than "very well"	877	±211
Korean:	132	±72
Speak English "very well"	66	±47
Speak English less than "very well"	66	±50
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	788	±267
Speak English "very well"	326	±147
Speak English less than "very well"	462	±230
Vietnamese:	702	±262
Speak English "very well"	278	±144
Speak English less than "very well"	424	±159
Tagalog (incl. Filipino):	421	±167
Speak English "very well"	340	±130
Speak English less than "very well"	81	±65
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:	700	±241
Speak English "very well"	457	±194
Speak English less than "very well"	243	±100
Arabic:	307	±145
Speak English "very well"	254	±122
Speak English less than "very well"	53	±44
Other and unspecified languages:	1,637	±432
Speak English "very well"	1,172	±348
Speak English less than "very well"	465	±211

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Total:				
		Speak only English	Spanish:		
Label				Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	61	61	0	0	0
Albany township	1,756	1,679	3	0	3
Alsace township	3,711	3,680	31	31	0
Amity township	1,864	1,738	66	46	20
Bally borough	1,132	1,056	51	48	3
Bechtelsville borough	838	838	0	0	0
Bern township	3,933	3,584	222	85	137
Bernville borough	808	775	17	15	2
Bethel township	3,863	3,730	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	4,796	4,749	0	0	0
Boyetown borough	2,965	2,927	18	0	18
Brecknock township	3,504	2,896	48	16	32
Caernarvon township	4,052	3,696	292	292	0
Centerport borough	309	309	0	0	0
Centre township	3,569	3,452	105	76	29
Colebrookdale township	4,939	4,850	0	0	0
Cumru township	20,711	16,396	3,499	2,205	1,294
District township	1,287	1,270	3	3	0
Douglass township	1,442	1,312	95	71	24
Earl township	1,333	1,255	52	27	25
Exeter township	14,863	12,808	1,237	796	441
Fleetwood borough	3,963	3,677	230	230	0
Greenwich township	1,910	1,736	112	50	62
Hamburg borough	3,848	3,695	121	102	19
Heidelberg township	1,697	1,584	92	51	41
Hereford township	7,259	6,795	356	201	155
Jefferson township	2,084	1,958	38	36	2
Kenhorst borough	3,999	3,191	750	436	314
Kutztown borough	7,315	6,542	217	175	42
Laureldale borough	3,944	3,225	375	154	221
Leesport borough	12,674	11,836	604	517	87
Lenhartsville borough	150	145	1	1	0
Longswamp township	3,160	2,891	196	113	83
Lower Alsace township	2,133	2,037	56	52	4
Lower Heidelberg township	1,401	1,285	39	26	13
Lyons borough	493	478	6	6	0
Maidencreek township	5,700	5,133	301	228	73
Marion township	2,193	2,152	17	11	6
Maxatawny township	2,058	1,952	60	33	27
Mohnton borough	4,545	4,042	458	286	172
Mount Penn borough	4,248	3,943	62	32	30
Muhlenberg township	26,758	21,536	2,761	2,159	602
New Morgan borough	103	83	17	17	0
North Heidelberg township	1,113	1,025	48	48	0
Oley township	3,534	3,534	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	7,079	6,753	231	215	16
Penn township	2,754	2,434	247	81	166
Perry township	3,349	3,292	7	0	7
Pike township	1,540	1,511	0	0	0
Reading city	86,613	40,804	43,435	23,039	20,396
Richmond township	6,549	5,493	771	556	215
Robeson township	4,344	4,148	40	19	21
Robesonia borough	1,888	1,810	30	30	0
Rockland township	3,452	3,379	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	3,855	3,800	0	0	0
Shillington borough	8,887	8,267	374	193	181
Shoemakersville borough	3,313	3,130	58	0	58
Sinking Spring borough	10,535	9,538	522	343	179
South Heidelberg township	4,262	2,973	849	685	164
Spring township	24,122	21,767	1,422	1,029	393
St. Lawrence borough	4,988	4,231	692	465	227
Tilden township	4,192	3,988	45	31	14
Topton borough	2,387	2,333	24	17	7
Tulpehocken township	1,543	1,439	11	7	4
Union township	2,768	2,253	475	366	109
Upper Bern township	2,943	2,809	43	14	29
Upper Tulpehocken township	3,586	3,547	39	22	17
Washington township	3,134	2,641	419	253	166
Wernersville borough	2,544	2,448	27	27	0
West Reading borough	5,183	4,852	86	59	27
Windsor township	3,959	3,737	194	180	14
Womelsdorf borough	2,737	2,698	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	2,324	1,954	92	82	10

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	French, Haitian, or Cajun:			German or other West Germanic languages:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	62	51	11
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	3	3	0	23	23	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	19	19	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	19	19	0	14	14	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	121	81	40
Birdsboro borough	35	35	0	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	4	4	0	16	0	16
Brecknock township	0	0	0	385	195	190
Caernarvon township	0	0	0	12	12	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	24	24	0
Cumru township	10	0	10	24	24	0
District township	0	0	0	11	8	3
Douglass township	0	0	0	8	6	2
Earl township	0	0	0	21	21	0
Exeter township	3	0	3	30	23	7
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	56	28	28
Greenwich township	0	0	0	17	17	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	17	8	9
Heidelberg township	3	3	0	3	3	0
Hereford township	37	37	0	46	46	0
Jefferson township	6	6	0	46	44	2
Kenhorst borough	27	0	27	16	16	0
Kutztown borough	10	10	0	441	313	128
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	41	41	0
Leesport borough	16	0	16	71	39	32
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	2	2	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	73	52	21
Lower Alsace township	4	4	0	16	10	6
Lower Heidelberg township	0	0	0	16	14	2
Lyons borough	9	9	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	20	10	10	52	37	15
Marion township	0	0	0	20	11	9
Maxatawny township	0	0	0	3	0	3
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	10	10	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	63	63	0
Muhlenberg township	166	128	38	106	98	8
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	3	3	0	27	27	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	1	1	0	94	66	28
Penn township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0	42	42	0
Pike township	0	0	0	21	18	3
Reading city	571	246	325	253	133	120
Richmond township	19	19	0	84	74	10
Robeson township	0	0	0	132	128	4
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	48	42	6
Rockland township	0	0	0	49	49	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	55	31	24
Shillington borough	0	0	0	22	22	0
Shoemakersville borough	66	66	0	39	39	0
Sinking Spring borough	53	39	14	42	42	0
South Heidelberg township	4	0	4	49	49	0
Spring township	38	22	16	159	119	40
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	6	0	6	49	49	0
Topton borough	0	0	0	25	25	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	86	15	71
Union township	0	0	0	9	9	0
Upper Bern township	2	2	0	55	52	3
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	7	0	7
Wernersville borough	0	0	0	27	27	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	189	172	17
Windsor township	0	0	0	9	9	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	57	27	30	4	4	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:			Other Indo-European languages:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	9	9	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	25	12	13	9	0	9
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	41	41	0	34	0	34
Bernville borough	16	1	15	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	165	86	79	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	12	12	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	35	35	0
Cumru township	80	74	6	241	146	95
District township	0	0	0	3	3	0
Douglass township	0	0	0	4	4	0
Earl township	0	0	0	3	3	0
Exeter township	230	230	0	216	175	41
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	5	2	3
Hamburg borough	8	8	0	7	7	0
Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson township	5	5	0	5	5	0
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	9	0	9
Kutztown borough	20	19	1	21	10	11
Laureldale borough	37	28	9	189	148	41
Leesport borough	0	0	0	51	51	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	2	2	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	4	0	4	16	0	16
Lower Heidelberg township	8	6	2	46	41	5
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	19	0	19	105	78	27
Marion township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	15	15	0	12	10	2
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	35	20	15
Mount Penn borough	66	66	0	15	0	15
Muhlenberg township	269	88	181	1,315	1,174	141
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	3	3	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	7	7	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	19	19	0	4	0	4
Perry township	1	1	0	6	6	0
Pike township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading city	66	51	15	396	207	189
Richmond township	90	81	9	10	10	0
Robeson township	0	0	0	8	8	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0	8	8	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	27	27	0	105	69	36
Shoemakersville borough	20	20	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	14	14	0	130	96	34
South Heidelberg township	0	0	0	227	216	11
Spring township	57	57	0	288	186	102
St. Lawrence borough	13	13	0	26	26	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	15	15	0
Topton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	7	0	7
Union township	0	0	0	22	22	0
Upper Bern township	10	0	10	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	13	13	0
Wernersville borough	4	4	0	4	4	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	40	27	13
Windsor township	19	10	9	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	13	13	0
Wyomissing borough	13	9	4	62	45	17

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Korean:			Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	12	0	12
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	9	9	0	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	30	0	30	0	0	0
Cumru township	0	0	0	37	25	12
District township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earl township	0	0	0	2	2	0
Exeter township	9	9	0	31	17	14
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	10	2	8	0	0	0
Hereford township	14	14	0	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kutztown borough	13	13	0	0	0	0
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	0	0	0	12	12	0
Marion township	0	0	0	4	4	0
Maxatawny township	3	0	3	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	99	44	55
Muhlenberg township	0	0	0	87	48	39
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	0	0	0	28	0	28
Perry township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pike township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading city	0	0	0	235	110	125
Richmond township	0	0	0	15	0	15
Robeson township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	0	0	0	58	24	34
South Heidelberg township	0	0	0	15	8	7
Spring township	0	0	0	99	14	85
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Topton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Bern township	24	9	15	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	54	18	36
Wernersville borough	20	10	10	0	0	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	0	0	0	0	0	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Vietnamese:			Tagalog (incl. Filipino):		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	12	12	0
Boyetown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	23	9	14	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumru township	107	40	67	159	137	22
District township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass township	10	10	0	0	0	0
Earl township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exeter township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford township	11	0	11	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0	26	0	26
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kutztown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	27	27	0
Leesport borough	0	0	0	13	13	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	4	0	4	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marion township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	2	0	2	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muhlenberg township	0	0	0	100	80	20
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	6	0	6	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pike township	8	0	8	0	0	0
Reading city	173	20	153	0	0	0
Richmond township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robeson township	0	0	0	7	7	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	22	0	22	26	26	0
South Heidelberg township	106	46	60	0	0	0
Spring township	154	101	53	31	31	0
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	20	7	13
Topton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wernersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	26	26	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	50	26	24	0	0	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:			Arabic:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	3	3	0	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	19	19	0	0	0	0
Berville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyetown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	4	4	0	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	13	13	0	7	7	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumru township	143	93	50	5	0	5
District township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earl township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exeter township	82	65	17	0	0	0
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	5	2	3	0	0	0
Hereford township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kutztown borough	5	0	5	22	22	0
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesport borough	32	0	32	0	0	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	3	3	0	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	58	29	29	0	0	0
Marion township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	11	0	11	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muhlenberg township	42	15	27	15	15	0
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	3	3	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	16	8	8	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0	1	1	0
Pike township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading city	29	19	10	35	29	6
Richmond township	59	8	51	0	0	0
Robeson township	9	9	0	0	0	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	16	16	0	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	65	65	0	0	0	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	14	14	0	0	0	0
South Heidelberg township	39	39	0	0	0	0
Spring township	31	31	0	57	44	13
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	69	59	10
Topton borough	0	0	0	5	5	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union township	2	2	0	7	0	7
Upper Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wernersville borough	0	0	0	9	9	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	16	16	0
Windsor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	0	0	0	56	44	12

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Other and unspecified languages:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0
Bally borough	6	6	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0
Bern township	0	0	0
Berville borough	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0
Brecknock township	6	6	0
Caernarvon township	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0
Cumru township	10	10	0
District township	0	0	0
Douglass township	13	13	0
Earl township	0	0	0
Exeter township	217	153	64
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0
Greenwich township	40	40	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Hereford township	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0
Kenhorst borough	6	0	6
Kutztown borough	24	24	0
Laureldale borough	50	0	50
Leesport borough	51	22	29
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	0	0	0
Marion township	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0
Muhlenberg township	361	264	97
New Morgan borough	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Oley township	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0
Penn township	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0
Pike township	0	0	0
Reading city	616	414	202
Richmond township	8	8	0
Robeson township	0	0	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0
Shillington borough	27	27	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	116	101	15
South Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Spring township	19	19	0
St. Lawrence borough	26	26	0
Tilden township	0	0	0
Topton borough	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0
Union township	0	0	0
Upper Bern township	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0
Wernersville borough	5	3	2
West Reading borough	0	0	0
Windsor township	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	36	36	0

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD ACTIVITIES

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN and LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN
UPDATE PERIOD ACTIVITIES**

The following activities occurred prior to and during the *Public Participation Plan / Limited English Proficiency Plan* update period, which took place between June 4, 2023 and July 18, 2023:

1. Online Survey Monkey survey created, in both English and Spanish, along with printed surveys in English and Spanish. Copies of first page of online surveys attached, along with copies of printed surveys.
2. Initial email, including Public Notice and electronic links to surveys and documents, forwarded to over 250 groups, organizations and individuals. Copy of email attached.
3. Links to documents and surveys added to Berks County Planning Commission website. Images attached.
4. 6/4/2023, Legal Advertisement run in the Reading Eagle. Advertisement attached.
5. 6/5/2023, information included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Image attached.
6. 6/5/2023, Article/Notices included on the Berks Community Television (BCTV) website. Images attached.
7. 6/14/2023, Evening (7:00 p.m.) Public Meeting held at Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium facility. Meeting held in rural area. Meeting survey created and made available; 0 returned. There were no attendees from the public and one (1) Berks County Planning Commission staff member (presenter). Meeting materials, including PowerPoint discussion, attached.
8. 6/23/2023, Follow-up email sent as a reminder of the second Public Meeting and to complete surveys. Copy of email attached.
9. 6/23/2023 and 6/26/2023, information regarding second Public Meeting included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Images attached.
10. 6/27/2023, Second Public Meeting held at Berks County Services Center (Commissioner's Boardroom, 13th Floor). Afternoon (2:00 p.m.) meeting held in facility that is transit accessible, located in City of Reading. Meeting also held virtually to allow for non-in-person attendance. Meeting survey created and made available; none returned. Four (4) in-person attendees total, including Berks County Planning Commission staff (2 persons), Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person) and

- one (1) Berks County Commissioner. Three (3) persons attended virtually, including SCTA/BARTA staff (1 person), Western Berks Ambulance Assn. staff (1 person) and Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person). Only one (1) comment germane to the PPP/LEP update was from SCTA/BARTA staff noting their experiences reaching out to the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and various faith-based organizations have been helpful. Meeting materials including image of virtual meeting attached.
11. Comments were received via two separate emails (07/14/2023) from Michael Donchez, PennDOT District 5-0 staff. Comments germane to the LEP were limited to text formatting and two date corrections. Comments germane to the PPP include spelling, grammar, and formatting corrections. Additionally, recommendations for minor text additions/corrections were made. MPO staff concurs and will make those corrections. Both emails attached.
 12. Comments were received via email (07/17/2023) from Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff. These comments were substantive enough that staff chose to delay adoption of the draft PPP and LEP to further review and respond to these comments. A copy of Ms. Shamberg's email along with MPO staff responses is attached.
 13. As of the close of the Public Comment Period (07/18/2023), a total of ten (10) online surveys and no (0) written surveys were returned. All responses received were English; no Spanish responses to the Surveys were received. The summary of responses is attached.
 14. Staff submitted (8/23/2023) revised documents to Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff per her previously submitted comments for additional review. Staff also included Khan Mitchell (FHWA Civil Rights Specialist) along with Stacey Waters and Debra Allen (both PennDOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity). On 8/28/2023, staff received documents with embedded comments from both FHWA officials (unable to reproduce for this document). Staff reviewed and incorporated changes suggested by those comments.
 15. Both documents set for review/recommendation by RATS Technical Committee 9/7/2023. If a favorable recommendation is received, the RATS Coordinating Committee (Reading MPO) should adopt on 9/21/2023. Minutes from both meetings to be attached upon approval.

1. Online Survey Monkey survey created, in both English and Spanish, along with printed surveys in English and Spanish. Copies of first page of online surveys attached, along with copies of printed surveys.

Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

In one way or another, our transportation system affects our daily lives. We travel back and forth to work, school, shopping, medical appointments, and recreation activities. The goods we buy are shipped between factories, warehouses, and stores. People and goods travel in cars, trucks, trains, or busses; we also walk, bicycle, carpool, take a taxi or an Uber/Lyft, or telecommute. Over time, our transportation needs outgrow the current transportation system and changes are needed.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is a committee of local officials that engage in transportation planning for Berks County. It reviews the transportation needs of our area and prepares several required plans and programs. One of those, called the Public Participation Process, outlines the policies and methods used by RATS to gather and use meaningful public input as part of the transportation planning process. Please help us improve this Process by answering the questions below. Thanks!

1. Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

Yes

No

2. Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County?

Yes

No

3. Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

Yes

No

4. Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements?

Yes

No

Next

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)
Public Participation Plan Survey**

(Take this survey online! <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>)

In one way or another, our transportation system affects our daily lives. We travel back and forth to work, school, shopping, medical appointments, and recreation activities. The goods we buy are shipped between factories, warehouses, and stores. People and goods travel in cars, trucks, trains, or busses; we also walk, bicycle, carpool, take a taxi or an Uber/Lyft, or telecommute. Over time, our transportation needs outgrow the current transportation system and changes are needed.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is a committee of local officials that engage in transportation planning for Berks County. It reviews the transportation needs of our area and prepares several required plans and programs. One of those, called the *Public Participation Process*, outlines the policies and methods used by RATS to gather and use meaningful public input as part of the transportation planning process. Please help us improve this Process by answering the questions below. Thanks!

Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)? Yes No

If you checked 'No' above,

- Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County Yes No
- Are you familiar with the transportation planning process? Yes No
- Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements? Yes No

If you checked 'Yes' above, where have you seen or heard about RATS?

- Print Media (specify) _____
- Television (specify) _____
- Social Media (specify) _____
- Municipal Newsletter (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____

As we develop plans and projects that may impact you, what would be the best ways for us to get information to you? (Check all that apply)

- Direct notification (by postal mail or email) of meetings and documents
- BCTV Programs and BCTV Community Calendar notices
- Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups
- Newspaper articles and press releases
- Legal Advertisements and/or block ads in newspaper
- Website information, including downloadable documents
- Documents on file at libraries and other community organizations
- Municipal Newsletters
- Paper notices posted on bulletin boards
- Social Media (Specify) _____
- Advertising-type newspapers (the *Merchandiser*)
- Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)

If you have concerns as we develop those plans or about transportation projects, which of the following methods are effective ways for you to get information to us? (Check all that apply)

- Public meetings, special presentations & workshops
- Paper Surveys returned by postal mail
- Electronic Surveys completed online
- Social Media (Specify) _____
- Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups
- Small group meetings (community organizations, agencies, & individuals)
- Telephone or fax
- Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)

What obstacles prevent you from attending a meeting about transportation planning? (Check all that apply)

- Not an interesting subject
- No specific project that directly affects me
- Need special accommodations (please explain below)
- Fear/distrust of government
- Can't leave work to attend meetings
- Child / Elder care concerns
- Meeting time / location conflicts (please explain below)
- Language barrier (please explain language needed below)
- Lack of available transportation
- Other (please describe at the end of this survey)

Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

Yes No

If No, which challenges do you face? (Check all that apply)

- I don't use or have access to a computer or phone
- I'm not comfortable using technology
- I'd rather meet face-to-face
- Other reason (specify) _____

If Yes, which benefits do you receive? (Check all that apply)

- It saves me time
- I don't have to drive anywhere
- I don't have access to transportation
- I can view recorded meetings at a more convenient time
- I prefer virtual vs. face-to-face

Which types of platform(s) do you use regularly? (Check all that apply)

- Desktop Computer / Laptop
- Tablet / Mobile Phone
- Neither

Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading Encuesta del Plan de Participación Pública

De una forma u otra, nuestro sistema de transporte afecta nuestras vidas cotidianas. Viajamos de ida y vuelta al trabajo, a la escuela, para ir de compras, a las citas médicas y a las actividades recreativas. Los productos que compramos se transportan entre fábricas, almacenes y tiendas. Las personas y las mercancías viajan en automóviles, camiones, trenes o autobuses; también caminamos, pedaleamos, compartimos el automóvil, tomamos un taxi o un Uber / Lyft, o trabajamos desde la casa. A lo largo del tiempo, nuestras necesidades de transporte superan la oferta del sistema de transporte actual y se necesitan cambios.

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading, RATS por sus siglas en inglés) es un comité de funcionarios locales que participan en la planificación del transporte para Berks County (Condado de Berks). Revisa las necesidades de transporte de nuestra área y prepara varios planes y programas requeridos. Uno de estos, llamado Public Participation Process (Proceso de Participación Pública), describe las políticas y métodos utilizados por RATS para recopilar y usar aportes públicos significativos como parte del proceso de planificación del transporte. Ayúdenos a mejorar este proceso respondiendo a las siguientes preguntas. ¡Gracias!

1. ¿Alguna vez ha visto o escuchado sobre el Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

Sí

No

2. ¿Sabe quién lleva a cabo la planificación del transporte en Berks County?

Sí

No

3. ¿Está familiarizado con el proceso de planificación del transporte?

Sí

No

4. ¿Sabe de dónde provienen los fondos para mejoras en el transporte?

Sí

No

Sig.

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)
(Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading)**

**Public Participation Plan Survey
(Encuesta del Plan de Participación Pública)**

(¡Conteste esta encuesta en línea! <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>)

De una forma u otra, nuestro sistema de transporte afecta nuestras vidas cotidianas. Viajamos de ida y vuelta al trabajo, a la escuela, para ir de compras, a las citas médicas y a las actividades recreativas. Los productos que compramos se transportan entre fábricas, almacenes y tiendas. Las personas y las mercancías viajan en automóviles, camiones, trenes o autobuses; también caminamos, pedaleamos, compartimos el automóvil, tomamos un taxi o un Uber / Lyft, o trabajamos desde la casa. A lo largo del tiempo, nuestras necesidades de transporte superan la oferta del sistema de transporte actual y se necesitan cambios.

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading, RATS por sus siglas en inglés) es un comité de funcionarios locales que participan en la planificación del transporte para Berks County (Condado de Berks). Revisa las necesidades de transporte de nuestra área y prepara varios planes y programas requeridos. Uno de estos, llamado Public Participation Process (Proceso de Participación Pública), describe las políticas y métodos utilizados por RATS para recopilar y usar aportes públicos significativos como parte del proceso de planificación del transporte. Ayúdenos a mejorar este proceso respondiendo a las siguientes preguntas. ¡Gracias!

¿Alguna vez ha visto o escuchado sobre el Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)? Sí No

Si marcó “No” arriba,

- ¿Sabe quién lleva a cabo la planificación del transporte en Berks County? Sí No
¿Está familiarizado con el proceso de planificación del transporte? Sí No
¿Sabe de dónde provienen los fondos para mejoras en el transporte? Sí No

Si marcó “Sí” arriba, ¿dónde ha visto o escuchado sobre RATS?

- Medios impresos (especifique) _____
 Televisión (especifique) _____
 Redes sociales (especifique) _____
 Boletín municipal (especifique) _____
 Otro (especifique) _____

A medida que desarrollamos planes y proyectos que pueden impactarlo a usted, ¿cuáles serían los mejores métodos para brindarle información? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Notificación directa sobre documentos o reuniones (vía postal o correo electrónico)
- Programas de BCTV y anuncios del BCTV Community Calendar
- Reuniones públicas, reuniones de RATS, y presentaciones a grupos comunitarios
- Artículos de periódicos y comunicados de prensa
- Anuncios legales y/o bloqueo de anuncios en periódicos
- Información en la web, incluidos los documentos descargables
- Documentos archivados en bibliotecas y otras organizaciones comunitarias
- Boletines municipales
- Avisos impresos publicados en tabloneros de anuncios
- Redes sociales (especifique)_____
- Periódicos publicitarios (como el *Merchandiser*)
- Otros métodos (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

Si usted tuviera inquietudes a medida que desarrollamos los planes o sobre los proyectos de transporte, ¿cuáles de los siguientes métodos serían formas efectivas para que usted pueda brindarnos información? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Reuniones públicas, presentaciones especiales y talleres
- Encuestas impresas devueltas por correo
- Encuentros electrónicos completados en línea
- Redes sociales(especifique)_____
- Reuniones públicas, reuniones de RATS, y presentaciones a grupos comunitarios
- Reuniones en grupos pequeños (organizaciones comunitarias, agencias e individuos)
- Teléfono o fax
- Otros métodos (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

¿Qué obstáculos le impedirían asistir a una reunión sobre planificación de transporte? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- No es un tema interesante.
- No es un proyecto específico que me afecte directamente.
- Necesito acomodaciones especiales. (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Miedo/ falta de confianza en el gobierno
- No puedo ausentarme del trabajo para asistir a reuniones.
- Tengo preocupaciones con el cuidado de niños o envejecientes.
- Conflictos con el horario o localización (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Barreras con el idioma (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Falta de transportación disponible
- Otros (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

¿Participa usted en reuniones virtuales(en línea)?

Sí **No**

Si contestó “**No**”, ¿qué dificultades enfrenta? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- No uso o no tengo acceso a una computadora o teléfono.
- No me siento cómodo usando la tecnología.
- Prefiero reuniones presenciales.
- Otra razón (especifique) _____

Si contestó “**Sí**”, ¿qué beneficios recibe? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Me ahorra tiempo.
- No tengo que manejar a ningún sitio.
- No tengo acceso a transportación.
- Puedo ver las reuniones grabadas en un horario que me convenga.
- Prefiero las reuniones virtuales en lugar de las presenciales.

¿Qué tipo de plataforma(s) usa regularmente? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Computadora “desktop” (de escritorio) / “laptop” (portátil)
- Tableta/ teléfono celular
- Ninguno

Por favor, díganos sus sugerencias para mejorar la participación pública en el proceso de planificación del transporte.

Por favor, devuelva esta encuesta a:

Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Para más información sobre RATS y el proceso de planificación del transporte, por favor visite nuestro sitio web:

<https://countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>

Nos esforzamos constantemente por mantener listas de contactos precisas y actualizadas. Aunque tratamos de comunicarnos electrónicamente, entendemos que el correo postal sigue siendo la mejor manera para que algunos residentes escuchen sobre nosotros. Si usted desea estar en nuestras listas de correo para recibir avisos de reuniones y oportunidades para revisar documentos, provea **UN** (1) método para contactarlo, ya sea por correo electrónico **o** correo postal.

correo electrónico _____

o

Nombre _____

Dirección _____

Ciudad _____

Código postal _____

Gracias por completar nuestra encuesta. Su aportación se usará para crear el Public Participation Process(Proceso de Participación Pública), que asegurará una mejor comunicación entre el público y los responsables de tomar decisiones.

2. Initial email, including Public Notice and electronic links to surveys and documents, forwarded to over 250 groups, organizations and individuals. Copy of email attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan
Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 2:32:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_English.pdf](#)

Good afternoon, all!

Apologies for any multiple copies of this email you may receive. We ask that you please pass this information on to those who may be interested. Thank you!

PUBLIC NOTICE
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
And
DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the *Draft Public Participation Plan* and the *Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan* for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

Copies of the *Draft Plans* and links to online surveys are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

**Berks County Planning
5-0
Commission
Street
633 Court St – 14th Floor
18101
Reading, PA 19601**

BARTA Executive Offices

1700 North 11th Street

Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District

1002 Hamilton

Allentown, PA

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler,

Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**

633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

This message and the attachment(s) are intended for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any retention, use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication including attachments is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone or reply to the original message at the above address and then delete all copies of the message.

3. Links to documents and surveys added to Berks County Planning Commission website. Images attached.

County of Berks - Planning Commission


countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

Government Services Community How Do I Search...

Welcome to the Office of County Planning

Our Mission


The Berks County Planning Commission serves as the area-wide planning organization for Berks County. The Commission provides a regional blueprint for land use, transportation and community facilities. It assists local units of government with development and preservation activities and provides guidance to the Berks County Board of Commissioners and other departments of county government. The Commission and its professional staff also serve as community advisors for modern planning practices and advocates for sound regional growth management. Finally, since the Commission is involved with a range of activities with a number of partners, it plays a very important coordinating role in community development issues and projects.




News / Announcements

About Us
 Planning Home
 Calendar
 Municipal Contacts
 Municipal Websites

Contact Information



David N. Hunter, AICP
 Executive Director



RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan
 Public Comment Period Open

[View](#)

BCPC 2022 Annual Report
 See what the Planning Commission did in 2022

[View](#)

County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT P

countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/plans-and-programs/public-participation-pl...

Home About Us Select Language

Government Services Community How Do I Search...

2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited English Proficiency Plan

Back to Plans and Programs
 Back to Transportation/Reading MPO

[Survey \(English\) \(Print Version\)](#) [Survey \(Spanish\) \(Print Version\)](#)

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Español) and the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan (en Español) for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plans. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the Draft Plans: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.

Copies of the Draft Plans are available for public review at the links above and in print at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission 633 Court St - 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601	BARTA Executive Offices 1700 North 11th Street Reading, PA 19604	PENNDOT District 5-0 1002 Hamilton Street Allentown, PA 18101
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Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.

Si necesita servicios de traducción/interpretación, le pedimos que se comunique con nosotros a más tardar del 7 de junio del 2023 a las planning@countyofberks.com, o llame al 610-478-6300.

Quick Links

- County Buildings/Facilities
- County Park Locations

Resources

- Pennsylvania State Website

Looking for Information?
 If you are having trouble finding information Please contact *the Webmaster*.

County of Berks

4. 6/4/2023, Legal Advertisement run in the Reading Eagle. Advertisement attached.

To place a Classified ad
call 610-376-1527 #3 or
send an email to

CLASSIFIED@READINGEAGLE.COM

cla

C4

Sunday, June 4, 2023 » MORE UPDATES AT FACEBOOK.COM/READINGEAGLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auction vehicles
V&M Towing
81 Berkley Park Rd.
Reading, Pa 19605
610-926-3724
Auction on Monday 6/5/23 at
8:00 a.m.

2004 Sterling Tractor,
VIN 2FZHATDC34AN18669
2008 Chevy Malibu,
VIN 2G1WS553089277519

DICK HENRY
AUCTIONEER/REALTOR
610-858-3065

IT'S THE QUICK response
that keeps people coming back
to classifieds. Call today to
place your fast-action ad.

MERCHANDISE

MISCELLANEOUS

Beam scale - \$40; 2 Golf Bags
w/misc. clubs - \$50 ea. Golf
Hand Cart - \$30; Craftsman
Sabre Saw - \$35; Back mas-
sager - \$25; ConAir Bath Spa
- \$25; Revlon Hot Rollers - \$20.
610-375-7199

S & W 40 cal. handgun - \$350;
Mossburg Rifle slug gun w/
scope - \$350. 484-256-5993

MERCHANDISE

0BUYING-Antqs./collectibles
1 item to contents. Moving or
downsize. 484-529-0851

Vinyl Record Collections
Wanted, Cash paid for LPs and
45s. Rock/Soul/Jazz. Leave a
message. 484-655-2881.

MERCHANDISE

Wanted to Buy - Estate Jew-
elry, incl. costume & watches,
Vtg. clothing pre 80's, An-
tiques. 484-432-9770

ANIMALS

DOGS

AKC Golden Retriever Pups
8 wks. Shots & wormed:
\$900. Call 570-449-9147

PET SUPPLIES & SERVICES

Use Seal 'N Heal on dogs &
cats to seal wounds with
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PUBLIC NOTICE READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN And DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan and the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plans. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the Draft Plans: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.

Copies of the Draft Plans are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St - 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

BARTA Executive Offices
1700 North 11th Street
Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.
RE June 4 A-1

5. 6/5/2023, information included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Image attached.


County of Berks - Planning Com | X Berks County Planning Commis | X +

facebook.com/berkscpc

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 Berks County Planning Commission

Page · Public & Government Service


633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania

(610) 478-6300

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Berks County Planning Commission
June 2 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is obligated to have plans in place in order to ensure consistent public outreach and dialog throughout the transportation planning process. Now six years old, these documents have been updated to reflect changing demographics and communication methods. English and Spanish versions are available. A Public Review Period is now open until July 18th. For more information and to see the documents, click the link below:

 COUNTYOFBERKS.COM
County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited...
The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

2 1

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6. 6/5/2023, Article/Notices included on the Berks Community Television (BCTV) website. Images attached.

Juneteenth Parade and Festival
 Join the celebration on Saturday, June 10th, 2023, at...
 COMMUNITY
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 Alvernia University appoints Dr. Leamor Kahanov as the new...
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Transportation Program to Medical Care for Local Patients
 South Central Pennsylvania Veterans are now able to participate...
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Explore Playlists by Local Creators
 Upcoming Local Events

- JUN June 7 @ 9:00 am - July 16 @ 8:00 pm
7 LGBTQ+ Art Showcase
- JUN 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
10 Reading Juneteenth Day Parade & Festival
- JUN 9:00 am - 11:00 am
17 Safe Berks Celebration of Peace/Walk For NO MORE

[View Calendar](#)



Visions Celebrates 10 Years with Ty Muse, President/CEO
 This May, Visions Federal Credit Union celebrated the 10th...
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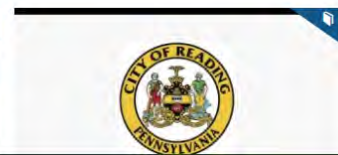


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Reading Area Transportation Study Draft Public Participation Plan

by The County of Berks

Jun 05, 2023



The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the [Draft Public Participation Plan](#) and the [Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan](#) for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

Copies of the *Draft Plans* and links to [online surveys](#) are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission: 633 Court St – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601

BARTA Executive Offices: 1700 North 11th Street, Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District 5-0: 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**

El Comité Coordinador del Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading (RATS) ha preparado el [Borrador del Plan de Participación Pública](#) y el [Proyecto de Plan de Dominio Limitado del Inglés](#) para el Condado de Berks. Estos son documentos operativos que abordan métodos para difundir información y recopilar comentarios del público sobre diversos esfuerzos de planificación de transporte en el condado de Berks. Este anuncio está diseñado para dar a los ciudadanos, gobiernos locales y organizaciones interesadas la oportunidad de comentar sobre el *borrador del plan*. Se llevarán a cabo dos (2) reuniones públicas para recibir comentarios sobre el *borrador del plan*: miércoles 14 de junio, 2023, comenzando a las 7:00 p.m. en el auditorio del Centro Agrícola del Condado de Berks, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, y martes 27 de junio de 2023 a partir de las 2:00 p.m. en la Sala de Juntas del Comisionado del Condado de Berks ubicada en el Centro de Servicios del Condado de Berks, 633 Calle Corte Piso 13, Reading, PA 19601. La reunión del 27 de junio también estará disponible en línea a través de Microsoft Teams utilizando el enlace <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **Estas reuniones no son sobre proyectos o temas específicos; más bien, son sobre el intercambio de información y cómo involucrar mejor al público en el proceso de planificación del transporte.**

Las copias del *Borrador del Plan* están disponibles para su revisión pública en la página web de la Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks en <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> y en los siguientes lugares:

Comisión de Planificación Condado de Berks: 633 Calle Corte Piso 14, Reading, PA 19604

BARTA-Oficinas Ejecutivas: 1700 Norte, Calle 11, Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT Distrito 5-0: 1002 Calle Hamilton, Allentown, PA 18101

Por favor envíe comentarios por escrito a: Sr. Michael Golembiewski, Modelador de Transporte, Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks, 633 Calle Corte. Piso 14, Reading, PA 19601. Los comentarios se aceptarán a partir del 4 de junio de 2023, hasta el cierre de operaciones el martes 18 de julio, 2023. Los comentarios también pueden enviarse por fax al (610) 478-6316 o enviarse por correo electrónico a planning@countyofberks.com.

al 610-478-6300.

ALSO ON BCTV

<p>Many Threads, One Fabric: Vol. 10 – ...</p> <p>a month ago · 1 comment</p> <p>DO NOT BE CONFORMIST! Hi I'm Yuritzkiri Sixtos Medina, ...</p>	<p>Royals Announce Training Camp ...</p> <p>8 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>The Reading Royals, ECHL affiliate of the Philadelphia Flyers and Lehigh Valley ...</p>	<p>Muhlenberg Summer Style Program Cuts ...</p> <p>8 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>The Muhlenberg School District developed MSD Summer Style in the ...</p>	<p>Report: Child Pop Declines ...</p> <p>a month ago · 1 comm</p> <p>The population is m: of fewer children – ii Pennsylvania and ac</p>
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BCTV Comment Policy

We welcome the sharing of ideas and feedback. Off-topic, spam, or harassing comments may be removed.

Got it

0 Comments

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- [FTC Data Show Romance Scams Hit Record High](#)
- [Houlahan Delivers 3rd Annual State of the Sixth Address at Historic Colonial Theatre](#)

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7. 6/14/2023, Evening (7:00 p.m.) Public Meeting held at Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium facility. Meeting held in rural area. Meeting survey created and made available; 0 returned. There were no attendees from the public and one (1) Berks County Planning Commission staff member (presenter). Meeting materials, including PowerPoint discussion, attached.

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 14, 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY**

In an effort to ensure that public meetings serve their intended purpose, we're asking for your input. Kindly answer the following questions so we may improve our presentation formats.

- 1. Was the meeting time and place convenient for you? If not, what would be a better time and place?**

- 2. How did you hear about this meeting? Did the announcement or news story adequately describe the time, place, and purpose of the meeting? Did you see/hear the announcement in a reasonable amount of time for your planning purposes?**

- 3. Was the meeting space adequate for this size group? Could you clearly see the speaker and any visual aids? Could you clearly hear all discussions? Were the seating arrangements adequate? If you needed any accommodations, were they made for you in a respectful and useful manner?**

- 4. Did you understand the presentation? Was there any jargon used that you were unclear about?**

- 5. Were your questions answered and/or concerns addressed? Were you given adequate time to voice your opinion? In general, do you feel the meeting served its intended purpose?**

- 6. Are there any other questions/concerns you may have?**

If you would like to be added to our contact list for future transportation planning updates, please include your information below.

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP

EMAIL:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
c/o Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601-4309
610-478-6300; FAX: 610-478-6316

planning@countyofberks.com; www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**

Public Meeting #1
June 14, 2023
Berks County Agricultural Center

1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Why are we here?
 - To review the Transportation Planning Process
 - To discuss Information Sharing
 - To examine effective methods of Communication
 - To talk about Process
- Tonight is NOT about Projects!

2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.' ?
 - Born out of a legal agreement in 1964, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County
 - Required by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 in order to receive federal funding for transportation projects

3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.' ?
 - In other words, it is a group of officials appointed by various public agencies that specifically focus on transportation planning for all of Berks County
- Two separate Committees
 - *Technical Committee*
 - *Coordinating Committee*

4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Technical Committee
 - Advisory body only (8 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Planning Commission (2)
 - City of Reading (2)
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets Monthly

5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Coordinating Committee
 - Policy Board (10 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Commissioners
 - Berks County Planning Commission
 - City of Reading
 - Berks County Townships (2nd Class, 1st Class)
 - Berks County Boroughs
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets every other month

6

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Advisory Committees and Staff
 - Formed and meet as needed
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
 - Berks County Planning Commission staff serves as staff to RATS
 - Other Planning Partners
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Dept. of Environmental Resources (DEP)
 - Legislators, municipalities, non-profits, economic development

7

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What does RATS do?
 - Long- and Short-range planning
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP, 20+ years)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP, 4 years)
 - Congestion Management Process (CMP, ongoing and focused)
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2020, 2022 Update)
 - Other planning processes
 - Safety, Mobility, Transit
 - Coordination
 - Air Quality
 - Title VI / Environmental Justice / Executive Orders
 - **Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency**

8

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What doesn't RATS do?
 - Projects
 - Contracting, construction, management
 - Engineering
 - We are planners, not engineers
 - Financial Assistance
 - We don't provide direct grants/loans/financing; but...
 - We coordinate with PennDOT for project funding through the TIP
 - Accept applications for certain programs (TA-SA)
 - Contracts/contract management

9

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - 428,849 persons (2020 Decennial Census)
 - 17.7% Aged 65+
 - 29.2% Racial Minority
 - 23.9% Latino
 - 7.6% non-English speakers (aged 5+)
 - 85.7% Latino
 - 14.1% Disabled
 - 11.8% Below poverty level
 - 12.5% Less than High School graduate (aged 25+)
 - 3.2% No vehicles available (workers 16+)

10

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - Federal Guidance dictates that the process include:
 - Citizens
 - Affected public agencies
 - Representatives of public transportation employees
 - Representatives of users of public transportation
 - Freight shippers
 - Providers of freight transportation services
 - Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities
 - Representatives of the disabled
 - Other interested parties

11

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - We also include
 - Business and Industry representatives
 - Economic Development representatives
 - Local governments
 - Agricultural community
 - State and federal legislators

12

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- "HOW WELL ARE WE REACHING OUR AUDIENCE?"
- "IF WE'RE NOT REACHING OUR AUDIENCE, WHY?"

13

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Public Participation **throughout** the planning process is a key component of a successful process.
- The **Public Participation Plan (PPP)** and the **Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP)** guide RATS' efforts to successfully engage the public in a meaningful exchange of information.

14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **Public Participation Plan (May, 2023 Draft)**
 - Introduction
 - Public Participation Goals
 - Outreach Techniques and Strategies
 - Consultation with Interested Parties
 - Title VI and Environmental Justice
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Public Participation in Meetings
 - Public Notices
 - Public Review and Comment Periods
 - Access to Information
 - Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings
 - Future Efforts

15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)**
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data

16

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Our goal is to update the PPP and LEP to:
 - Update/analyze demographics
 - Improve current methods used to disseminate information and collect input;
 - Include better methods of reaching out to those who may not use 'mainstream' methods, including:
 - Print media
 - Television news
 - Websites
 - **Social Media**
 - **Virtual Public Engagement**

17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN!!!!**
 - Give us input as to how to better reach you / your neighbors / your clientele;
 - What can we do that we don't already do;
 - What can we improve on;
 - What works and What doesn't work?

18

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Please,
 - Stand up and speak up so everybody can hear you;
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Tonight is about information exchange, not about projects!*

19

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Next Steps?
 - Another meeting, June 27, 2:00 p.m., Commissioner's Boardroom and Virtual;
 - Survey online
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission, or paper available;
 - Formal 45-day Public Comment Period June 4 – July 18;
 - Adoption by RATS July 20th

20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Wrapping up this evening:
 - Please complete meeting survey before leaving
 - **THANK YOU FOR COMING AND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

21

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT ST FL 14
READING PA 19601
610-478-6300 X6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
Facebook: [facebook.com/berkspc](https://www.facebook.com/berkspc)

22

8. 6/23/2023, Follow-up email sent as a reminder of the second Public Meeting and to complete surveys. Copy of email attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: Reminder, RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan Public Meeting #2
Date: Friday, June 23, 2023 1:49:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_English.pdf](#)
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[LEP_ASSESSMENT-MAY2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)
[PPP_Draft_May2023.pdf](#)

Good Friday afternoon!

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. [The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams](#). There are online surveys in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) that we would ask you and your constituents to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

Mike



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

PUBLIC NOTICE
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
And
DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the *Draft Public Participation Plan* and the *Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan* for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

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Berks County Planning 5-0 Commission	BARTA Executive Offices	PENNDOT District 5-0
Street 633 Court St – 14 th Floor 18101 Reading, PA 19601	1700 North 11 th Street Reading, PA 19604	1002 Hamilton Allentown, PA

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

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**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com



Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

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Thank you.

9. 6/23/2023 and 6/26/2023, information regarding second Public Meeting included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Images attached.

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Berks County Planning Commission


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Berks County Planning Commission 4d

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For links to the survey, the meeting link, and more - click on the link below:

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 The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

1

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Berks County Planning Commission

Intro

Mission
 The Berks County Planning Commission serves as the area-wide planning organization for Berks

Page - Public & Government Service


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Photos See all photos

Berks County Planning Commission 1d

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams. There are online surveys in both English and Spanish that we would ask you to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

For links to the survey, the meeting link, and more - click on the link below:

 COUNTYOFBERKS.COM
County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited...
 The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

Connect with Berks County Planning Commission on Facebook

Log In or Create new account

10.6/27/2023, Second Public Meeting held at Berks County Services Center (Commissioner's Boardroom, 13th Floor). Afternoon (2:00 p.m.) meeting held in facility that is transit accessible, located in City of Reading. Meeting also held virtually to allow for non-in-person attendance. Meeting survey created and made available; none returned. Four (4) in-person attendees total, including Berks County Planning Commission staff (2 persons), Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person) and one (1) Berks County Commissioner. Three (3) persons attended virtually, including SCTA/BARTA staff (1 person), Western Berks Ambulance Assn. staff (1 person) and Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person). Only comment germane to the PPP/LEP update was from SCTA/BARTA staff noting their experiences reaching out to the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and various faith-based organizations have been helpful. Meeting materials including image of virtual meeting attached.

PUBLIC MEETING
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 27, 2023

Name	Affiliation	Mailing Address or E-Mail
MICHAEL COLOMBIEWSKI	BCPC/READING MPO	mgs@embiewski@countyofberks.com
ALAN PIPER	BCPC/READING MPO	apiper@countyofberks.com
KEITH BOATMAN	SCTA (V)	
ANTHONY TUCCI	(V) WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE	
MICHAEL RIVERA	Berks County Commissioner	
CAROL LONG	IS	
MALCOLM TOWERS	IS (V)	

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 27, 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY**

In an effort to ensure that public meetings serve their intended purpose, we're asking for your input. Kindly answer the following questions so we may improve our presentation formats.

- 1. Was the meeting time and place convenient for you? If not, what would be a better time and place?**

- 2. How did you hear about this meeting? Did the announcement or news story adequately describe the time, place, and purpose of the meeting? Did you see/hear the announcement in a reasonable amount of time for your planning purposes?**

- 3. Was the meeting space adequate for this size group? Could you clearly see the speaker and any visual aids? Could you clearly hear all discussions? Were the seating arrangements adequate? If you needed any accommodations, were they made for you in a respectful and useful manner?**

- 4. Did you understand the presentation? Was there any jargon used that you were unclear about?**

- 5. Were your questions answered and/or concerns addressed? Were you given adequate time to voice your opinion? In general, do you feel the meeting served its intended purpose?**

- 6. Are there any other questions/concerns you may have?**

If you would like to be added to our contact list for future transportation planning updates, please include your information below.

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP


EMAIL:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
c/o Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601-4309
610-478-6300; FAX: 610-478-6316

planning@countyofberks.com; www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**


Public Meeting #2
June 27, 2023
Commissioner's Board Room, Berks Co. Services Ctr.
&
Virtual



1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.'?
 - Born out of a legal agreement in 1964, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County
 - Required by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 in order to receive federal funding for transportation projects



3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- RATS Technical Committee
 - Advisory body only (8 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Planning Commission (2)
 - City of Reading (2)
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets Monthly



5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Why are we here?
 - To review the **Transportation Planning Process**
 - To discuss **Information Sharing**
 - To examine effective methods of **Communication**
 - To talk about **Process**
- Today is NOT about Projects!



2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.'?
 - In other words, it is a group of officials appointed by various public agencies that specifically focus on transportation planning for all of Berks County
 - Two separate Committees
 - *Technical Committee*
 - *Coordinating Committee*



4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Coordinating Committee
 - Policy Board (10 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Commissioners
 - Berks County Planning Commission
 - City of Reading
 - Berks County Townships (2nd Class, 1st Class)
 - Berks County Boroughs
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets every other month



6

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Advisory Committees and Staff
 - Formed and meet as needed
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
 - Berks County Planning Commission staff serves as staff to RATS
 - Other Planning Partners
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Dept. of Environmental Resources (DEP)
 - Legislators, municipalities, non-profits, economic development




7

7

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What doesn't RATS do?
 - Projects
 - Contracting, construction, management
 - Engineering
 - We are planners, not engineers
 - Financial Assistance
 - We don't provide direct grants/loans/financing; but...
 - We coordinate with PennDOT for project funding through the TIP
 - Accept applications for certain programs (TA-SA)
 - Contracts/contract management




9

9

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - Federal Guidance dictates that the process include:
 - Citizens
 - Affected public agencies
 - Representatives of public transportation employees
 - Representatives of users of public transportation
 - Freight shippers
 - Providers of freight transportation services
 - Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities
 - Representatives of the disabled
 - Other interested parties




11

11

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What does RATS do?
 - Long- and Short-range planning
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP, 20+ years)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP, 4 years)
 - Congestion Management Process (CMP, ongoing and focused)
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2020, 2022 Update)
 - Other planning processes
 - Safety, Mobility, Transit
 - Coordination
 - Air Quality
 - Title VI / Environmental Justice / Executive Orders
 - **Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency**




8

8

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - 428,849 persons (2020 Decennial Census)
 - 17.7% Aged 65+
 - 29.2% Racial Minority
 - 23.9% Latino
 - 7.6% non-English speakers (aged 5+)
 - 85.7% Latino
 - 14.1% Disabled
 - 11.8% Below poverty level
 - 12.5% Less than High School graduate (aged 25+)
 - 3.2% No vehicles available (workers 16+)




10

10

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - We also include
 - Business and Industry representatives
 - Economic Development representatives
 - Local governments
 - Agricultural community
 - State and federal legislators




12

12

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- "HOW WELL ARE WE REACHING OUR AUDIENCE?"
- "IF WE'RE NOT REACHING OUR AUDIENCE, WHY?"



13

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Public Participation Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - Public Participation Goals
 - Outreach Techniques and Strategies
 - Consultation with Interested Parties
 - Title VI and Environmental Justice
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Public Participation in Meetings
 - Public Notices
 - Public Review and Comment Periods
 - Access to Information
 - Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings
 - Future Efforts




15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)


Exhibit 1	
Limited English Proficient Population in RATS Region By Language Spoken	
Language	Estimated Number of Non-English Speakers Age 5+ Years
Spanish	26,401
Other Indo-European	877
German or Other West Germanic	865
French - Haitian or Cajun	499
Other and Unspecified Languages	465
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	462
Vietnamese	424
Russian, Polish or other Slavic	376
Other Asian and Pacific Island	243
Yagalog (incl. Filipino)	81
Korean	66
Arabic	53



17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Public Participation **throughout** the planning process is a key component of a successful process.
- The Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP) guide RATS' efforts to successfully engage the public in a meaningful exchange of information.



14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data



16

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data



18

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Our goal is to update the PPP and LEP to:
 - Update/analyze demographics
 - Improve current methods used to disseminate information and collect input;
 - Include better ways of reaching out to those who may not use 'mainstream' methods, including:
 - Print media
 - Television news
 - Websites
 - Social Media
 - Virtual Public Engagement



19

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Please, for those in the room:
 - Stand up and speak up so everybody can hear you;
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Today is about information exchange, not about projects!*



21

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Next Steps?
 - Survey online www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission, or paper available;
 - Formal 45-day Public Comment Period June 4 - July 18;
 - Adoption by RATS July 20th



23

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- **HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN!!!!**
 - Give us input as to how to better reach you / your neighbors / your clientele;
 - What can we do that we don't already do;
 - What can we improve on;
 - What works and What doesn't work?



20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Please, for those online:
 - Use the "Raise your Hand" feature and we will acknowledge you, or leave your comment in the "Chat"
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Today is about information exchange, not about projects!*
 - Be sure to mute yourself when you are finished



22

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Wrapping up this afternoon:
 - Please complete meeting survey before leaving (for those in-person)
 - **THANK YOU FOR COMING AND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**




24

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT ST FL 14
READING PA 19601
610-478-6300 X6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
Facebook: facebook.com/berkspcp



25

The video player displays a presentation slide with the following text:

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**

Public Meeting #2
June 27, 2023
Commissioner's Board Room, Berks Co. Services Ctr.
&
Virtual

Logos for BCPC (Berks County Planning Commission) and Berks County are visible at the bottom left of the slide.

Participant avatars on the right side of the player include:

- KB: Keith Boatman
- AT: Anthony T...
- MG: Golembie...
- CL: Long, Carl

At the bottom of the player, the name "Golembiewski, Michael" is visible. The video progress bar shows 0:12 / 25:28. Playback controls include a play button, 10-second rewind and fast forward buttons, a volume icon, and a 1x speed setting.

RATS Public Participation Plan Public Meeting

June 27, 2023 Expires in 120 days • 5 views • Commissioner Boardroom • ... > Documents > Recordings

Add a description to explain what this video is about.

11. Comments were received via two separate emails (07/14/2023) from Michael Donchez, PennDOT District 5-0 staff. Comments germane to the LEP were limited to text formatting and two date corrections. Comments germane to the PPP include spelling, grammar, and formatting corrections. Additionally, recommendations for minor text additions/corrections were made. MPO staff will make those corrections. Both emails attached.

From: [Donchez, Michael](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Cc: [Koenigkramer, Vanessa A](#); [Ruth, Jennifer](#); [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: RATS Public Participation Plan Public Review Comments
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:34:54 AM
Attachments: [Draft RATS PPP Review Comments 7-13-23.docx](#)

County of Berks Warning: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.

Mike

Attached are my review comments on the draft RATS Public Participation Plan for your consideration. Thanks for the providing an opportunity to review and comment.

Mike

Michael Donchez | Transportation Planning Specialist 1
PA Department of Transportation | District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street | Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610.871.4423 | Fax: 610.871.4124
www.penndot.pa.gov

File: Draft RATS PPP Review Comments 7/13/23

Thanks you for providing the opportunity to review an comment on the RATS Public Participation Plan (PPP). I offer the following comments:

Comment:

Section 3.1 Overview – 3rd last bullet – “Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish and made available digitally and in print” - may wish to revise to include “Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish **or other languages if applicable** and made available digitally and in print”.

Staff might consider providing T.V. (WFMZ Berks Edition) and radio stations with public service announcements to disseminate information regarding public review and comment periods on its various documents.

Section 3.2 Contact Lists – Staff might consider reaching out to PennDOT District 5 office to obtain and utilize the department’s contact list for use in RATS outreach efforts.

Section 5.2 Target Outreach Areas – “Specifically, RATS will use its geographic analysis of target outreach areas to ensure that public meetings are held at accessible locations within these communities...”. Staff may wish to consider expanding this to include: “Specifically, RATS will use its geographic analysis of target outreach areas to ensure that public meetings are held at accessible locations **and times** within these communities...”. Holding public meetings both during the day and evening provides more opportunities for public involvement.

Section 6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals – 6th bullet – “The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, along with over multiple other languages”. A suggested edit is “The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, **along with over as well as translation between** multiple other languages”.

Section 6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals – 8th bullet – “RATS will **include** notices on all documents and on the website that certain translated documents are available, and other translations are available on request” - Lower case i in Include.

Section 8.1 Overview – “RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area”. Planning related issues can be larger than just regional issues. Freight movement is one example that can affect multiple counties, MPOs, and states. As such I suggest the following revision – “RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area **as well as adjacent counties/MPOs as applicable**”.

Section 9.2 Public Notice Requirements – too may returns between bullets

Public Notices will provide the following information (where applicable):

- Type or name of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- Subject of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- The date, time, and location of meeting/participation event/activity
- The web link for a virtual meeting
- Start and end dates for public comment periods
- Contact information (Address, Telephone Number, E-mail address and/or website)
- Brief summary of the proposed action, plan, program or amendment
- Where to obtain copies of the plan or materials
- How to provide formal public comments
- If formal action on a major decision will be taken by the Board, the date, time and location of the meeting where that action will be taken
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with Limited English Proficiency; and
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with disabilities; and
- Directions on how to file complaints under Title VI and other nondiscrimination statutes

Section 10.2 Public Comment and Review Period Requirements – 2nd Paragraph – “Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be **make** available to stakeholders...”
revise to “Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be **made** available to stakeholders...”

Also, public libraries could provide another location for the general public to access and review documents during public review and comment periods. Berks County Public Libraries is made up of more than 23 public library sites throughout Berks County. Utilization of select libraries in areas traditionally underrepresented in the transportation planning process might help to increase input.

Section 10.5 The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – last bullet – remove double comma after “...PennDOT District 5-0’s offices,,...”

***Public Participation Plan
DRAFT 2023***

Report) will be produced and made available on the BCPC website <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, at the BCPC offices, BARTA’s offices, PennDOT District 5-0’s offices,, or by contacting the BCPC. Vital TIP documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities.

Section 10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report – last sentence – need space between asrequired.

10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report

The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is a companion document to the regional LRTP and to the TIP. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report documents the process used by RATS for making the transportation-related conformity determination for the regional LRTP and TIP for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The Conformity Determination is required by the federal Clean Air Act. RATS conformity finding is based on criteria and procedures in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93) and satisfies all applicable conformity requirements. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is developed as part of the regional LRTP or TIP update, in which case public participation and public comment procedures for the regional LRTP or TIP update will be followed as described in Sections 10.4 and 10.5, respectively. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is also updated **asrequired** by certain amendments to the TIP or regional LRTP, in which case public participation and comment procedures for major amendments to the regional LRTP or TIP will be followed as described in Section 10.6.

From: [Donchez, Michael](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Cc: [Koenigkramer, Vanessa A](#); [Ruth, Jennifer](#); [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: Draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan Review Comments 7-14-23
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 11:36:55 AM
Attachments: [Draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan Review Comments 7-14-23.docx](#)

County of Berks Warning: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.

Mike

Attached are my review comments on the draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan for your consideration. Thanks for the providing an opportunity to review and comment.

Mike

Michael Donchez | Transportation Planning Specialist 1
PA Department of Transportation | District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street | Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610.871.4423 | Fax: 610.871.4124
www.penndot.pa.gov

7/14/23

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and comment on the draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP). I offer the following comments:

Overall the plan was informative, well written, and concise. Otherwise, I have two minor specific comments:

On page 1, Four Factor Self- Assessment

This self-assessment is designed to balance four factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or service,
2. The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter the program and/or activities,
3. The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided to people's lives, and
4. The resources available to the federal financial recipient and costs.

Alignment of highlighted text on second row of the four factors.

On page 2, second full paragraph

The Review Team finds that RATS did not address the recommendations using the specific techniques identified in the 2017 report; however, the Team finds that the MPO addressed the intent of most of the recommendations. Specifically, the Review Team finds the MPO has made certain documents available to the region's largest LEP population in its native language; and, provided notices to that language group concerning the availability of language assistive services in its native language as a foreword to the document. Nonetheless, the Review Team finds that based on demographic data provided in the LEP Plan, the region has other LEP language groups that need to be made aware of the language assistive services the MPO provides. Accordingly, the Team encourages the MPO to add language Tag Lines for its current "frontpiece", relevant to its linguistic population, for inclusion in vital documents. Examples of language Tag Lines can be found in Pennsylvania's 2021 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance document.

Examples of Tag Lines may also be found in *Pennsylvania's 2025 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance* document. A copy of translated language taglines for inclusion in documents available for public comment is available in the Title VI folder on SharePoint.

12. Comments were received via email (07/17/2023) from Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff. These comments were substantive enough that staff chose to delay adoption of the draft PPP and LEP in order to further review and respond to these comments. A copy of Ms. Shamberg's email along with MPO staff responses is attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Vanessa Shamberg \(FHWA\)](#)
Cc: [Piper, Alan](#); [David Alas](#); [Mosca, James](#); [Mitchell, Khan \(FHWA\)](#); [Waters, Stacey](#); [Allen, Debra C.](#)
Subject: FW: REVISED RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and LEP Plan per FHWA Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 2:30:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[LEP_ASSESSMENT-SEPT2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)
[PPP_September2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)

All:

Over the last month, staff has been reviewing comments from Vanessa Shamberg (FHWA, received July 17, 2023) and incorporating her suggestions and necessary reformatting into our revised draft PPP and LEP. Below **in red** are our responses to her comments. Each comment will have an individual response. Her initial feedback was valuable and we look forward to additional comments and suggestions. Our goal is to have the revised documents out to the Technical Committee for their review no later than 2:00 p.m. next Thursday, August 31st. The revised draft documents are included with this email.

If anybody has any additional comments/concerns, please let us know prior to then so they may be considered. I am including Khan Mitchell (FHWA) and Stacey Waters & Debra Allen (both PennDOT BEO) in this response as well so they have opportunities to provide feedback. Thank you to all for taking the time to review these two revised drafts!

Mike



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**

633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

Good afternoon, Michael –

Thanks again for the opportunity to review the draft PPP and for all the great work that went into plan development. As I mentioned on our call a few minutes ago, I wanted to share a few comments for RATS' consideration. If you'd like to have a follow-up discussion on any of these, please don't hesitate to reach out.

- **Title VI Notice**

- On page 2, add ADA point of contact. We'll be covering this requirement in more detail during Wednesday's Bi-Monthly Planning Partners call with PennDOT.

ADA Point of Contact (POC) added. Per the Planning Partners call and subsequent email, my name has been added as POC.

- **Section 5 Title VI and Environmental Justice**

- On page 7, it mentions RATS has specific and explicit procedures to identify, seek out, and engage Title VI and EJ populations. I found it somewhat unclear where in the PPP those procedures were outlined. Generally, RATS seems to have a well-developed plan and approach for reaching Spanish speaking populations, but additional clarity on the approach for engaging other groups would be beneficial.

- Note that under EJ, the MPO should seek out and consider the needs of low income, minority, and other disadvantaged communities as identified in your EJ Analysis.

- Under Section 5.2, consider listing the accessible locations that will be used in target outreach areas, if already identified.

- **Section 5.1 Overview and Section 5.2 Target Outreach Areas have been revised to reference the RATS *Environmental Justice Summary* as the document that we use to identify concentrations of Title VI and EJ communities. Once those communities are identified, RATS will work with organizations that target these communities to identify possible accessible locations for public meetings as necessary. Additionally, a recommendation has been added that RATS develop and maintain a listing of accessible locations that may be used in targeted outreach areas.**

- **Section 6 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**

- In both the LEP Assessment and Section 6 of the PPP, recommend clarifying the text to clearly state for which languages translation and interpretations services will be provided for. Generally, I found it somewhat unclear if RATS is providing document translation and interpreters at public meetings for all languages upon request, or just Spanish, or Spanish and all Indo-European languages, etc. The text in some places says translation will occur "upon request" and in other places says key documents will be translated. To ensure compliance with Title VI, generally the MPO needs to:

- Provide translation and interpretation for any language upon request. For this reason, we encourage the use of taglines. It seems like RATS has this capability; I would just suggest finetuning the text in the LEP Assessment and PPP to more clearly/consistently describe it.
- The MPO has different procedures for Spanish (proactive translation of executive summaries). This is acceptable, however, we recommend providing a brief justification for why you have different procedures for this group. For example, a justification could be you previously received requests for documents to be translated into Spanish. **Language has been added to both the PPP (bottom of**

page 8) and LEP (top of page 5) that specifies Spanish is currently the only language translated into based on the analysis in the LEP (justification requested above). Language Taglines (provided by PennDOT) have been added to the front of these documents that tell of accommodations for many other languages.

- Under 6.3 Meaningful Access to LEP Individuals, suggest listing the local minority media outlet and community service organizations RATS provides notices to. **Local media outlets have been added to the fourth bullet point in this section.**

- **Section 7 American with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
 - 7.4 Notices and Services should reference the ADA point of contact. **The RATS ADA Point of Contact has been listed in Section 7.1. The requested reference has been added to Section 7.4.**

- **Section 9 Public Notice Requirements**
 - Consider libraries and SCTA (post notices on buses, bus stops, etc.) **Public Libraries and SCTA/BARTA (transit provider) have been added as separate bullet points.**
 - Add ADA point of contact. **ADA Point of Contact has been added as a separate bullet point.**

- **Section 10 Public Review and Comment Period at Key Discussion Points**
 - The PPP outlines the steps RATS will use to facilitate public participation for the LRTP and TIP (beginning on page 14 of 21).
 - In Step 3, consider stating that at least 1 public meeting/workshop will be held prior to the development of the draft LRTP/TIP or further elaborate on what the next phase of outreach and participation typically includes. **Language has been added in Step 3 that includes at least one (1) Public Meeting/Workshop which may be scheduled in conjunction with a regularly scheduled RATS Technical or Coordinating Committee meeting.**
 - Step 5 specifies that draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website, BCPC offices, BARTA offices, and PennDOT District 5-0 offices. Consider adding the local library system to this list, which presumably has higher foot-traffic from members of the public. In lieu of printed copies, a poster/banner that promotes public input and review, with details on how to access the online version (QR code) or to request a hardcopy, may be appropriate. **Language has been added in Step 5 that includes local libraries. Additionally language stating that details on how to access documents in printed or electronic forms will be included in the notice.**
 - Consider adding discussion on meeting format (in-person, virtual, or hybrid). MPOs should demonstrate meeting formats are effective in garnering feedback and are also accessible. **Language pertaining to meeting format / locations has been added to Step 5, along with a statement that staff strives to accommodate requests for presentations at other meetings.**
 - On page 17 of 21, it indicates that the definition of major amendment can be found in the LRTP and TIP documents at this [link](#). However, the URL does not directly link to the LRTP/TIP, which I think may be more helpful for members of the public. **Berks County government recently redid their entire web presence. The included links will be updated to take the viewer directly to [Appendix A: Procedures for TIP Administrative](#)**

Actions (TIP) and Chapter 7: Appendix (LRTP) that outlines what constitutes a 'Major Amendment'. Additionally, within Section 10.6, the definition of a Major Amendment has been highlighted in bold text. Going through the LRTP documents, I could not find "major amendment" using a Word search function. **LRTP Amendment procedures are contained in Chapter 7: Appendix, starting on Page 57.** Could you clarify what constitutes a major amendment for which you would go through additional public participation as outlined? **See link provided in previous response.**

- In Section 10.3, suggest using the regulatory language here and consider shortening the review period to 15 days (it does not need to be 30): **Review period shortened to 15 days**
 - 23 CFR 450.316(1)(viii) - Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan transportation plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement effort.
- In Section 10.4
 - Step 5 - Add public meeting during public comment period **Language pertaining to Public Meetings has been added**
 - Step 6 - Language should be revised to read, "All comments received will be considered and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft regional plan materials." **Additional language has been added**
 - Step 9 - Recommend clarifying, as it seems to repeat the public participation process. Where will the final version be posted? **Final versions will be posted to the BCPC website and will be available in print at BCPC offices, BARTA's offices and PennDOT District 5-0 office in Allentown.**
- In Section 10.5
 - Same comments as above on Steps 5, 6, and 9. **Same amendments added.**
- **Other Considerations**
 - Tribal consultation requirements should be added. MPOs/RPOs must consult with federally recognized Tribes and Nations to provide opportunities for review and comment on key planning documents. The updated list for tribal consultation in planning is found [here](#) (see pages 4-7). Many Tribes and Nations accept electronic submissions. If a Tribe or Nation requests hardcopy submissions, RATS should provide a hardcopy of the draft document. **A new Section 4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies has been added. The first paragraph references PennDOT's Tribal Consultation Guide which describes which Tribes and Nations have interests throughout the Commonwealth, specifies which are to be included in review activities and how they are to be addressed.**
 - The regulations require coordination with Federal land management agencies in the development of the LRTP and TIP when the MPO's area includes Federal public lands. Based on our records, there are Federal lands in Berks County (Hopewell Furnace). I would recommend adding resource agency coordination in the PPP. Generally, we are encouraging more collaboration between MPOs/RPOs and state and federal resource

agencies in the early stages of LRTP and TIP development. **A new Section 4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies has been added. The second paragraph references the two Federal lands in Berks County (Hopewell Furnace National Historic Park administered by the National Park Service, and Blue Marsh Lake administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).**

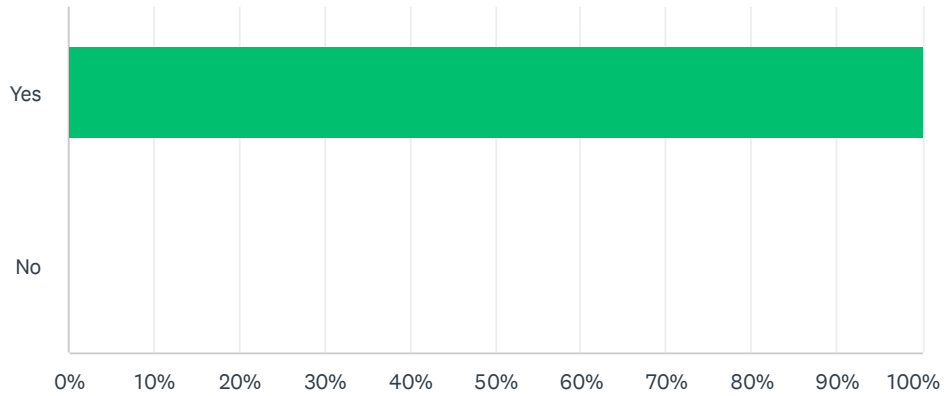
Thanks so much,
Vanessa

Vanessa Shamberg, AICP
Senior Community Planner
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30 North Third Street, Suite 700
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 221-4406 | vanessa.shamberg@dot.gov

13. As of the close of the Public Comment Period (07/18/2023), a total of ten (10) online surveys and no (0) written surveys were returned. All responses received were English; no Spanish responses to the Surveys were received. The summary of responses is attached.

Q1 Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

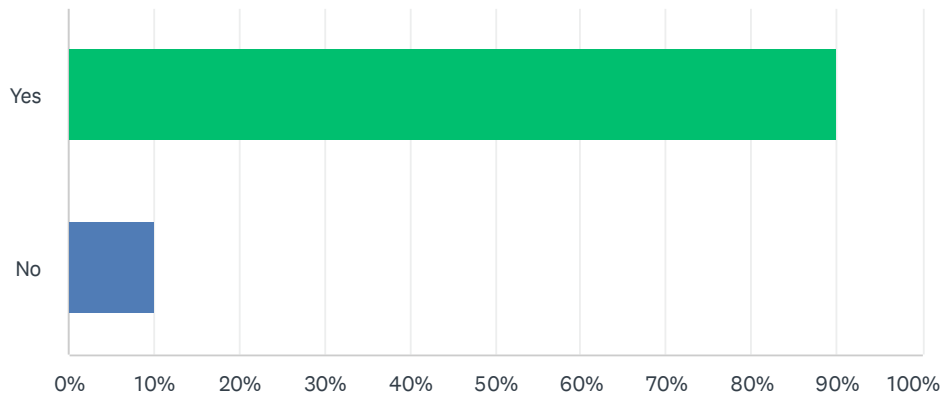
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	10
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		10

Q2 Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County?

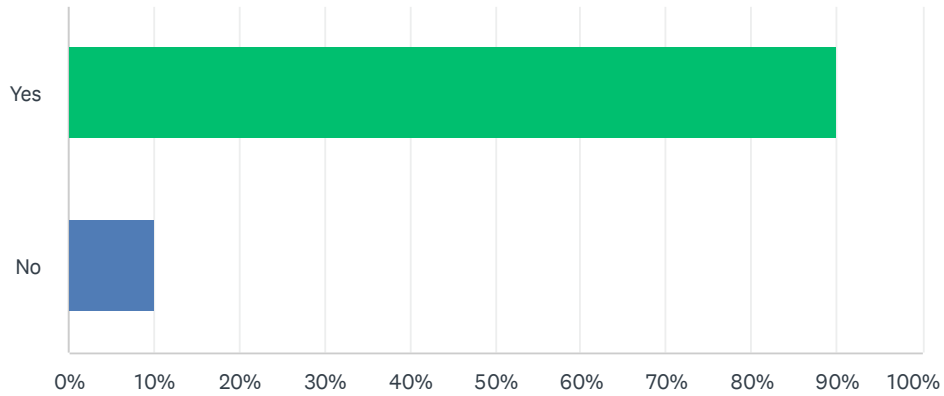
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q3 Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

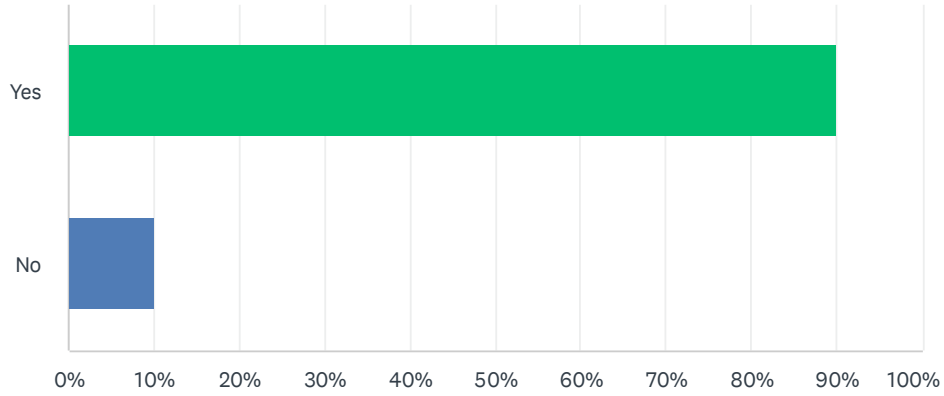
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q4 Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements?

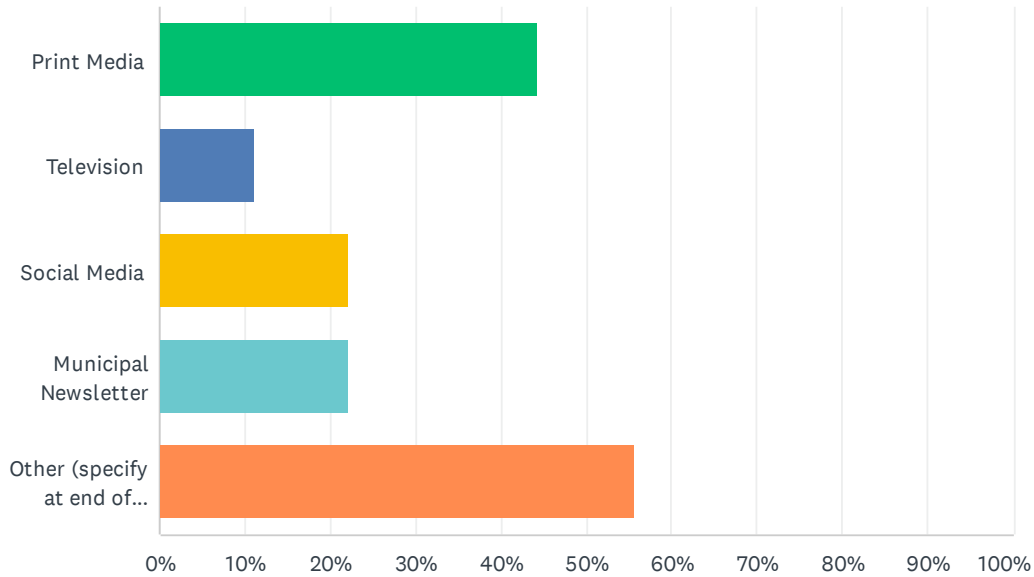
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q5 If you checked 'Yes' above, where have you seen or heard about RATS?

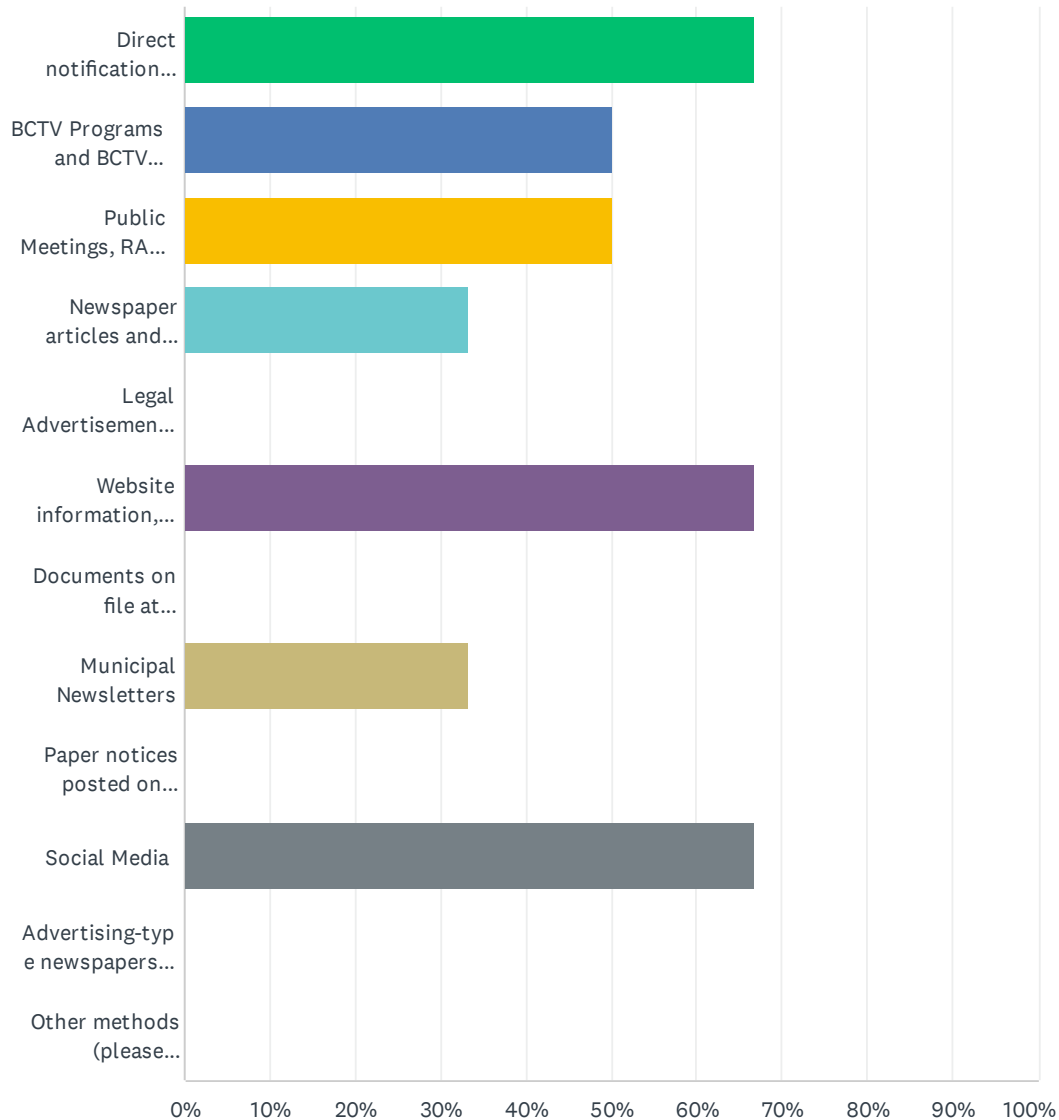
Answered: 9 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Print Media	44.44%	4
Television	11.11%	1
Social Media	22.22%	2
Municipal Newsletter	22.22%	2
Other (specify at end of Survey)	55.56%	5
Total Respondents: 9		

Q6 As we develop plans and projects that may impact you, what would be the best ways for us to get information to you? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4

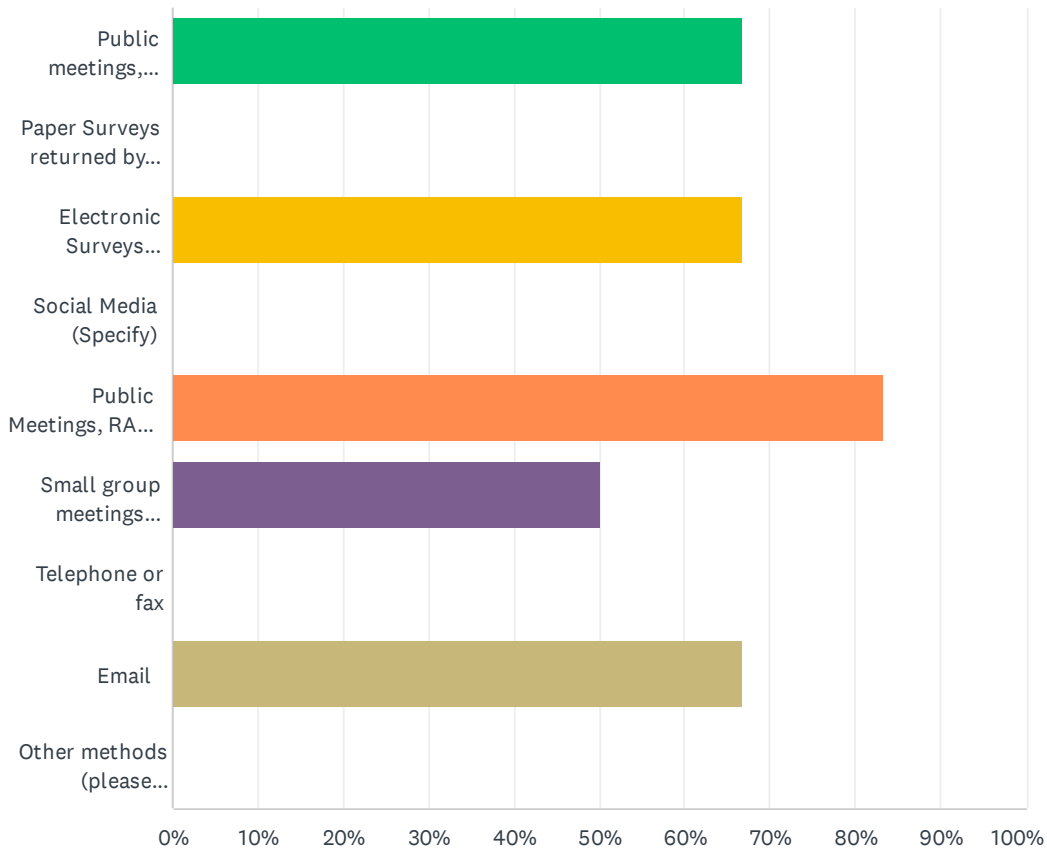


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Direct notification (by postal mail or email) of meetings and documents	66.67%	4
BCTV Programs and BCTV Community Calendar notices	50.00%	3
Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups	50.00%	3
Newspaper articles and press releases	33.33%	2
Legal Advertisements and/or block ads in newspaper	0.00%	0
Website information, including downloadable documents	66.67%	4
Documents on file at libraries and other community organizations	0.00%	0
Municipal Newsletters	33.33%	2
Paper notices posted on bulletin boards	0.00%	0
Social Media	66.67%	4
Advertising-type newspapers (the Merchandiser)	0.00%	0
Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q7 If you have concerns as we develop those plans or about transportation projects, which of the following methods are effective ways for you to get information to us? (Check all that apply)

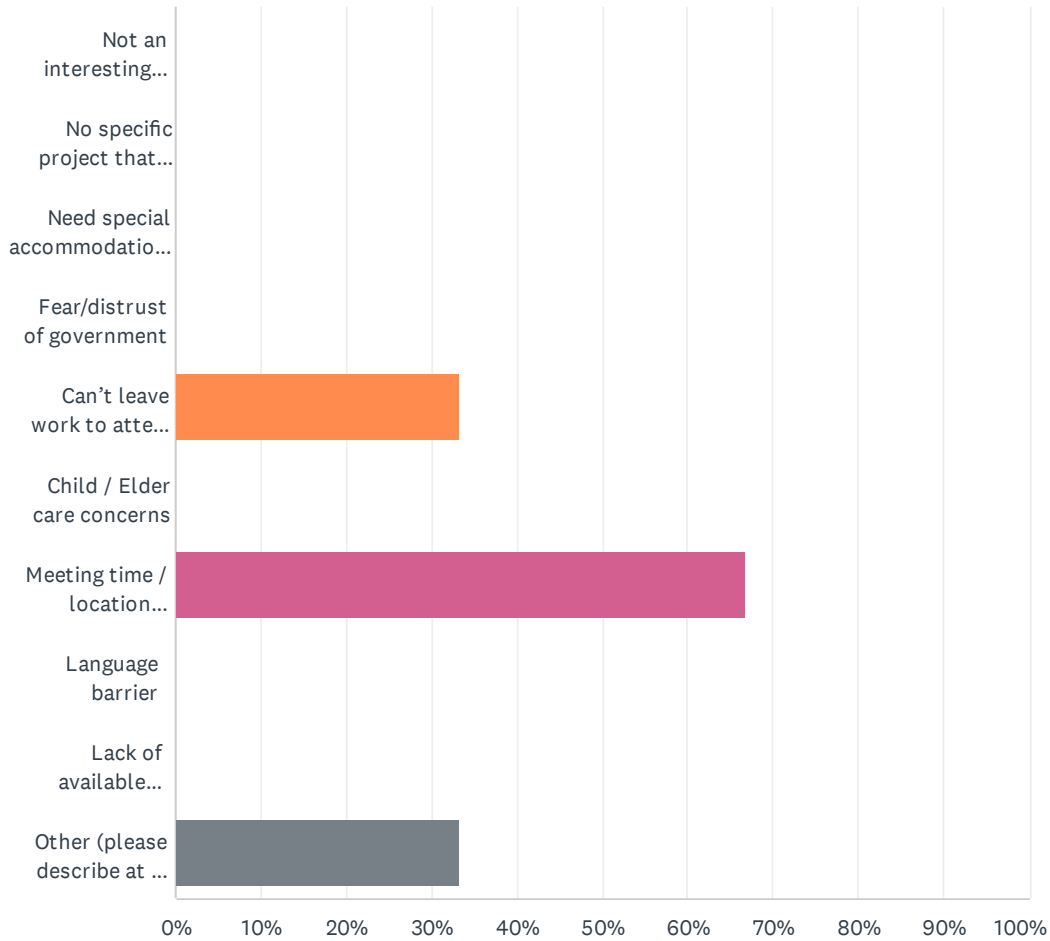
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public meetings, special presentations & workshops	66.67%	4
Paper Surveys returned by postal mail	0.00%	0
Electronic Surveys completed online	66.67%	4
Social Media (Specify)	0.00%	0
Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups	83.33%	5
Small group meetings (community organizations, agencies, & individuals)	50.00%	3
Telephone or fax	0.00%	0
Email	66.67%	4
Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q8 What obstacles prevent you from attending a meeting about transportation planning? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 3 Skipped: 7

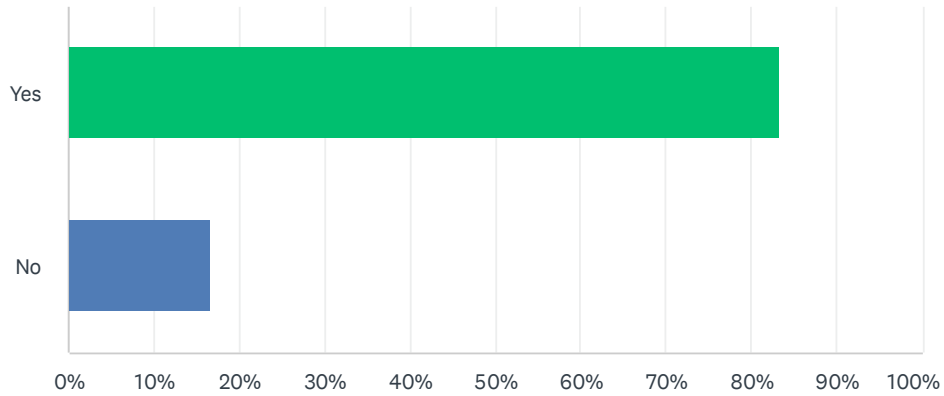


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not an interesting subject	0.00%	0
No specific project that directly affects me	0.00%	0
Need special accommodations (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Fear/distrust of government	0.00%	0
Can't leave work to attend meetings	33.33%	1
Child / Elder care concerns	0.00%	0
Meeting time / location conflicts (please describe at the end of this survey)	66.67%	2
Language barrier	0.00%	0
Lack of available transportation	0.00%	0
Other (please describe at the end of this survey)	33.33%	1
Total Respondents: 3		

Q9 Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

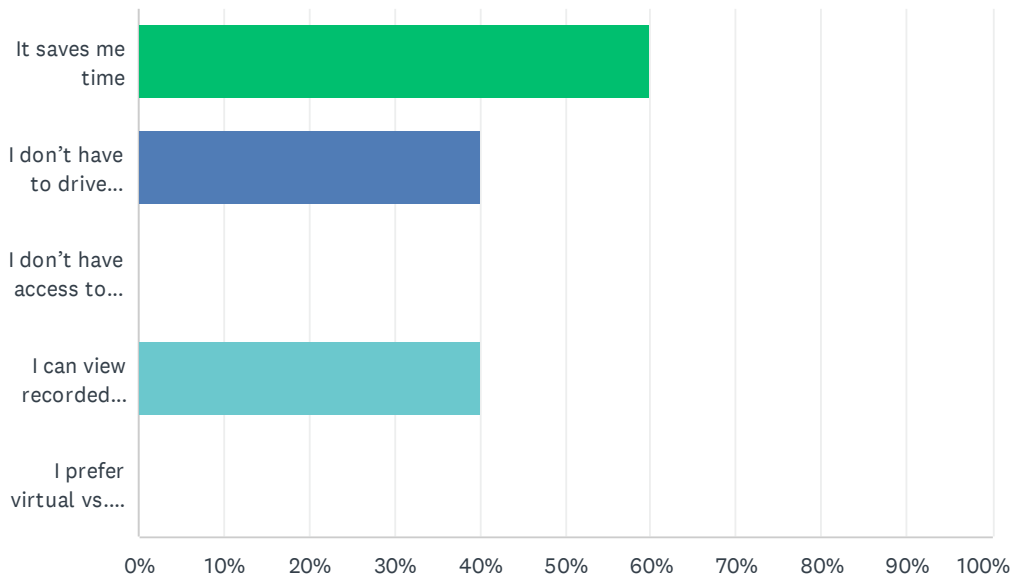
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.33%	5
No	16.67%	1
TOTAL		6

Q10 If Yes, which benefits do you receive? (Check all that apply)

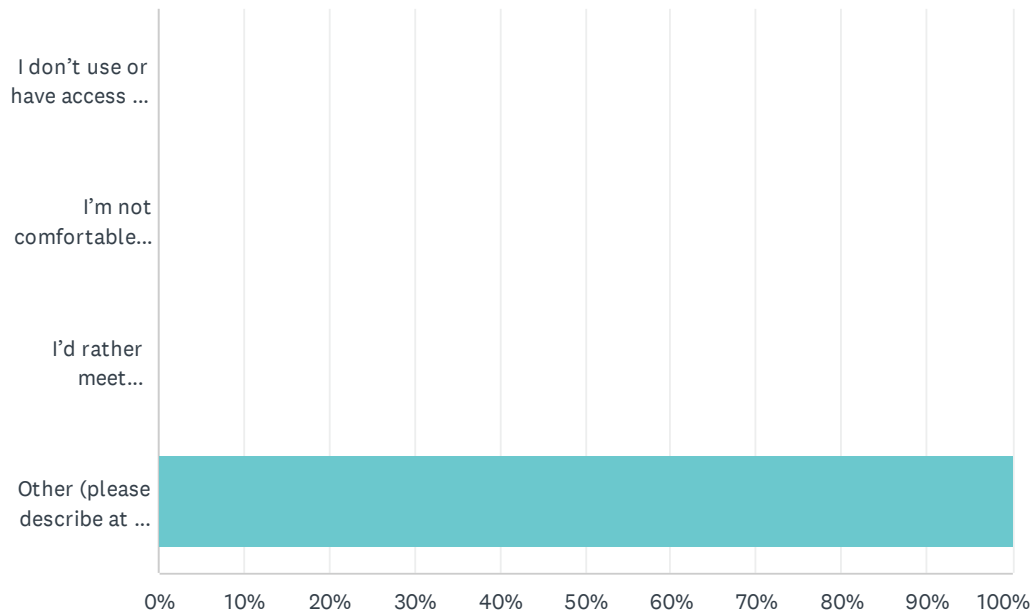
Answered: 5 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
It saves me time	60.00%	3
I don't have to drive anywhere	40.00%	2
I don't have access to transportation	0.00%	0
I can view recorded meetings at a more convenient time	40.00%	2
I prefer virtual vs. face-to-face	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 5		

Q11 If No, which challenges do you face? (Check all that apply)

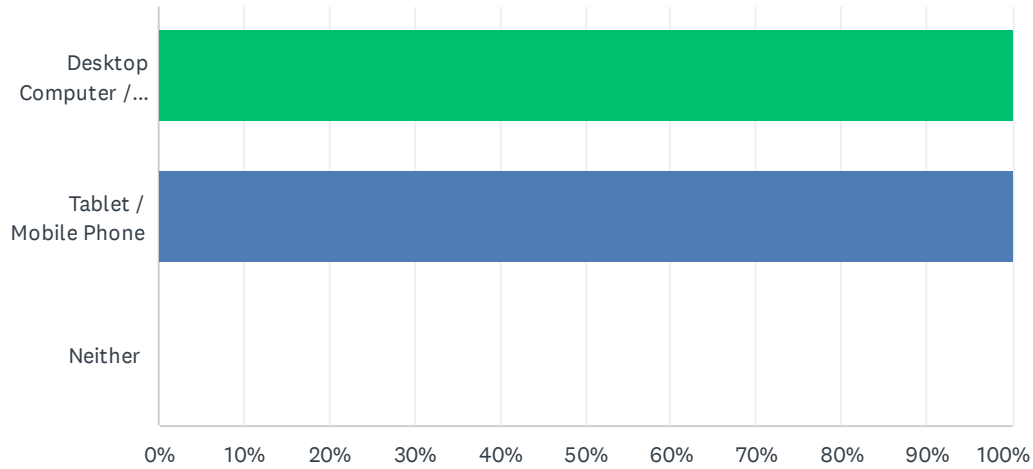
Answered: 1 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't use or have access to a computer or smart phone	0.00%	0
I'm not comfortable using technology	0.00%	0
I'd rather meet face-to-face	0.00%	0
Other (please describe at the end of this survey)	100.00%	1
Total Respondents: 1		

Q12 Which types of platform(s) do you use regularly? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Desktop Computer / Laptop	100.00%	6
Tablet / Mobile Phone	100.00%	6
Neither	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q13 Please tell us below any ideas you have for improving public participation in the transportation planning process.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Targeted business group presentations	7/14/2023 6:12 PM
2	I think RATS is providing various ways the public can participate in the the transportation planning process in Berk County. The issue is that the public will not get involved unless the transportation issue affects them directly in their daily lives. The planning process is long and involves the TYP, LRTP, etc, funding for projects slip or are directed to other projects that require additional funding and the public may not fully understand why the project they were interested in moving forward was delayed or removed from the TYP due to funding issues. It is difficult to explain to the average citizen what steps are necessary for a project to be placed on a planning document, receive the necessary funding in the years required to design and fully fund the construction to complete the project. I think RATS should approach the municipalities in Berks and offer to attend either a Planning Commission Meeting or a Township/Borough Supervisor meeting and explain the ins and outs of the transportation planning process.	7/14/2023 9:25 AM
3	Ed Granger egranger@abilitiesinmotion.org	7/14/2023 9:08 AM
4	Do lots of advertising and social media so that people know when meetings will be. Give a virtual option for meetings.	6/5/2023 9:53 AM

14. Staff submitted (8/23/2023) revised documents to Vanessa Shamborg, FHWA staff per her previously submitted comments for additional review. Staff also included Khan Mitchell (FHWA Civil Rights Specialist) along with Stacey Waters and Debra Allen (both PennDOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity). On 8/28/2023, staff received documents with embedded comments from both FHWA officials (unable to reproduce for this document). Staff reviewed and incorporated changes suggested by those comments.

15. Both documents set for review/recommendation by RATS Technical Committee 9/7/2023. If a favorable recommendation is received, the RATS Coordinating Committee (Reading MPO) should adopt on 9/21/2023. Minutes from both meetings to be attached upon approval.

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
(ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE DEL ÁREA DE READING)

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN
(PLAN DE DOMINIO LIMITADO DEL INGLES/LEP)

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
(ADOPTADO EL 21 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2023)

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
C/o

Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court St. FL 14

Reading, PA 19601-4302

tel: 610-478-6300

fax: 610-478-6316

***“email”:* planning@berkspa.gov**

Web: <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission>

La preparación de este informe ha sido financiada, en parte, mediante subsidios del U.S. Department of Transportation (Departamento de Transporte de los Estados Unidos) y del Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Departamento de Transporte de Pensilvania). El contenido de este informe refleja las opiniones de sus autores, quienes son responsables de los hechos y la exactitud de los datos presentados en este documento. Al momento de su publicación, el contenido de este informe no refleja necesariamente las políticas oficiales de las siguientes agencias: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (Administración Federal de Carreteras, FHWA por sus siglas en inglés), Federal Transit Administration (Administración Federal de Tránsito, FTA por sus siglas en inglés) o Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Estado de Pensilvania). Este informe no constituye una norma, especificación o regulación.

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading, RATS, por sus siglas en inglés) cumple totalmente en todos sus programas y actividades con el Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964), con la Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice (Orden Ejecutiva 12898 sobre Justicia Ambiental) y con las leyes y regulaciones contra la discriminación. El sitio web de Berks County/RATS (condado de Berks) proporciona un “software” para traducción de idiomas que permite traducir entre inglés, español y otros idiomas adicionales. Las publicaciones y otros documentos públicos pueden estar disponibles en idiomas y formatos alternativos, si así se solicita. Cualquier persona que considere haber sido perjudicada por una práctica discriminatoria ilegal por parte de RATS, bajo el Título VI tiene derecho a presentar una querrela/queja formal (“formal complaint”). Dicha querrela debe someterse por escrito y presentarse ante el RATS’s Title VI Compliance Officer (Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI de RATS) y/o a la agencia estatal o federal correspondiente dentro de los 180 días posteriores a la alegada situación discriminatoria. Por favor, comuníquese con el Title VI Compliance Officer para obtener más información sobre el programa del Título VI de RATS, o para obtener copias de RATS’ Title VI Policies (Políticas del Título VI de RATS), Complaint Procedures (Procedimientos para Querellas), o Complaint Form (Formulario para Querellas). Puede llamar al (610) 478-6300 x6304, escribir un “email” a planning@berkspa.gov, o visitar el sitio web <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>

De acuerdo con los requisitos del Título II de la ley Americans with Disabilities Act de 1990, (Ley ADA, por sus siglas en inglés), RATS no discriminará en sus servicios, programas o actividades contra personas calificadas con discapacidades. Las reuniones públicas de RATS siempre se llevan a cabo en instalaciones accesibles conforme la ley ADA y en ubicaciones accesibles para el tránsito siempre que sea posible. Se pueden proporcionar servicios auxiliares a las personas que presenten una solicitud al menos siete (7) días antes de una reunión. Las solicitudes realizadas dentro de los siete (7) días previos se atenderán en la mayor medida de lo posible. Por favor, cualquier persona que requiera una ayuda o servicio auxiliar para una comunicación efectiva, o una modificación de políticas o procedimientos para poder participar en un programa, servicio o actividad de RATS, o que se queje de que un programa, servicio o actividad de RATS no está accesible para personas con discapacidades, debe comunicarse a través de alguno de las siguientes formas de contacto con ADA: el (610) 478-6300 x6304, el “email” planning@berkspa.gov, o el sitio web: <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>.

Los documentos estarán disponibles en idiomas o formatos alternativos si se solicitan. Las personas que requieran acomodados adicionales o que tengan preguntas deben llamar al 610-478-6300.

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Reading Area Transportation Study
(Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading)

Limited English Proficiency Assessment
(Evaluación del Dominio Limitado del Inglés)

El Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964) establece que "Ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos, por motivos de raza, color o nación de origen, será excluida de la participación, se le negarán los beneficios, o será objeto **de** discriminación en virtud de cualquier programa o actividad que reciba asistencia económica federal".

La Federal Executive Order 13166 of 2001 (Orden Ejecutiva Federal 13166 de 2001), "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency" (Mejorando el acceso a los servicios para personas con Dominio Limitado del Inglés), dirige las agencias federales a: a) publicar orientación a sus beneficiarios sobre cómo pueden proveer acceso a personas con dominio limitado del inglés; b) mejorar la accesibilidad lingüística de sus propios programas federales; y c) romper las barreras lingüísticas mediante la implementación de normas coherentes de asistencia lingüística en todas las agencias federales y entre todos los beneficiarios de asistencia económica federal.

Las personas Limited English Proficient (con Dominio Limitado del inglés, LEP, por sus siglas en inglés), son aquellas que no hablan inglés como su idioma principal, y que tienen una capacidad limitada para leer, hablar, escribir o entender el inglés. La característica común clave entre las personas LEP es su incapacidad para comunicarse efectivamente en el idioma inglés, independientemente de su lengua materna. A las personas multilingües, quienes hablan más de un idioma *además* de dominar el inglés, no se les considera LEP.

Como beneficiario de asistencia económica federal, el Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading/RATS, por sus siglas en inglés) tiene la obligación de reducir las barreras lingüísticas que pueden impedir, a personas que no son hablantes del inglés, el acceso significativo a los programas, información y servicios de RATS. El primer paso es completar el "Limited English Proficiency Self-Assessment" o LEP Assessment (Autoevaluación del Dominio Limitado del Inglés o Evaluación LEP).

Esta autoevaluación está diseñada para balancear cuatro factores:

1. El número o proporción de personas LEP elegibles para ser atendidas o que es probable que el programa o servicio las encuentre,
2. La frecuencia con la que las personas LEP encuentran el programa y/o las actividades,

3. La naturaleza e importancia del programa, actividad o servicio proporcionado a la vida de las personas, y
4. Los recursos disponibles y costos para el beneficiario de asistencia económica federal.

Revisión de la Certificación Federal de 2020

En la última TMA Certification Review (Revisión de Certificación de las Áreas de Gestión del Transporte) que realizó RATS, el Review Team (*Equipo de Revisión*) hizo dos recomendaciones basadas en la administración de la MPO (Organización de Planificación Metropolitana) de su Plan LEP. Específicamente, el Review Team recomendó que la MPO creara y distribuyera en español resúmenes ejecutivos de sus documentos vitales a organizaciones con constituyentes que hablan español. Además, el Team recomendó que la MPO revisitara sus métodos de divulgación para garantizar que a los individuos LEP se les proveyera acceso significativo a la información. El método recomendado incluyó revisar y proporcionar avisos de disponibilidad de servicios de asistencia lingüística en documentos vitales y en el sitio web de la MPO.

RATS adoptó su Plan LEP en agosto de 2017. Según el Plan, la MPO proporcionará "traducciones escritas de sus documentos de planificación cuando se soliciten". El Plan LEP asegura que el aviso de disponibilidad de los servicios de traducción esté incluido como un "pieza frontal" en sus documentos en español. También se traducirán los avisos de los períodos de comentarios públicos sobre documentos vitales. Además, el Plan establece que el sitio web proporciona traducción al ser solicitada. Los servicios de traducción oral se ofrecerán por contrato. En adición, el Plan LEP establece que los esfuerzos de divulgación de RATS se enfocarán según el nivel del proyecto o las necesidades de reunión del vecindario.

El Review Team concluye que RATS no abordó las recomendaciones utilizando las técnicas específicas identificadas en el informe de 2017; sin embargo, el Team considera que la MPO abordó la intención de la mayoría de las recomendaciones. Específicamente, el Review Team encuentra que la MPO ha puesto ciertos documentos, en su idioma nativo, a la disposición de la población LEP más grande de la región; y proporcionó avisos a ese grupo lingüístico sobre la disponibilidad de servicios de asistencia lingüística en su idioma materno como prólogo al documento. No obstante, el Review Team encuentra que, según los datos demográficos proporcionados en el Plan LEP, la región tiene otros grupos lingüísticos LEP que deben conocer acerca de los servicios de asistencia lingüística que brinda la MPO. Por lo tanto, el Review Team alienta a la MPO a agregar "taglines" (etiquetas de idioma) en su "pieza frontal" actual, para que se incluya en documentos vitales relevantes para su población lingüística. Se pueden encontrar ejemplos de etiquetas de idioma en el documento Pennsylvania's 2025 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance (Orientación general y de procedimientos del Programa de Transporte de Pensilvania 2025).

El Review Team encontró que la recomendación sobre el sitio web, aunque estaba abordada en el Plan LEP de la MPO, no es fácilmente observable en el sitio web. El Team

encontró que la razón por la que no se habían hecho cambios en el sitio web, como se había recomendado, es que este sitio no está dentro de la autoridad y control directos de la MPO. Durante la discusión virtual de revisión, la MPO reveló que el sitio web es administrado y mantenido por Berks County (condado de Berks). Como resultado, RATS no puede alterar unilateralmente ese sitio web.

Para mejorar el proceso general, el Review Team alienta a RATS a visitar el lenguaje en el Plan LEP, y en cualquier otro lugar en que aparezca, con relación a la disponibilidad de traducción del sitio web. Esta información debe revisarse para que refleje con precisión cómo la MPO les comunica a los grupos lingüísticos LEP la información contenida en su sitio web.

1. Población LEP

La autoevaluación LEP comienza con la identificación de la población potencial LEP a través de un análisis demográfico que determine el número o proporción de personas LEP de un grupo lingüístico particular atendido o que probablemente se pueda encontrar en el área de servicio elegible. Mientras mayor sea el número o proporción alta de personas LEP atendidas o encontradas, sería más probable que se necesiten servicios lingüísticos.

American Community Survey (ACS) Information (Información de la Encuesta de la Comunidad Estadounidense, ACS por sus siglas en inglés)

La American Community Survey resultante es una encuesta mensual a nivel nacional realizada a aproximadamente 3 millones de hogares por año, con datos agregados por períodos de tiempo basados en poblaciones geográficas. Las áreas con población de más de 65,000 personas (p. ej., el condado de Berks, la ciudad de Reading) reciben sus datos agregados en un período de un año, mientras que las áreas con menos de 65,000 personas (distritos, la mayoría de los municipios, además de las áreas de más de 1 año) reciben sus datos agregados durante cinco años.

Dado que la información debe revisarse a nivel municipal y necesitamos mantener la coherencia entre las medidas, los datos más recientes que se utilizarán son los estimados de 5 años de la American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021. Se advierte a los usuarios, que los datos de ACS representan un estimado durante un período más largo en comparación a una «instantánea» de un solo punto en el tiempo y deben interpretarse adecuadamente. Además, aunque no se muestran en este documento, estos datos están sujetos a márgenes de error equivalentes a un intervalo de confianza del 90 por ciento.

La región RATS

El “área de servicio” para el Reading Area Transportation Study incluye todo el condado de Berks. Según la American Community Survey (ACS) de 2017-2021, el número de personas con 5 años o más fue de aproximadamente 402,848.

Del Census Bureau’s 2017-2021 ACS (Censo), también se obtuvo información sobre la capacidad de los residentes de la región RATS para hablar inglés. La información sobre idiomas obtenida enumera los hablantes de más de un idioma aparte del inglés. Los datos se basan en las respuestas a la pregunta "¿Habla esta persona, en su casa, algún idioma que no sea el inglés?" en el cuestionario de la ACS, que se distribuyó anualmente a aproximadamente 1 de cada 46 hogares en toda la nación. A los encuestados que respondieron “Sí”, se les pidió que indicaran el idioma que hablaban.

Los datos a nivel del condado de Berks indican que aproximadamente 325,565 personas hablan solo inglés, dejando aproximadamente 77,283 personas que hablan un idioma que no es el inglés. La mayoría de estas personas eran multilingües, ya que indicaron que hablaban inglés o lo hablaban "muy bien" además de hablar otro idioma. Estas personas no muestran dominio limitado del inglés (LEP) y se les excluyó de un análisis adicional debido a su capacidad para comunicarse eficazmente en inglés.

Las personas LEP de la región hablan muchos idiomas, aunque la ACS solo informa sobre un cierto número de grupos de idiomas "principales", siendo el español, el francés/haitiano/" cajún" (francés acadién), el alemán occidental, otros idiomas indoeuropeos y el chino los cinco más hablados. El Anejo 1 identifica el número de personas que hablan estos idiomas en la región. De un total de aproximadamente 30,812 personas LEP, el idioma más hablado entre personas LEP es el español, con 26,401 hablantes o el 85.7 por ciento del total de la población LEP de la región.

Todos los idiomas más frecuentemente hablados por los hablantes no nativos de inglés en la región, según la información de la ACS, se identifican en el Anejo 1, Limited English Proficient Population (Población con Dominio Limitado del Inglés en la Región RATS), que se encuentra a continuación.

Anejo 1	
Limited English Proficient Population in RATS Region by Language Spoken (Población con Dominio Limitado del Inglés en la región RATS por idioma hablado)	
Idioma	Número estimado de personas de 5 años o más que no hablan el inglés
español	26,401
otros idiomas indoeuropeos	877
alemán o alemán occidental	865
francés, haitiano, “cajún”	499
otros idiomas no especificados	465
chino (incluidos mandarín, cantonés)	462
Vietnamita	424
ruso, polaco u otro idioma eslavo	376
otro idioma asiático o de las Islas del Pacífico	243
tagalo (incluido el filipino)	81
Koreano	66
Árabe	53

FUENTE: 2017-2021 5-year American Community Survey, Tabla C16001

El análisis de las concentraciones de personas que no hablan inglés en la región revela que otros no angloparlantes viven en la ciudad de Reading (69.9%), más que en cualquier otro municipio, donde el 24.9% de la población de la ciudad se identifica como hablantes de inglés "menos que bien" o "nada". Regionalmente, el 7.6% de los residentes habla inglés "menos que muy bien". Este 7.6% de la población regional representa la población LEP en la región de RATS. De ese 7.6% de la población regional LEP, el 71.6% reside dentro de los límites de la ciudad de Reading.

Más específicamente, de los 26,401 hispanohablantes que no hablan inglés en Berks, 20,396 (77.3%) residían en la ciudad. En cambio, el siguiente grupo mayor en Berks de no angloparlantes (hablantes otros idiomas indoeuropeos) estaban más distribuidos a lo largo de todo el Condado. Se estimó que solo 185 (18.6%) residían en la ciudad. El Apéndice A contiene datos lingüísticos para cada uno de los grupos lingüísticos especificados por el Censo y su distribución en los municipios. Basado en este precedente, RATS ha determinado que el español es el idioma hablado con mayor prevalencia entre la población LEP, así como en la población no LEP en la región.

2. Frecuencia de contacto

Mientras más frecuente sea el contacto con un grupo lingüístico determinado, es más probable que se necesiten servicios lingüísticos mejorados. Si una persona LEP de un

grupo lingüístico específico tiene contacto o acceso a un programa o servicio diariamente, la agencia financiada con fondos federales tendrá mayores requerimientos de asistencia lingüística que si la frecuencia de contacto de esa misma persona con el programa o servicio es impredecible o infrecuente. Sin embargo, los beneficiarios de ayuda federal deben tener en cuenta la posibilidad de que la frecuencia de contacto con las poblaciones LEP pueda aumentar cuando se mejore la divulgación apropiada con dichas poblaciones.

El próximo factor que debe considerarse en el Assessment LEP es la frecuencia con la que la población LEP encuentra los servicios y programas del Reading Area Transportation Study.

El Reading Area Transportation Study proporciona planificación de transporte y programas de servicios para el beneficio de todo el condado de Berks y sirve como el foro regional para la toma de decisiones sobre transporte. Las decisiones de RATS afectan a todos los residentes del área de servicio. Como residentes de la región, las personas LEP podrían verse afectadas por las decisiones, servicios y programas de RATS. La opinión pública se busca rutinariamente para el desarrollo y avance de los procesos clave de planificación, incluido el Long Range Plan (Plan a Largo Plazo), el Transportation Improvement Program (Programa de Mejoras al Transporte), el Public Participation Plan (Plan de Participación Pública) y otros planes, programas e iniciativas clave. Durante los períodos de divulgación pública, se solicitan comentarios de cualquier grupo interesado. Hasta la fecha, no se han recibido comentarios ni solicitudes de información en un idioma distinto al inglés, y tampoco ninguno de los grupos defensores y de ayuda ha informado a RATS sobre la necesidad de ampliar la divulgación en algún idioma que no sea el inglés.

3. Importancia de los servicios provistos

Una vez que se han identificado los idiomas hablados por las personas LEP en el área de servicio y se ha analizado la frecuencia de contacto, se debe evaluar la naturaleza e importancia de los servicios provistos. Como regla general, mientras más importante sea la actividad, el servicio o el programa, o mayores sean las posibles consecuencias del contacto para las personas LEP, más probable es que se necesiten servicios de idiomas. La pregunta clave que debe atenderse es "¿la negación o el retraso en el acceso a los servicios tendrá graves implicaciones para la persona con LEP?"

La naturaleza de los programas y servicios provistos por RATS afecta la movilidad y la calidad de vida de los residentes del área. Ningún elemento del programa RATS requiere la participación obligatoria de los residentes del área, ni tampoco RATS administra o supervisa programas o servicios que impongan restricciones involuntarias a los residentes del área. Por último, es poco probable que el retraso o la denegación de los servicios de RATS o la participación en cualquier programa de RATS tenga un efecto perjudicial en la salud o el bienestar de algún individuo.

4. Disponibilidad de recursos y costos

Finalmente, la evaluación de las provisiones de servicios lingüísticos debe evaluar los costos del ofrecimiento de dichos servicios y los recursos disponibles para la agencia. RATS ha evaluado sus recursos disponibles que podrían utilizarse para brindar asistencia lingüística. Por medio de contratos administrados por el condado de Berks, los servicios disponibles para RATS incluyen la traducción de documentos e intérpretes orales, así como la traducción de un sitio web si se solicita. La planificación del presupuesto anual incluye la revisión de gastos en el pasado y de necesidades potenciales en el futuro. Por medio de este proceso, el personal de RATS determina cuáles documentos se traducirán en su totalidad versus los Executive Summaries (Informes ejecutivos), así como también se estiman las necesidades de interpretación para reuniones públicas.

Obligaciones de asistencia lingüística por parte de RATS

RATS tomará medidas razonables para asegurarse de que la población LEP tenga acceso significativo a decisiones clave de planificación de transporte y que tengan oportunidades para poder involucrarse en el proceso de planificación regional del transporte.

Medidas de asistencia lingüística

Hay dos servicios de asistencia lingüística que RATS proporcionará: traducción e interpretación. Estos términos se utilizan a menudo indistintamente; sin embargo, son bastante distintos y existen diferentes reglas para cada uno.

- La **traducción** se refiere al proceso de transferir información expresada por escrito de un idioma a otro idioma.
- La **interpretación** es el proceso mediante el cual se utiliza la palabra hablada para transferir el significado entre idiomas.

Para determinar en qué idiomas RATS proporcionará estas medidas de asistencia, se toma en consideración los resultados de los datos que se analizaron como parte de la Evaluación de LEP de 4 factores. Los resultados de esta evaluación se muestran en los Anejos I y II e indican que hay aproximadamente 30,812 residentes de la región que hablan inglés "menos que muy bien" y que estos hablantes no nativos de inglés tiene fluidez en muchos idiomas diferentes.

Dado el número y porcentaje de hablantes no nativos de inglés en el condado de Berks, la necesidad potencial de proporcionar servicios en tantos idiomas podría ser prohibitiva en términos de costos. Sin embargo, para ayudar a agencias como RATS, que atienden áreas grandes con múltiples necesidades de idiomas, el Department of Justice (Departamento de Justicia) y el Department of Transportation (Departamento de Transporte) tienen directrices para atender a las poblaciones LEP: identifican disposiciones de "safety harbor" (puerto seguro) que recomiendan que se brinde asistencia lingüística cuando la población LEP alcanza el cinco por ciento (5%) de la

población en el área de servicio, o cuando el número de hablantes no nativos de inglés que tengan un idioma nativo común alcance las 1,000 personas, lo que sea menor. Con estos niveles, la directriz federal recomienda que la traducción escrita de documentos vitales esté disponible al ser solicitada, y que la agencia tenga planes para abordar la posible necesidad de servicios de interpretación oral.

La revisión de los datos de ACS para el análisis LEP de la región muestra que los hablantes de español se estiman en aproximadamente 26,401 personas LEP, lo que cumple con los umbrales establecidos. Se estima que hay 877 personas (0.2%) que hablan otros idiomas indoeuropeos; 865 personas (0.2%) que hablan otros idiomas germánicos occidentales; 499 personas (0.1%) que hablan francés, haitiano o "cajún"; y 465 personas (0.1%) que hablan otros idiomas no especificados. Estos cuatro grupos de idiomas contienen el siguiente número mayor de personas LEP, pero no alcanzan los umbrales de "puerto seguro".

Política de RATS sobre Personas con Competencia Limitada en Inglés

RATS ha completado su evaluación de la población con Dominio Limitado del Inglés (LEP) en la región del condado de Berks y ha identificado el español y otros idiomas indoeuropeos como los idiomas más frecuentemente hablados por personas que no hablan inglés en la región.

RATS está identificando e implementará mecanismos para la traducción de documentos vitales e información del programa al idioma más hablado en la región, así como a otros idiomas adicionales. RATS también ha identificado un mecanismo para la interpretación oral de consultas telefónicas a través de un servicio de interpretación de terceros capaz de proporcionar servicios de interpretación en más de 80 idiomas las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana.

RATS emitirá comunicados de prensa a medios de comunicación minoritarios locales, incluidos estaciones de televisión y radio y periódicos, con información sobre los servicios de traducción de idiomas de RATS cuando se identifiquen dichos servicios. Además, RATS ha establecido contacto con el Centro Hispano Daniel Torres y continuará informándoles sobre estos servicios de traducción de idiomas. En nuestro programa de divulgación a organizaciones, RATS continuará monitoreando las necesidades lingüísticas entre los residentes de la región y revisará este plan según se necesite.

Traducción escrita

A través de contratos administrados por el condado de Berks, RATS proporcionará traducciones escritas de sus documentos de planificación al ser solicitados. Además, hay intérpretes disponibles según se soliciten en el sitio web de RATS administrado por el condado de Berks, lo que permite traducciones digitales de páginas web. RATS también traducirá los avisos de los períodos de comentarios públicos para los documentos vitales identificados en el Public Participation: el Long Range

Transportation (Plan de Transporte a Largo Plazo), el Transportation Improvement Program (Programa de Mejoras al Transporte) y el Public Participation Plan (Plan de Participación Pública). Además, RATS, a través del condado de Berks, tiene un contrato vigente para proveer servicios de traducción de documentos según sea necesario.

La portada de los documentos de RATS incluirá un texto en inglés y español que indique que el documento está disponible en otros idiomas al ser solicitado. Además, a los documentos escritos se les han añadido “taglines” de idiomas para que los hablantes fuera del umbral del 1% puedan obtener traducciones escritas cuando las soliciten. RATS proporcionará traducciones de idiomas de su sitio web, con capacidad de traducir instantáneamente cualquier página web de RATS a varios idiomas.

Interpretación oral

Los servicios de interpretación oral son apropiados para diversas situaciones, incluyendo consultas rutinarias de ciudadanos que llamen a RATS o visiten nuestras oficinas, así como para reuniones y eventos públicos. A través de contratos administrados por el condado de Berks, RATS utilizará servicios de intérpretes para brindar asistencia de interpretación oral a personas LEP.

Servicio de Interpretación Telefónica

A través del condado de Berks, RATS tiene servicios disponibles para proporcionar interpretación telefónica y servicios para ayudar a las personas LEP que llamen y visiten la oficina, así como para aquellos casos en los que no se hayan solicitado servicios de interpretación en persona o cuando no se haya coordinado con tiempo suficiente para que RATS pudiera hacer arreglos para conseguir un intérprete.

Servicios de Interpretación en Persona

A través del condado de Berks, RATS tiene servicios disponibles para proporcionar interpretación en persona como respuesta a solicitudes de asistencia con idiomas. Los avisos de reuniones públicas incluyen un texto que solicita que RATS sea notificado con anticipación sobre cualquier servicio especializado necesario. Si no se pudiese conseguir un intérprete calificado con suficiente tiempo, se harán esfuerzos para trabajar con la(s) persona(s) LEP para identificar a un miembro de la familia o de la comunidad que sea capaz de ayudar con sus necesidades de idioma, en cumplimiento con la norma de la Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) para la divulgación a individuos LEP.

“Outreach” (Divulgación) a las Poblaciones LEP

Se han creado datos de ACS que identifican la ubicación geográfica (por municipio)

de los residentes que no hablan inglés. Estas tablas se utilizarán para evaluar si para las reuniones a nivel de proyecto o a nivel comunitario se necesitan materiales en idiomas distintos al inglés o servicios de intérprete.

RATS emitirá comunicados de prensa a los medios de comunicación locales y a organizaciones de servicios comunitarios para informarles sobre la disponibilidad de servicios de traducción de idiomas. La portada de los documentos de RATS incluirá un texto en inglés y español que indique que los servicios de traducción de idiomas están disponibles.

APPENDIX A
(APÉNDICE A)

**BERKS COUNTY
AND
MUNICIPAL LANGUAGE DATA**

(Condado de Berks y datos lingüísticos municipales)

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 5-year American Community Survey, Table C16001

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY

Label	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	402,848	±58
Speak only English	325,565	±2,007
Spanish:	62,789	±1,688
Speak English "very well"	36,388	±1,686
Speak English less than "very well"	26,401	±1,550
French, Haitian, or Cajun:	1,192	±360
Speak English "very well"	693	±219
Speak English less than "very well"	499	±191
German or other West Germanic languages:	3,461	±452
Speak English "very well"	2,596	±363
Speak English less than "very well"	865	±256
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:	1,361	±529
Speak English "very well"	985	±340
Speak English less than "very well"	376	±263
Other Indo-European languages:	3,793	±793
Speak English "very well"	2,916	±761
Speak English less than "very well"	877	±211
Korean:	132	±72
Speak English "very well"	66	±47
Speak English less than "very well"	66	±50
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	788	±267
Speak English "very well"	326	±147
Speak English less than "very well"	462	±230
Vietnamese:	702	±262
Speak English "very well"	278	±144
Speak English less than "very well"	424	±159
Tagalog (incl. Filipino):	421	±167
Speak English "very well"	340	±130
Speak English less than "very well"	81	±65
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:	700	±241
Speak English "very well"	457	±194
Speak English less than "very well"	243	±100
Arabic:	307	±145
Speak English "very well"	254	±122
Speak English less than "very well"	53	±44
Other and unspecified languages:	1,637	±432
Speak English "very well"	1,172	±348
Speak English less than "very well"	465	±211

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Total:				
		Speak only English	Spanish:		
Label				Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	61	61	0	0	0
Albany township	1,756	1,679	3	0	3
Alsace township	3,711	3,680	31	31	0
Amity township	1,864	1,738	66	46	20
Bally borough	1,132	1,056	51	48	3
Bechtelsville borough	838	838	0	0	0
Bern township	3,933	3,584	222	85	137
Bernville borough	808	775	17	15	2
Bethel township	3,863	3,730	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	4,796	4,749	0	0	0
Boyetown borough	2,965	2,927	18	0	18
Brecknock township	3,504	2,896	48	16	32
Caernarvon township	4,052	3,696	292	292	0
Centerport borough	309	309	0	0	0
Centre township	3,569	3,452	105	76	29
Colebrookdale township	4,939	4,850	0	0	0
Cumru township	20,711	16,396	3,499	2,205	1,294
District township	1,287	1,270	3	3	0
Douglass township	1,442	1,312	95	71	24
Earl township	1,333	1,255	52	27	25
Exeter township	14,863	12,808	1,237	796	441
Fleetwood borough	3,963	3,677	230	230	0
Greenwich township	1,910	1,736	112	50	62
Hamburg borough	3,848	3,695	121	102	19
Heidelberg township	1,697	1,584	92	51	41
Hereford township	7,259	6,795	356	201	155
Jefferson township	2,084	1,958	38	36	2
Kenhorst borough	3,999	3,191	750	436	314
Kutztown borough	7,315	6,542	217	175	42
Laureldale borough	3,944	3,225	375	154	221
Leesport borough	12,674	11,836	604	517	87
Lenhartsville borough	150	145	1	1	0
Longswamp township	3,160	2,891	196	113	83
Lower Alsace township	2,133	2,037	56	52	4
Lower Heidelberg township	1,401	1,285	39	26	13
Lyons borough	493	478	6	6	0
Maidencreek township	5,700	5,133	301	228	73
Marion township	2,193	2,152	17	11	6
Maxatawny township	2,058	1,952	60	33	27
Mohnton borough	4,545	4,042	458	286	172
Mount Penn borough	4,248	3,943	62	32	30
Muhlenberg township	26,758	21,536	2,761	2,159	602
New Morgan borough	103	83	17	17	0
North Heidelberg township	1,113	1,025	48	48	0
Oley township	3,534	3,534	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	7,079	6,753	231	215	16
Penn township	2,754	2,434	247	81	166
Perry township	3,349	3,292	7	0	7
Pike township	1,540	1,511	0	0	0
Reading city	86,613	40,804	43,435	23,039	20,396
Richmond township	6,549	5,493	771	556	215
Robeson township	4,344	4,148	40	19	21
Robesonia borough	1,888	1,810	30	30	0
Rockland township	3,452	3,379	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	3,855	3,800	0	0	0
Shillington borough	8,887	8,267	374	193	181
Shoemakersville borough	3,313	3,130	58	0	58
Sinking Spring borough	10,535	9,538	522	343	179
South Heidelberg township	4,262	2,973	849	685	164
Spring township	24,122	21,767	1,422	1,029	393
St. Lawrence borough	4,988	4,231	692	465	227
Tilden township	4,192	3,988	45	31	14
Topton borough	2,387	2,333	24	17	7
Tulpehocken township	1,543	1,439	11	7	4
Union township	2,768	2,253	475	366	109
Upper Bern township	2,943	2,809	43	14	29
Upper Tulpehocken township	3,586	3,547	39	22	17
Washington township	3,134	2,641	419	253	166
Wernersville borough	2,544	2,448	27	27	0
West Reading borough	5,183	4,852	86	59	27
Windsor township	3,959	3,737	194	180	14
Womelsdorf borough	2,737	2,698	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	2,324	1,954	92	82	10

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	French, Haitian, or Cajun:			German or other West Germanic languages:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	62	51	11
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	3	3	0	23	23	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	19	19	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	19	19	0	14	14	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	121	81	40
Birdsboro borough	35	35	0	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	4	4	0	16	0	16
Brecknock township	0	0	0	385	195	190
Caernarvon township	0	0	0	12	12	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	24	24	0
Cumru township	10	0	10	24	24	0
District township	0	0	0	11	8	3
Douglass township	0	0	0	8	6	2
Earl township	0	0	0	21	21	0
Exeter township	3	0	3	30	23	7
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	56	28	28
Greenwich township	0	0	0	17	17	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	17	8	9
Heidelberg township	3	3	0	3	3	0
Hereford township	37	37	0	46	46	0
Jefferson township	6	6	0	46	44	2
Kenhorst borough	27	0	27	16	16	0
Kutztown borough	10	10	0	441	313	128
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	41	41	0
Leesport borough	16	0	16	71	39	32
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	2	2	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	73	52	21
Lower Alsace township	4	4	0	16	10	6
Lower Heidelberg township	0	0	0	16	14	2
Lyons borough	9	9	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	20	10	10	52	37	15
Marion township	0	0	0	20	11	9
Maxatawny township	0	0	0	3	0	3
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	10	10	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	63	63	0
Muhlenberg township	166	128	38	106	98	8
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	3	3	0	27	27	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	1	1	0	94	66	28
Penn township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0	42	42	0
Pike township	0	0	0	21	18	3
Reading city	571	246	325	253	133	120
Richmond township	19	19	0	84	74	10
Robeson township	0	0	0	132	128	4
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	48	42	6
Rockland township	0	0	0	49	49	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	55	31	24
Shillington borough	0	0	0	22	22	0
Shoemakersville borough	66	66	0	39	39	0
Sinking Spring borough	53	39	14	42	42	0
South Heidelberg township	4	0	4	49	49	0
Spring township	38	22	16	159	119	40
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	6	0	6	49	49	0
Topton borough	0	0	0	25	25	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	86	15	71
Union township	0	0	0	9	9	0
Upper Bern township	2	2	0	55	52	3
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	7	0	7
Wernersville borough	0	0	0	27	27	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	189	172	17
Windsor township	0	0	0	9	9	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	57	27	30	4	4	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:			Other Indo-European languages:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	9	9	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	25	12	13	9	0	9
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	41	41	0	34	0	34
Bernville borough	16	1	15	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	165	86	79	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	12	12	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	35	35	0
Cumru township	80	74	6	241	146	95
District township	0	0	0	3	3	0
Douglass township	0	0	0	4	4	0
Earl township	0	0	0	3	3	0
Exeter township	230	230	0	216	175	41
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	5	2	3
Hamburg borough	8	8	0	7	7	0
Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson township	5	5	0	5	5	0
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	9	0	9
Kutztown borough	20	19	1	21	10	11
Laureldale borough	37	28	9	189	148	41
Leesport borough	0	0	0	51	51	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	2	2	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	4	0	4	16	0	16
Lower Heidelberg township	8	6	2	46	41	5
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	19	0	19	105	78	27
Marion township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	15	15	0	12	10	2
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	35	20	15
Mount Penn borough	66	66	0	15	0	15
Muhlenberg township	269	88	181	1,315	1,174	141
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	3	3	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	7	7	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	19	19	0	4	0	4
Perry township	1	1	0	6	6	0
Pike township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading city	66	51	15	396	207	189
Richmond township	90	81	9	10	10	0
Robeson township	0	0	0	8	8	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0	8	8	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	27	27	0	105	69	36
Shoemakersville borough	20	20	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	14	14	0	130	96	34
South Heidelberg township	0	0	0	227	216	11
Spring township	57	57	0	288	186	102
St. Lawrence borough	13	13	0	26	26	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	15	15	0
Topton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	7	0	7
Union township	0	0	0	22	22	0
Upper Bern township	10	0	10	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	13	13	0
Wernersville borough	4	4	0	4	4	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	40	27	13
Windsor township	19	10	9	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	13	13	0
Wyomissing borough	13	9	4	62	45	17

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Korean:			Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	12	0	12
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	9	9	0	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	30	0	30	0	0	0
Cumru township	0	0	0	37	25	12
District township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earl township	0	0	0	2	2	0
Exeter township	9	9	0	31	17	14
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	10	2	8	0	0	0
Hereford township	14	14	0	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kutztown borough	13	13	0	0	0	0
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	0	0	0	12	12	0
Marion township	0	0	0	4	4	0
Maxatawny township	3	0	3	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	99	44	55
Muhlenberg township	0	0	0	87	48	39
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	0	0	0	28	0	28
Perry township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pike township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading city	0	0	0	235	110	125
Richmond township	0	0	0	15	0	15
Robeson township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	0	0	0	58	24	34
South Heidelberg township	0	0	0	15	8	7
Spring township	0	0	0	99	14	85
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Topton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Bern township	24	9	15	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	54	18	36
Wernersville borough	20	10	10	0	0	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	0	0	0	0	0	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Vietnamese:			Tagalog (incl. Filipino):		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	12	12	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	23	9	14	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumru township	107	40	67	159	137	22
District township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass township	10	10	0	0	0	0
Earl township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exeter township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford township	11	0	11	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0	26	0	26
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kutztown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	27	27	0
Leesport borough	0	0	0	13	13	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	4	0	4	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marion township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	2	0	2	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muhlenberg township	0	0	0	100	80	20
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	6	0	6	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pike township	8	0	8	0	0	0
Reading city	173	20	153	0	0	0
Richmond township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robeson township	0	0	0	7	7	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	22	0	22	26	26	0
South Heidelberg township	106	46	60	0	0	0
Spring township	154	101	53	31	31	0
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	20	7	13
Topton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wernersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	26	26	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	50	26	24	0	0	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:			Arabic:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	3	3	0	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	19	19	0	0	0	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyetown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	4	4	0	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	13	13	0	7	7	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumru township	143	93	50	5	0	5
District township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earl township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exeter township	82	65	17	0	0	0
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	5	2	3	0	0	0
Hereford township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kutztown borough	5	0	5	22	22	0
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesport borough	32	0	32	0	0	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	3	3	0	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	58	29	29	0	0	0
Marion township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	11	0	11	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muhlenberg township	42	15	27	15	15	0
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	3	3	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	16	8	8	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0	1	1	0
Pike township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading city	29	19	10	35	29	6
Richmond township	59	8	51	0	0	0
Robeson township	9	9	0	0	0	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	16	16	0	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	65	65	0	0	0	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	14	14	0	0	0	0
South Heidelberg township	39	39	0	0	0	0
Spring township	31	31	0	57	44	13
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	69	59	10
Topton borough	0	0	0	5	5	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union township	2	2	0	7	0	7
Upper Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wernersville borough	0	0	0	9	9	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	16	16	0
Windsor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	0	0	0	56	44	12

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Other and unspecified languages:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0
Bally borough	6	6	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0
Bern township	0	0	0
Berville borough	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0
Brecknock township	6	6	0
Caernarvon township	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0
Cumru township	10	10	0
District township	0	0	0
Douglass township	13	13	0
Earl township	0	0	0
Exeter township	217	153	64
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0
Greenwich township	40	40	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Hereford township	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0
Kenhorst borough	6	0	6
Kutztown borough	24	24	0
Laureldale borough	50	0	50
Leesport borough	51	22	29
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	0	0	0
Marion township	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0
Muhlenberg township	361	264	97
New Morgan borough	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Oley township	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0
Penn township	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0
Pike township	0	0	0
Reading city	616	414	202
Richmond township	8	8	0
Robeson township	0	0	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0
Shillington borough	27	27	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	116	101	15
South Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Spring township	19	19	0
St. Lawrence borough	26	26	0
Tilden township	0	0	0
Topton borough	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0
Union township	0	0	0
Upper Bern township	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0
Wernersville borough	5	3	2
West Reading borough	0	0	0
Windsor township	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	36	36	0

APPENDIX G

Committee Membership and Supporting Materials

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (READING MPO)

BOARD MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION

May, 2024

Technical Committee: 12 Members (1 Chair, 7 Voting Members, 4 Alternate Voting Members)

	<u>Chair/Voting*</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Male/Female:.....	8/0	1/3
White/Non-White:.....	8/0	4/0
Latino/Non-Latino:.....	0/8	0/4

Coordinating Committee: 14 Members (1 Chair, 9 Voting Members, 4 Alternate Voting Members)

	<u>Chair/Voting</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Male/Female:.....	8/2	4/1
White/Non-White:.....	9/1	5/0
Latino/Non-Latino:.....	1/9	0/5



COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA

Office of the Commissioners

Services Center, 13th Floor
633 Court Street
Reading, PA 19601

Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair
Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair
Michael S. Rivera, Commissioner

Phone: 610.478.6136

Fax: 610.478.6293

E-mail: commissioners@countyofberks.com

Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer

Christine M. Sadler, Solicitor

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk

January 31, 2020

Dear President of the Board of Commissioners,

A vacancy currently exists on the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee. Mr. Kevin Lerch from Muhlenberg Township has served as the 1st Class Township representative on the Committee since 2018. Mr. Lerch has recently changed employment and is, unfortunately, no longer able to attend the regular committee meetings. We thank Mr. Lerch for his service in this capacity. This unpaid position is filled by appointment of the Berks County Board of Commissioners. We are asking for your assistance to identify potential candidates for this appointment.

Based on the RATS bylaws and federal regulations, candidates for this position must be an elected Commissioner from a 1st Class Township. Candidates should have an interest in the improvement of Berks County's transportation system and the ability to attend meetings of the Coordinating Committee. These meetings are currently held in Reading at the Berks County Planning Commission offices bi-monthly at 1:30 PM on the third Thursday of a month. Meetings generally last between 1-2 hours.

This Committee serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and is the official transportation planning organization for Berks County, designated by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under current and applicable federal laws. The role of the MPO is to promote transportation plans, programs, projects and policies that are consistent with current federal transportation planning legislation and the Clean Air Act. Its two main tasks are working with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in the development of a Long Range (20 Year) Transportation Plan and a short range (4 Year) Transportation Improvement Program covering highways, bridges and public transportation for all of Berks County. Other specific programs or studies are conducted in support of these two main efforts.

The Coordinating Committee is assisted in this process by a Technical Committee that reviews projects and proposals and makes recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. The transportation planning staff of the Berks County Planning Commission serves as the technical staff to the MPO. A listing of the current Coordinating Committee and Technical Committee members is attached.

Dedicated to public service with integrity, virtue & excellence

[www.countyofberks .com](http://www.countyofberks.com)

If a member of your Board is interested in filling this position, please forward their name, address phone number and e-mail address, as well as a brief statement of their interests and qualifications in relation to possible service on the Committee, to the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Corni Street - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. **Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible but not later than February 28th 2020.** All submissions will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners. Specific questions relating to this position can be addressed by Mr. Alan Piper, Transportation Planner either by phone ((610) 478-6300, Ext.6313] or e-mail apiper@countyofberks.com .

Sincerely,

BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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APPENDIX H
Agency Monitoring of Subrecipients
(Not Applicable)

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APPENDIX I

Board Adoption of MPO Title VI Program

DRAFT
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
MINUTES OF THE JOINT TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY
MARCH 9, 2023

ATTENDANCE

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Michael Rebert, PennDOT 5-0 Chair*
Mark Tobin, PennDOT Program Center (V)
Donna Reed, City of Reading
Tom McKeon, Berks County Planning Commission (V)
Sam Kalbach, 1st Class Townships (Cumru Township) (V)
Keith Boatman, South Central Transit Authority, Alternate
Kevin Barnhardt, Reading Regional Airport Authority
Commissioner Michael Rivera, County of Berks
Mike Kocher, 2nd Class Townships (Spring Township) (V)
Brian Hoffa, Boroughs (Sinking Spring) (V)

*Tie-breaking vote only
(V) Attended Virtually

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tim Krall, City of Reading (V)
Alan Piper, Berks County Planning Commission, MPO Secretary
David Alas, PennDOT Central (V)
Keith Boatman, South Central Transit Authority
Michael Golembiewski, Berks County Planning Commission

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING

Scott Vottero, PennDOT 5-0, Acting Chair*
Kyle Zeiber, City of Reading
Zachary Tempesco, Reading Regional Airport Authority

OTHERS

Amanda Leindecker, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Matthew Boyer, Commuter Services of PA
Jeff Rai, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Carol Riley
Felipe Melendez
Amanda Timochenko, Berks County Planning Commission
Devon Hain, Berks County Planning Commission
David Hunter, Berks County Planning Commission
Matthew McGough, Berks County Planning Commission

Shanice Ellison, Berks County Planning Commission
Heather Berger, Berks County Information Systems
IS Production, Berks County Information Systems (V)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rebert called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

2. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business from the floor. Ms. Timochenko stated that there was no public comment.

3. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2023

Chairman Rebert asked if there were any questions or comments on the January 5, 2023 Technical Committee minutes.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to approve the January 5, 2023 Technical Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Krall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2023

Chairman Rebert asked if there were any questions or comments on the January 19, 2023 Coordinating Committee minutes.

MOTION (Coordinating): Mr. Barnhardt made a motion to approve the January 19, 2023 Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. PENNDOT REQUESTED AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS TO FFY 2023-2026 TIP

Ms. Leindecker gave an update on PennDOT's requested Amendments/Modifications to the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from December 30, 2022 to March 2, 2023.

- There are six (6) Administrative Actions – the adjustments deal with increases for revised estimates, increases to meet low-bid and estimated costs for projects, and aligning funds to meet projected let dates.
- There is one (1) Amendment – this adjustment deals with removal of the Albright College TASA project from the TIP and reallocation of those funds back to the regional TAP reserve line item.

- There are five (5) Statewide Administrative Actions – these adjustments deal with reallocation of funds for revised estimates and the addition of Carbon Reduction funds to the regional Urban reserve line item.
- There is one (1) Statewide Amendment – this adjustment deals with adding an approved HSIP funded VRU project to the TIP.

Mr. Piper stated that Albright College no longer wanted to pursue the project because the project was small and the federal requirements outweighed the efforts for the size of the project. Those funds would return to the MPO’s TAP line item. The MPO and PennDOT are currently working with Cumru Township on a project that initially was submitted but ultimately was not funded during the last TASA application round. If the Cumru Township project can be developed and meet the requirements for TASA, the project can be funded using the funds in the TAP Reserve Line Item. Prior to the Cumru project receiving TASA funds, the project will be discussed and brought back to this Committee for approval to add the project to the TIP.

Chairman Rebert stated that the funds remaining in the Line Item should be allocated to a project in order to not lose them. Ms. Leindecker confirmed that the funds in the Line Item need to be assigned to a project before the end of the FFY and can be obligated in FFY 2024.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend the removal of the Albright College project from the FFY 2023-2026 TIP and reallocate the funds to the TAP Reserve Line Item. Mr. Alas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION (Coordinating): Mr. Rivera made a motion to approve the removal of the Albright College project from the FFY 2023-2026 TIP and reallocate the funds to the TAP Reserve Line Item. Ms. Reed seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. REPORT ON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 2023 PERFORMANCE REPORT AND 12-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE OUTREACH

Mr. Piper stated that every two years, the State Transportation Commission (STC) begins the process to update its 12-Year Program (TYP). The initiation of their update also corresponds to and begins the update to RATS TIP.

As part of the State’s TYP update, they develop a Transportation Performance Report Scorecard that identifies the progress the State has made in several categories related to the overall goals in their TYP. The categories include:

- Safety – addresses the goal of reducing fatalities and injuries on Pennsylvania roadways
- Mobility – addresses the goal of maintaining the current highway system, optimizing the performance of the existing system, and managing travel demand.
- Preservation – addresses maintenance of roadways and bridges to preserve transportation assets

- Accountability – addresses the management of resources and business processes
- Freight – addresses improving the safe and efficient movement of goods across Pennsylvania

Each category identifies various indicators and provides a description, performance rating, and identifies the trend for each indicator. Mr. Piper reviewed the STC Performance Report Scorecard.

Mr. Piper stated that as part of the STC's TYP update, the 2023 Public Outreach Campaign began on March 1, 2023 and ends on April 30, 2023. There is an online survey (www.survey.talkpatransportation.com) that asks the public for its opinion on the areas where funds should be invested. There is also an interactive map that the public can identify specific areas where transportation improvements are necessary. The data is collected on a statewide level and then filtered by the various MPOs across the state. The state then shares the information with the MPOs providing the findings for the area.

Also within the public comment period, there is an online public forum on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM which provides the state an opportunity to review the scorecard with the public, answer questions, and solicit additional comments.

Mr. Piper stated that staff will be conducting outreach for this material to municipalities and the public in an effort to garner as much feedback as possible.

7. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF UPDATED READING MPO TITLE VI PROGRAM

Mr. Golembiewski stated that RATS adopted the initial FTA compliant Title VI Program back in July, 2021. The Title VI Program is required to be compliant with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This Act prohibits discrimination within any federally funded program against race, color, or national origin. There are 13 specific requirements that FTA requires the MPO to have in place to ensure nondiscrimination. Some of those 13 requirements include notices to the public and where they are posted, formal complaint procedures, development and adoption of a public participation plan, and development and adoption of a limited English proficiency plan. All the requirements are then incorporated into one document which is the Title VI Program Plan.

Staff has reviewed and updated the RATS Title VI Program after identifying some improvements that should be made to the plan. The most notable improvements include adding language taglines to the front of the document, updating and adding web links, updating MPO Board membership and associated member demographics, and updating content and links related to the FFY 2023-2026 TIP and FFY 2023 Environmental Justice documentation. The updated draft plan was submitted to PennDOT's Bureau of Equal Opportunity (BEO). FTA requires PennDOT's BEO to ensure that all transit agencies and planning regions maintain their Title VI Program Plans. PennDOT is considered the main recipient of federal funds and the MPOs are subrecipients. This is why PennDOT oversees this program for us. PennDOT BEO endorsed the proposed revisions.

The document was also sent to FTA and FHWA. Neither agency had any comments to address in this plan. While these changes are administrative and don't require MPO adoption, we'd still like to formally have the plan adopted with these changes.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Alas made a motion to recommend approval of the updated Reading Area Transportation Study Title VI Program plan. Mr. Krall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION (Coordinating): Ms. Reed made a motion to adopt the updated Reading Area Transportation Study Title VI Program plan. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF ADOPTION OF PENNDOT PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR PM-2 (PAVEMENT AND BRIDGE CONDITIONS) AND PM-3 (TRAVEL RELIABILITY AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROGRAM)

Mr. Piper stated that this process to adopt performance measure standards and targets is performed annually. The MPO has the option to accept the state recommended set of performance measures or develop its own targets.

The Performance Measures for pavement and bridge conditions (PM-2) include:

- Percentage of pavements on the Interstate System in Good condition
- Percentage of pavements on the Interstate System in Poor condition
- Percentage of pavements on the NHS (excluding the Interstate System) in Good condition
- Percentage of pavements on the NHS (excluding the Interstate System) in Poor condition
- Percentage of NHS bridge deck area classified as in Good condition
- Percentage of NHS bridge deck area classified as in Poor condition

The Performance Measures for travel reliability and the effectiveness of the congestion mitigation and air quality (CMAQ) program (PM-3) include:

- Percent of Person-miles Traveled on the Interstate System that are Reliable
- Percent of Person-miles Traveled on the Non-Interstate NHS that are Reliable
- Interstate System Truck Travel Time Reliability Index
- Annual Hours of Peak-Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) per Capita
- Percent Non-Single Occupant Vehicle (SPOV) Travel
- On-Road Mobile Source Emissions Reduction for CMAQ-funded Projects

As in the past, the recommendation to the Committee is that we do not create our own Performance Measures targets but rather that we vote to adopt the PennDOT Performance Measure targets for each of these categories.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Krall made a motion to recommend adoption of PennDOT's PM-2 and PM-3 Performance Measures and targets. Mr. Alas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION (Coordinating): Mr. Barnhardt made a motion to adopt PennDOT's PM-2 and PM-3 Performance Measures and targets. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

9. UPDATE ON EASTERN PA FREIGHT PLAN

Mr. Piper stated that a briefing from the consultants for the Eastern PA Freight Plan was prepared and presented to the participating MPOs on March 2, 2023. The Eastern PA Freight Alliance consists of the RATS MPO, Lebanon MPO, Lehigh Valley MPO, NEPA MPO, and Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO. Using PennDOT and MPO funding, the Alliance hired a group of consultants led by WSP that is developing the freight plan for the region.

The Plan is divided into 9 tasks. Currently, the consultants are approximately half-way through the development of the plan. The consultants have gathered a lot of data for the region. One of the categories that will have a great impact on freight movement throughout the region is the annual average daily truck traffic. Primarily, the Interstate highways show the greatest amount of truck traffic. Interstate 78 carries some of the highest truck traffic of any highway through the area. There are similar volumes on portions of I-80 and I-81. When looking at the rest of the area excluding the Interstate system, what really stands out is the fact that the Route 222 corridor from Lancaster through Reading into the Lehigh Valley, Route 22 to Easton, and Route 33 corridor are the primary non-Interstate truck corridors through the area.

The consultants also examined data relating to bridges and where weight restrictions are located that could influence freight movement and delivery. Pavement conditions were also evaluated. Truck crashes were examined and determined that the heaviest concentrations of truck crashes were along Route 22 and I-78 with some addition clusters in Allentown, Reading, and Lebanon.

The consultants examined the truck congestion costs for the region related to the hourly truck operating cost versus the unreliability of a link and the daily cost per mile. By evaluating the costs, the consultants identified 'high cost' corridors throughout the region.

The consultants are also examining freight rail data including regional and national potential connections. In addition, the consultants will contact airports regarding freight movements through their facilities.

The next steps the consultants will begin include finalizing a land use analysis, developing online mapping, performing focused outreach, identifying freight trends and forecasts, and identifying needs and deficiencies through profile data, Steering Committee input, and public input.

Chairman Rebert noted that developing a freight plan like this provides reinforcement for applications to receive discretionary funds pending their availability.

10. UPDATE ON SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

Mr. Piper state that the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (SRPRA) is preparing an application for the Corridor Identification Program through the Federal Rail Administration (FRA). The FRA should determine and announce eligibility decisions later this summer. If this project is selected to be included in the initial funding phase, the Authority would move on to the next step which includes project planning. The Authority would receive approximately \$500,000 to fund the development of a project plan from the FRA. Through the development of a project plan, a scope of work and schedule could be developed which would aid in the development of a more detailed study for the corridor itself. The third phase of the Corridor Identification Program funding would be the project implementation phase. The SRPRA plans to submit their application next week. As more details emerge, this Committee will be updated on the status of this project.

11. MAJOR PROJECT STATUS REPORT, BRIDGE STATUS REPORT AND TASA/MTF PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Mr. Piper gave an update on the status of major projects. The bridge status report and the TASA/MTF project status report are available.

Mr. Piper noted that there was recently an article in the newspaper regarding the closing of the Funk Road bridge in Colebrookdale Township. The bridge project was already on the FFY 2023-2026 TIP to begin the preliminary engineering. The design phase is currently scheduled for sometime next year. Mr. Piper is working with the Planning and Programming PennDOT staff to try to expedite the schedule for the Funk Road bridge project.

Chairman Rebert is working with his bridge engineers to hopefully identify an interim solution for the Funk Road bridge.

Mr. Piper stated that PennDOT just announced that construction is underway for the reconstruction of the Gibraltar Road bridge in Exeter Township.

12. COMMUTER SERVICES UPDATE

The outreach staff continues to meet with groups, individuals, and businesses. The outreach team has been in contact with Albright College, BARTA, Berks Community Foundation, and Morgan Truck Body. Commuter Services continues to hold events at different locations including Ashley Furniture, Berks Connections, Berks Fire and Water, PA Career Link in Berks, and the UPS facility in Reading.

Commuter Services continues work to develop a regional bike share. Earth Day is coming up in April and Bike to Work week in May in which Commuter Services promotes green trips and the regional bike share program.

Commuter Services is working with various businesses to bring back the Bike to Work week ride which would happen on Friday, May 19. Commuter Services is working with West Reading and the City of Reading to also do a ride that would bring riders through the suburban area into the City, onto the trail system, and back out of the City.

During the month of February, 106 new members joined the program, over 7,000 trips were tracked, and over 133,000 miles not driven were recorded for a savings of over \$83,000 as a result of using green modes of transportation.

Commuter Services provided a year end report titled Innovating Mobility Options. The report discusses the outreach conducted and the successes resulting from the outreach.

The SRTP is in the preliminary stages of preparing an application to send to PennDOT for TASA funding for the Safe Routes to School Program. Mr. Boyer asked the Committee if there is any type of secondary process with the MPO that is required as part of the application process. Mr. Piper responded that he will reach out to PennDOT and get back to Mr. Boyer. Mr. Tobin noted that the discussion today regarding this particular application item would be for the drawn down from the statewide allocation to be included in the local allocation.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Cumru Township TASA Project** – Mr. Kalbach gave an update on the potential TASA project for Cumru Township involving flood mitigation from the Museum Road and Lancaster Avenue intersection. The Township is working with local landowners in the vicinity in an effort to acquire some land for flood mitigation via construction of a retention basin. The Township engineer is developing a plan combining a below ground and an above ground retention basin plan so that the local landowner can retain partial use of the property.
- **SCTA Transit Development Plan Update** – Mr. Boatman stated that the kickoff meeting for the SCTA Transit Development Plan (TDP) update was on November 4, 2022. SCTA hired Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning Inc. to help develop the TDP. Surveys were conducted on the buses in January 2023. SCTA received 585 surveys back from those on bus surveys that were handed out. A stakeholder meeting was held on January 25, 2023, an in-person public meeting was held on January 25, 2023 as well. There were 12 participants at the stakeholders meeting. There were 6 participants at the public meeting. There was a virtual public meeting on February 2, 2023. There were 17 participants at the virtual public meeting. SCTA conducted an online community survey in which 171 responses were received in English and 5 were received in Spanish. All of the survey responses are being analyzed by Foursquare and they will provide SCTA with the analysis of the responses. SCTA is currently conducting outreach and having conversations with Shared-ride providers to identify their needs and the needs of their customers. SCTA is sending out 600 customer satisfaction surveys to the current shared-ride customers. SCTA is also starting the diagnostic route

profile analysis which will analyze service scenarios to ensure the right services are provided in the right locations. SCTA is also analyzing the feasibility of providing microtransit which would be more of an on-demand service similar to how Uber and Lyft provide service. The next public meeting is anticipated sometime in the beginning of the summer of 2023.

- Mr. Rivera stated that he received an email from a resident in Berks County that is concerned with the amount of trash on the roadways. Mr. Rivera asked if anything can be done about the amount of trash along the roadways. Chairman Rebert noted the difficulties in maintaining roadway cleanliness especially during a year with limited snowfall. Chairman Rebert noted the ability to clean up along roadways is dependent upon the resources available to PennDOT and identified usually those locations that require roadside trash pick up are generally in high traffic corridors that affect timing for debris cleanup. PennDOT maintenance crews are preparing to conduct night shift cleanup along roadways. PennDOT maintenance crews will also begin to cleanup roadways between now and the springtime in areas where traffic will not be impacted by their presence during the daytime. PennDOT District 5-0 is examining the possibility of hiring contractors to perform some of the roadway cleanup because PennDOT maintenance alone can not keep up with litter cleanup along all the state owned roadways across the Commonwealth.
- Ms. Reed stated that next week is the 275th anniversary week of the City of Reading.
- Ms. Riley expressed concerns about Railroad Street in the City of Reading. Mr. Krall stated that Railroad Street is a private street. He will coordinate with the City of Reading public works staff to communicate and coordinate with the property owners to address any possible issues.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Rivera made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Golembiewski seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Date: _____

Alan D. Piper

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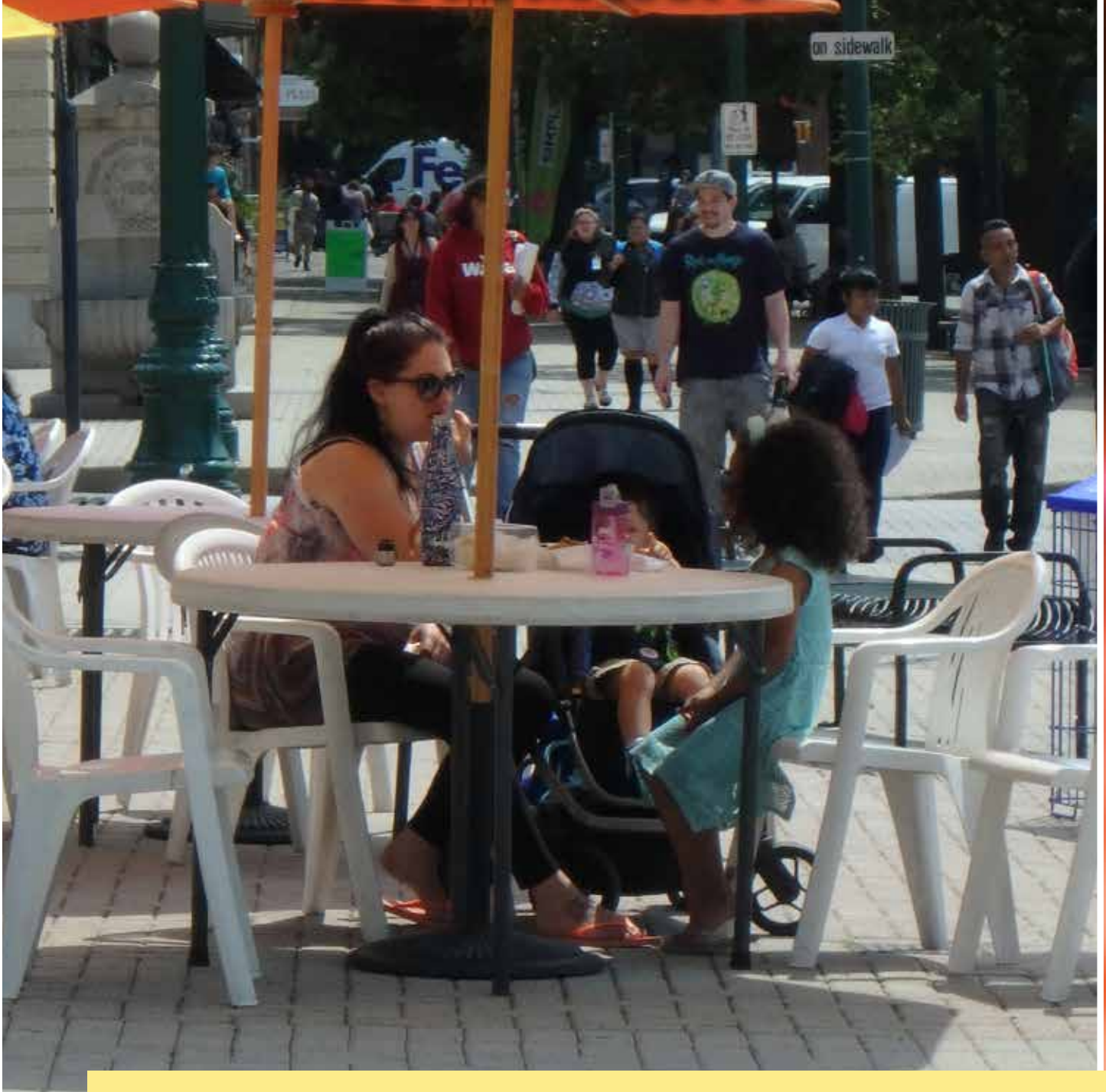
APPENDIX J

Environmental Justice Summary

FFY 2023

Environmental Justice

SUMMARY



Reading Area Transportation Study

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
C/O BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT STREET, 14TH FL
READING, PA 19601

Phone: (610) 478-6300

Fax: (610) 478-6316

Email: planning@countyofberks.com

Web Site: <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/planning>

It is the policy of the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS), the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, to ensure that “no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religious creed or disability; be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity” for which the MPO receives Federal financial assistance. Furthermore, it shall be the policy of the MPO to ensure that as a recipient of Federal-aid funding, it will ensure nondiscrimination in all of its programs and activities whether Federally funded or not. The MPO is steadfast in its commitment to ensure the uniform adoption of this policy.

RATS fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. RATS’ website (www.countyofberks.com/planning) may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. In accordance with Federal Highway Administration Regulation 23 CFR 200.9, and Title 49 CFR, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary Part 21, and FTA Circular 4702.IB the MPO has developed procedures for prompt processing and disposition of the Title VI complaints. Any person believing the MPO has violated Title VI in the administration of its programs or activities may file a complaint with the MPO’s Title VI Compliance Officer by telephone, fax, or in writing at the contacts shown above, or by email at planning@countyofberks.com. A link to the MPO’s complete Title VI Complaint Procedures may be found at <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/RATSMetingSchedule.aspx>

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official policies of either the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of publication. This report does not constitute a standard, specification or regulation.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BACKGROUND

Environmental justice addresses fairness of federal actions in regards to disadvantaged persons, particularly low-income and racial minority populations. Environmental justice became an active part of federally funded planning activities with Executive Order 12898, issued in 1994, that required federal agencies to examine the potential for their programs, policies and activities to have negative impacts on minority and low-income populations. The Environmental Justice executive order is based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which requires recipients of federal aid to certify and ensure nondiscrimination.

The roadway and transit projects identified and programmed in the proposed Reading Area Transportation Study FFY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FFY 2023-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan must address the principles of Executive Order 12898 relating to Environmental Justice. Specifically, the plan must identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs and policies on minority and low-income populations. Basic principles addressed by the Environmental Justice analysis include:

- 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 and low-income populations.

In response to the USDOT order and the FHWA guidelines, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) developed *Every Voice Counts* in 2004, updated in 2012, to guide PennDOT and the local transportation planning agencies in Pennsylvania to address EJ issues. This guidance is found at:

[PennDOT Environmental Justice Guidance](#)

In general, this means that for any program or activity for which any federal funds will be used, the agency receiving the federal funds:

- Must make a meaningful effort to involve low income and minority populations in the processes established to make the decision about the use of the federal funds; and
- Must evaluate the nature, extent, and incidence of probable favorable and adverse human health or environmental impacts of the program or activity upon minority or low-income populations.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the regional transportation planning organization for the Reading, Pennsylvania metropolitan area. The Reading MPO is co-terminus with the political boundary of Berks County. RATS prepares this Environmental Justice report to respond to the federal and state requirements and facilitate the fair transportation planning process in Berks County. This document supersedes the July 2018 EJ document.

RATS will assess the impacts of the transportation planning process, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on selected populations, identify their transportation needs, and explore ways to satisfy these needs. Our assessment of the potential for environmental justice concerns relies on relative measures, not specific thresholds or measures. This includes our professional judgment of the disproportionate impacts and judgment of efforts made during the planning process to inform people potentially impacted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RATS supports and encourages active public participation throughout the transportation planning process. RATS adopted a public participation policy in 2017 to ensure that specific opportunities exist for the public to offer input and provide feedback as active participants in the decision-making process. Public participation takes many forms, and RATS uses a wide range of methods and media to enhance the public's participation in the process.

As part of the FFY 2023 TIP and FFY 2023-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, RATS took/will take a number of steps to ensure consideration of the public's views, including using the public participation plan, developing and contacting a comprehensive listing of stakeholders, utilizing a variety of methods to involve the public, and considering public comments in developing the list of transportation projects. The overall goal of the TIP and LRTP is to develop plans and strategies that promote an efficient and effective transportation system for Berks County.

DEFINITIONS

Minority means a person who is: (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa); (2) Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race); (3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); (4) American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition); and (5) Native Hawaii or Other Pacific Islanders (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands). Additionally, any person who responded to the US Census as being some other race or two or more races qualifies as being in the minority population.

Low-Income means a person whose household income (or if in a community or group their median household income) is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines and identified as such in the U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates.

Limited English Proficiency includes people ages 5 and older who do not speak English as their primary language and who have reported to the Census Bureau an ability to read, write, speak, or understand English less than very well.

Persons with a Disability includes people with mobility limitation, self-care limitation, or people with both limitations. Those limitations can include a long-lasting physical, mental or emotional condition, and can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning or remembering. Limitations can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

Female Head of Household with Child includes households with a female maintaining the household with no husband of the householder present and with own children of the householder under 18 years.

Elderly population includes persons age 65 and older.

Carless Households includes households that possess no cars, vans, and pickup or panel trucks of one-ton capacity or less that are kept and available for use.

Poverty includes any individual with an income less than \$36 per day or a family of four with income less than \$72 per day. This is calculated from the poverty threshold as set by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Census Block Groups are statistical geographic subdivisions of a census tract and are the smallest geographic areas for which the Census Bureau provides sample data, primarily from the ACS 5 -year period estimates.

American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing demographics survey program conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau that provides information on a yearly basis about the nation and its people which aids in determining how federal and state funds are distributed each year.

DEMOGRAPHICS BACKGROUND

Berks County is an urban county of the third class, comprised of one city of the third class, 27 boroughs, and 44 townships. It is located in southeastern Pennsylvania, surrounded by six other counties: Schuylkill County to the north, Lebanon County to the west, Lehigh and Montgomery Counties to the east and Chester and Lancaster Counties to the south. Reading, a city of the third class, serves as the county seat. The County's geographic location and transportation network promote accessibility and mobility for people and freight to several surrounding larger metropolitan areas including Allentown (39 miles), Philadelphia (56 miles), Baltimore (97 miles), and New York City (125 miles).

As of 2019, Berks County is home to 418,025 residents. In comparison to the six neighboring counties, it ranks fourth in overall population. From 2000-2010, population increased 10.2 percent, exceeding both the state and national figures, and placing 5th highest amongst the other counties. Population growth slowed substantially from 2010-2019, slightly above the state, but below national figures for the period. The county ranked sixth out of the seven counties for percentage of population growth from 2010-2019.

Table 1

County Population Between 2000 and 2019					
County	2000	2010	2019 Est.	% Change 00-10	% Change 10-19
Berks	373,638	411,850	418,025	10.2%	1.5%
Chester	433,501	499,797	519,560	15.3%	4.0%
Lancaster	470,658	520,156	540,999	10.5%	4.0%
Lebanon	120,327	133,688	139,729	11.1%	4.5%
Lehigh	312,090	350,106	365,052	12.2%	4.3%
Montgomery	750,097	801,052	823,823	6.8%	2.8%
Schuylkill	150,336	148,228	142,674	-1.4%	-3.7%
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	12,702,379	12,791,530	3.4%	0.7%
United States	281,421,906	308,745,538	324,697,795	9.7%	5.2%

Source: U.S. Census, Census 2000, and Annual Estimates of the Resident Population 2010, 2015-2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates

DEMOGRAPHIC METHODOLOGY

For this document the Statewide Environmental Justice Analysis Methodology 2023-2026 Pennsylvania Transportation Improvement Program was used. A full copy of this document can be found as an Appendix to this document. This statewide methodology was created as a way to keep all 67 Pennsylvania Counties using a uniform scale across all counties in the state. It also provides a uniform, easily communicated and understood way of classifying the relative concentrations of low-income and minority populations across the state of Pennsylvania. In the past, minority and low-income population percentages were based on natural breaks of the percentages of those populations present within block groups for each county. This led to conducting 67 separate analyses when looking at this data on a statewide level or multiple different analyses for multicounty planning partners and across PennDOT Districts.

The current methodology classifies census block groups into intervals based on the ratio of census block group minority or low-income percentage to county overall minority or low-income percentage. For example, a ratio of 1 indicates the census block group has the same minority or low-income percentage as the county average. A noted side effect of this approach is that it resulted in some counties not having all intervals. Through use of the United States Census Bureau American Community Survey 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates the county averages for minority and low-income populations were calculated. The Berks County average minority population percentage was determined to be 31.67% and the average low-income population percentage was determined to be 13.61%. All intervals are present within Berks County except for Minority Interval 5. The Minority Interval 5 for Berks County would account for census block groups with a minority population percentage greater than 126.68%.

Tables 2 and 3 show the definitions of the minority and low-income population concentration intervals that are used throughout this plan. The specific Berks County equivalents for these intervals can also be found on these tables.

Table 2

Definition of Minority Population Intervals		
Minority Intervals	Berks County Equivalent	Ratio of Minority Population Percentage in Census Block Group to County Minority Population Percentage
1	$\leq 15.84\%$	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage ≤ 0.5 (Census block group minority population percentage less than or equal to half of countywide minority population percentage)
2	$> 15.84\%$ and $\leq 31.67\%$	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 0.5 and ≤ 1 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than half and less than or equal to the countywide minority population percentage)
3	$> 31.67\%$ and $\leq 63.34\%$	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 1 and ≤ 2 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than the countywide minority population percentage and less than or equal to twice the countywide minority population percentage)
4	$> 63.34\%$ and $\leq 126.68\%$	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 2 and ≤ 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the countywide minority population percentage)
5	$> 126.68\%$ (Not applicable)	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than four times the countywide minority population percentage)

Table 3

Definition of Low-Income Population Intervals		
Low-Income Intervals	Berks County Equivalent	Ratio of Low-Income Population Percentage in Census Block Group to County Low-Income Population Percentage
1	$\leq 6.81\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage ≤ 0.5 (Census block group low-income population percentage less than or equal to half of countywide low-income population percentage)
2	$> 6.81\%$ and $\leq 13.61\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage > 0.5 and ≤ 1 (Census block group low-income population percentage greater than half and less than or equal to the countywide low-income population percentage)
3	$> 13.61\%$ and $\leq 27.22\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage > 1 and ≤ 2 (Census block group low-income population percentage greater than the countywide low-income population percentage and less than or equal to twice the countywide low-income population percentage)
4	$> 27.22\%$ and $\leq 54.44\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage > 2 and ≤ 4 (Census block group low-income population percentage greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the countywide low-income population percentage)
5	$> 54.44\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage > 4 (Census block group low-income population percentage greater than four times the countywide low-income population percentage)

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS of the 2023-2026 TIP

RATS has identified the following groups to be included in this analysis. The United States Census Bureau American Community Survey 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates provides the data supporting the analysis. The method for this analysis identifies census block groups where minority and low-income populations are above the Berks County average.

Table 4 shows the Population by Race for Berks County by number and percentage. While the White, Non-Hispanic population makes up nearly three quarters of the population, the Hispanic population makes up more than 20% of Berks County population, with the next highest minority being Black or African American, Non-Hispanic. Included in this table is the number and percentage of Low-Income Population. The Other Potentially Disadvantaged Populations are also displayed in this table by number and percentage. These numbers show that of the Other Potentially Disadvantaged Populations, Elderly and Persons with a Disability are the highest in this category making up 16.92% and 13.52% respectively. The other three demographic indicators in this category, Limited English Proficiency, Female Head of Household with Child, and Carless Households all make up between 6.21% to 8.47% of Berks County. Inclusion of these populations is imperative to determine the broader transportation and social needs of disadvantaged populations and ideas of transportation equity.

Table 4

Demographic Indicator	Berks County, Pennsylvania	
	County Population	County Percentage
Total	418,025	
White, Non-Hispanic	299,730	71.70%
Minority	118,295	28.30%
Black or African American, Non-Hispanic	17,728	4.24%
American Indian and Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic	353	0.08%
Asian alone, Non-Hispanic	5,711	1.37%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	50	0.01%
Some other race, Non-Hispanic	603	0.14%
Two or more races, Non-Hispanic	5,936	1.42%
Hispanic	87,914	21.03%
Low-Income Population *out of the 404,844 for whom poverty status is determined	48,573	12.00%*
Other Potentially Disadvantaged Populations		
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) **out of 393,824 Population 5 years and over	29,738	7.55%**
Persons with a Disability	56,526	13.52%
Female Head of Household with Child ***out of 154,696 Occupied Housing Units	9,600	6.21%***
Elderly (65 years or older)	70,728	16.92%
Carless Households ****out of 154,696 Occupied Housing Units	13,096	8.47%****

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles Tables: B03002, DP02, DP04, DP05, S1701

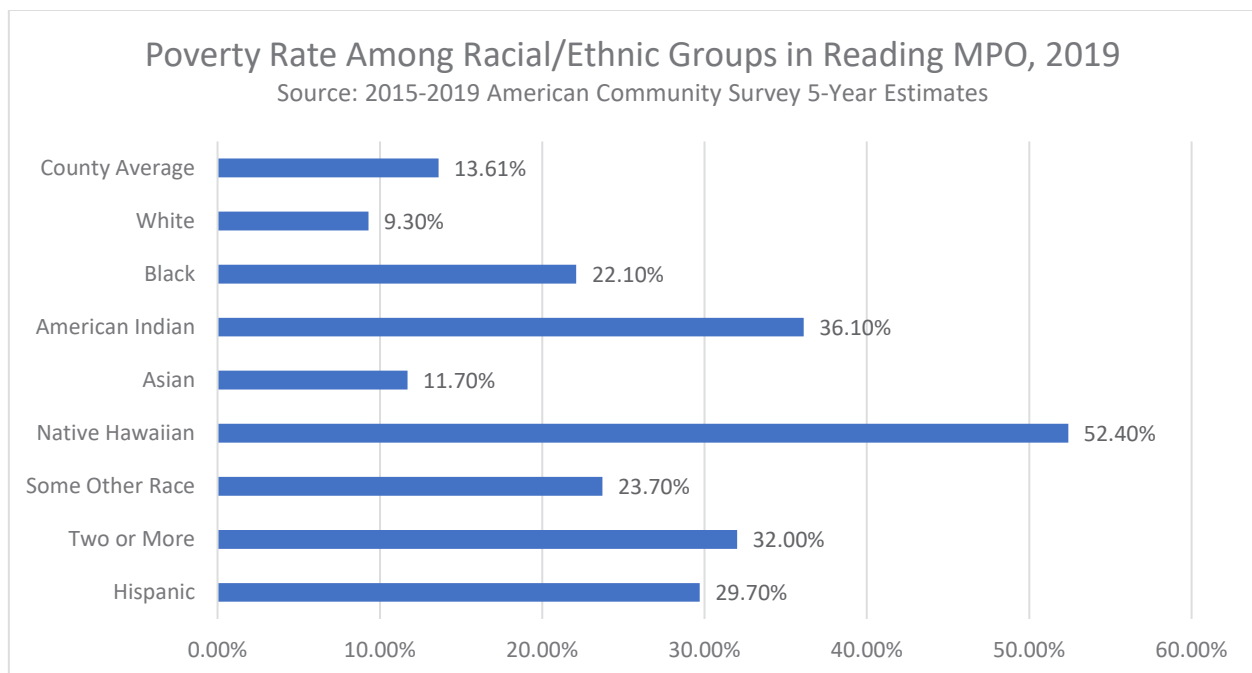
Table 5 identifies the total population by race and the amount of each population that is Low-Income. Using the percentages found in **Figure 1**, while the Native Hawaiian population has the highest poverty percentage, they also however have the lowest total population. On the opposite side of the spectrum, the White population has the highest population and most individuals that are Low-Income, however, the overall poverty percentage only accounts for 9.30%, which is the lowest among the races, and lower than the county average of 13.61%. The only minority population lower than the county Low-Income average is the Asian population with 11.70%. 20%-30% of each the Black, Some Other Race, and Hispanic populations are also categorized as Low-Income. Meanwhile, 30-40% of the American Indian and Two or More Races populations are considered Low-Income.

Table 5

		Berks County, Pennsylvania
White	Total:	334,339
	Low Income:	31,050
Black	Total:	20,941
	Low Income:	4,618
American Indian	Total:	2,409
	Low Income:	870
Asian	Total:	5,674
	Low Income:	663
Native Hawaiian	Total:	63
	Low Income:	33
Some Other Race	Total:	22,977
	Low Income:	5,436
Two or More	Total:	18,441
	Low Income:	5,903
Hispanic	Total:	85,828
	Low Income:	25,502
Total Population		490,672
Total Poverty		74,075

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles Table: S1701

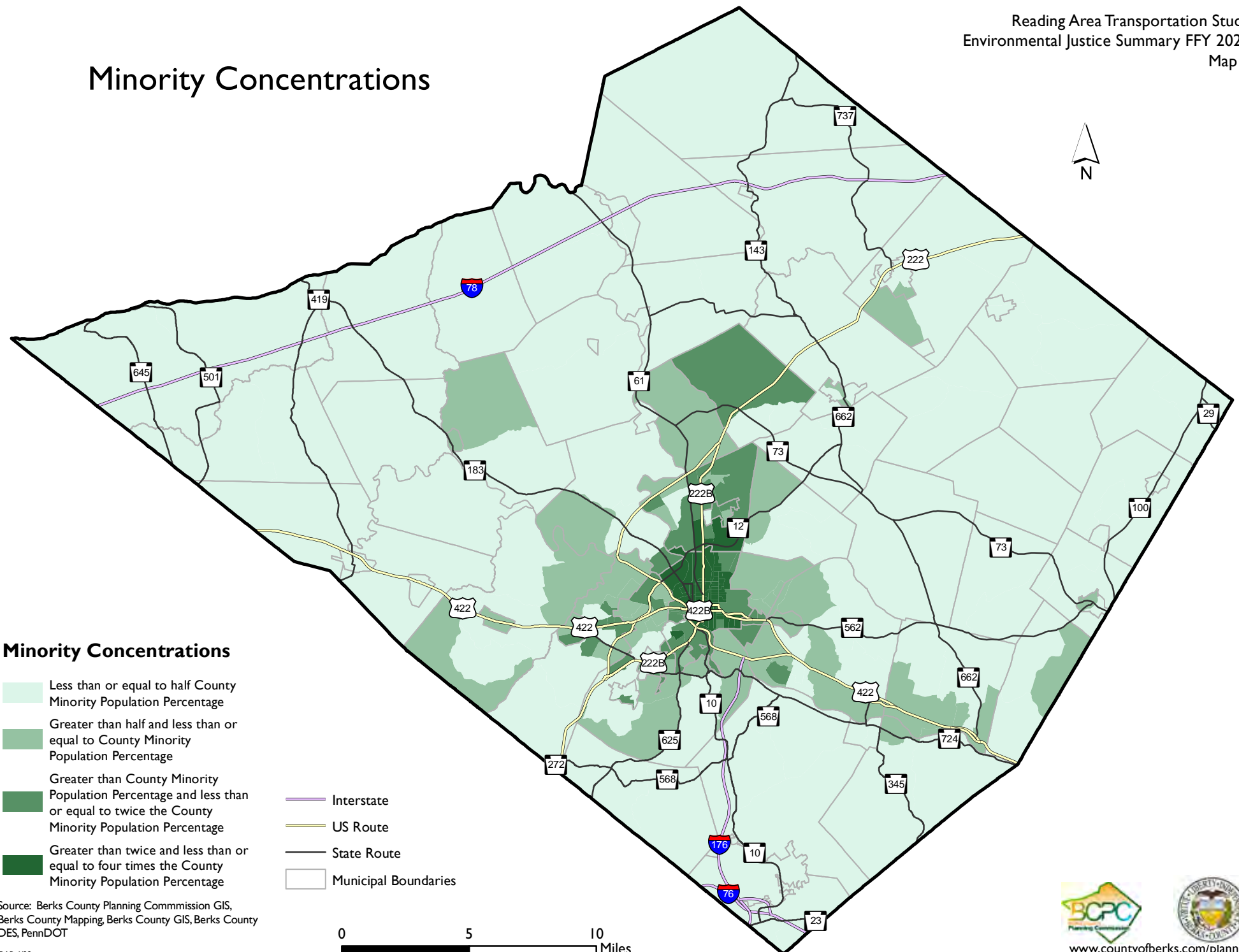
Figure 1



Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles

The Concentrations of Minority Populations in Berks County and the Concentrations of Low-Income Populations in Berks County can be found on **Map 01** and **Map 02** on the following pages.

Minority Concentrations

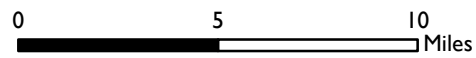


Minority Concentrations

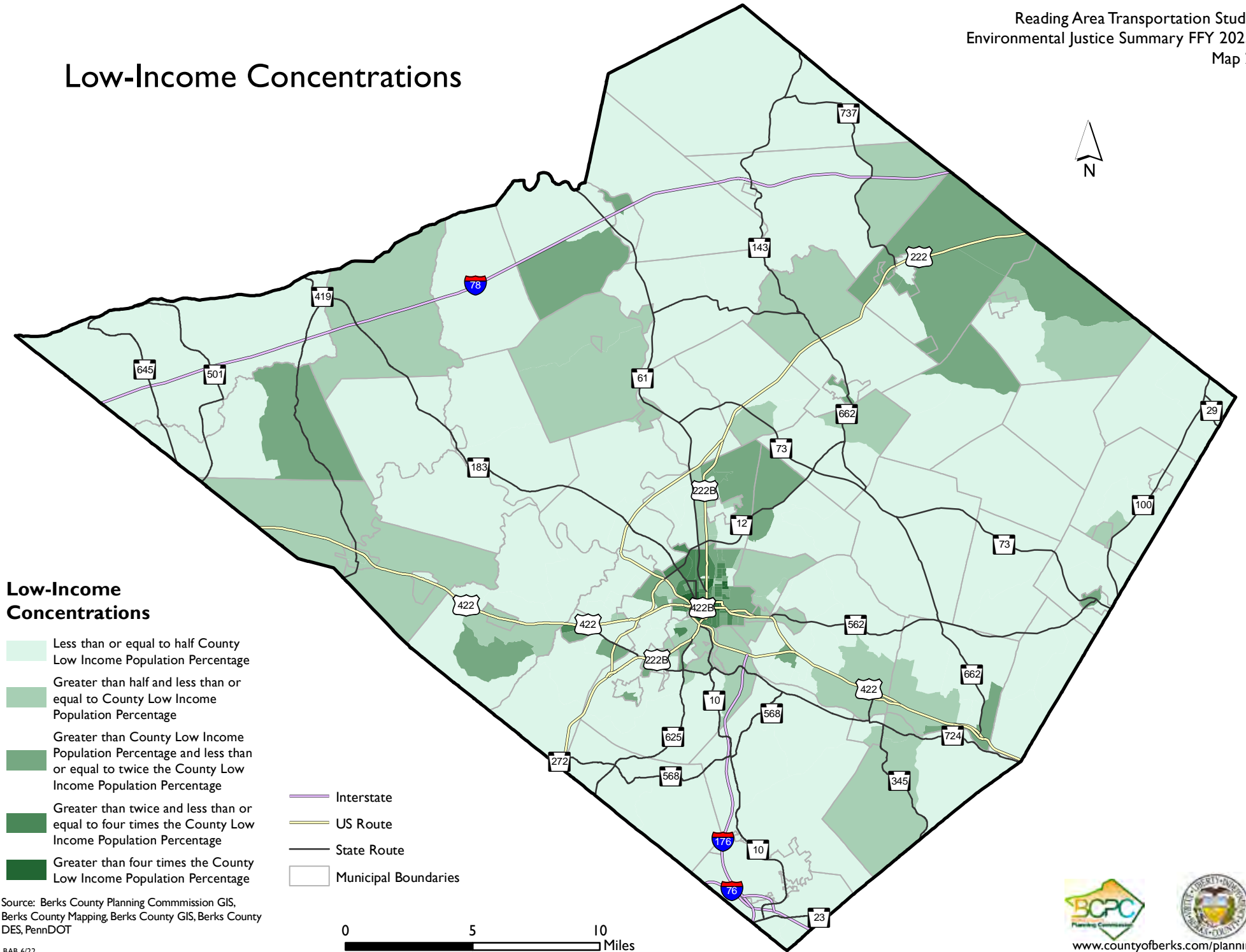
- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations

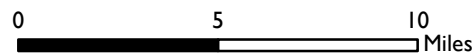


Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



CRASH AND INJURY ANALYSIS OF THE 2023-2026 TIP

Table 6 and Table 7 display the Number and Percentage of Bicycle-related Crashes, Fatalities, and Suspected Serious Injuries in Berks County from 2015-2019. There is a higher percentage for bicycle related crashes amongst the highest concentrations of Minority populations at 41% compared to a range of 9.1% to 28.4% amongst intervals with a lower concentration of Minority populations. The concentrations of incidents are centered around areas where non-motorized transportation use is more prevalent. Cities typically have a higher proportion of users traveling by means of non-motorized transportation, thus the City of Reading has the highest concentrations of incidents. However, the number of fatalities and suspected serious injuries in the highest concentrations of Minority populations are lower or equal to the other Minority Intervals.

When looking at Low-Income intervals, the number of bicycle related crashes are more evenly distributed with the highest Low-Income interval being towards the lower end of these types of crashes. It can be noted that the number of fatalities and suspected serious injuries are also lower or equal to the other Low-Income Intervals, which mirrors what is seen within the Minority Intervals. This indicates a higher proportion of bicycle crashes are occurring in areas that utilize non-motorized transportation more than interval areas with lesser concentrations of Minority or Low-Income populations. However, there are also fewer Bicycle-related fatalities and suspected serious injuries in these areas that utilize non-motorized transportation. The risk of fatality and suspected serious injury to these vulnerable road users is closely tied to speed limits. The average chance of an adult pedestrian being seriously injured or killed when hit by a vehicle traveling 30MPH or less is only 10%. As the vehicle speed increases over 30MPH, the risk of serious injury and fatality increases sharply and significantly to the vulnerable road user.

Table 6
Number and Percentage of Bicycle Related Crashes, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
# of People on Bicycles Involved	50 (28.4%)	16 (9.1%)	38 (21.6%)	72 (41.0%)
# of Fatalities	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
# of Suspected Serious Injuries	5 (45.5%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 7
Number and Percentage of Bicycle Related Crashes, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
# of People on Bicycles Involved	48 (21.6%)	33 (14.9%)	51 (23.0%)	56 (25.2%)	34 (15.3%)
# of Fatalities	2 (100.0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
# of Suspected Serious Injuries	3 (20.0%)	7 (46.7%)	2 (13.3%)	2 (13.3%)	1 (6.7%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 8 and Table 9 display the Number and Percentage of Pedestrian-related Crashes, Fatalities, and Suspected Serious Injuries in Berks County from 2015-2019. The locations of pedestrian crashes like the locations of bicycle crashes are primarily concentrated in urbanized areas. These are also the areas that have higher Minority and Low-Income populations. Additionally, areas with sidewalks such as boroughs also have a higher amount of pedestrian crashes than bicycle crashes. Although there are many more pedestrian related crashes in areas greater than the county average for Minority and Low-Income populations, there are only slightly more fatalities and suspected serious injuries in these areas. Minority Intervals 1 and 2, which are below the county average for Minority populations, have only 25% of pedestrian crashes, but have 45.8% of pedestrian fatalities and 48% of pedestrian suspected serious injuries in Berks County. Similarly, Low-Income Intervals 1 and 2, which are below the county average for Low-Income populations, account for only 25.9% of pedestrian crashes, however, account for 48.3% of pedestrian fatalities and 44.5% of pedestrian suspected serious injuries in Berks County. As mentioned in the analysis of **Table 4 and Table 5**, this is attributed to the lower speeds found in these areas significantly decreasing the risk of fatality and suspected serious injury.

Table 8

Number and Percentage of Pedestrian Related Crashes, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
# of Pedestrian Crashes	121 (14.3%)	90 (10.7%)	194 (23.0%)	440 (52.1%)
# of Fatalities	6 (25.0%)	5 (20.8%)	6 (25.0%)	7 (29.2%)
# of Suspected Serious Injuries	27 (27.6%)	20 (20.4%)	20 (20.4%)	31 (31.6%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 9

Number and Percentage of Pedestrian Related Crashes, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
# of Pedestrian Crashes	161 (14.9%)	119 (11.0%)	283 (26.1%)	325 (30.0%)	196 (18.1%)
# of Fatalities	8 (27.6%)	6 (20.7%)	9 (31.0%)	2 (6.9%)	4 (13.8%)
# of Suspected Serious Injuries	26 (24.1%)	22 (20.4%)	28 (25.9%)	21 (19.4%)	11 (10.2%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Within the 2023-2026 TIP, there are a few locations where bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements are taken into consideration within higher concentrated areas of Low-Income and Minority populations such as construction of a new roadway in the City of Reading (PennDOT Project Id: 70274) and intersection improvements through Maiden Creek Township (PennDOT Project Id: 92414) as well as in the design and ultimate construction of the US 422 West Shore Bypass Reconstruction project (PennDOT Project Id: 114439). Additionally, each highway and bridge project is reviewed for bicycle and pedestrian use and improvements, which are included in those projects as appropriate. Throughout the development of the 2025-2028 TIP, more emphasis will be made to reduce the amount of bicycle and pedestrian accidents and fatalities through identifying areas where bike and pedestrian safety improvements can be made in areas of higher concentrations of Low-Income and Minority populations. A resource that will be used to make these determinations is the newly updated Berks County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan which was adopted over the Summer of 2020.

Table 10 and Table 11 display the number and percentage of Total Reportable Crashes, Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes, Crash Suspected Serious Injuries, and Crash Fatalities in Berks County from 2015-2019. Within the Minority populations block group intervals, the majority of total reportable crashes (44.5%), persons involved in reportable crashes (41.0%), crashes resulting in fatality (60.8%), and crash suspected serious injury (60.8%) occurred in block groups with less than the County average of Minority population. Similarly, the majority of fatality (52.7%) and suspected serious injury (48.1%) crashes occurred in Low-Income block groups less than half of the county average. This information shows that there is not a disproportionate amount of injury and fatal crashes occurring in block groups with a higher population of low-income and minority populations. This could be attributed to the lower speed limits found where these populations are concentrated, as the City of Reading has speed limits posted below 35MPH on a majority of its roads. Lower speed limits, like those posted on the roads in the City of Reading, lessen the force of impact, which in turn lessens the chance of a crash being fatal or causing serious injury. Across the state of Pennsylvania fatality rates are twice the amount on rural roads as compared to urban roads.

Table 10

Number and Percentage of Total Reportable Crashes, Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes, Crash Suspected Serious Injuries & Crash Fatalities, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
# of Total Reportable Crashes	12,649 (44.5%)	6,347 (22.3%)	4,843 (17.0%)	4,591 (16.1%)
# of Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes	26,457 (41.0%)	14,575 (22.6%)	12,295 (19.0%)	11,242 (17.4%)
# of Crash Fatalities	149 (60.8%)	43 (17.6%)	33 (13.5%)	20 (8.2%)
# of Crash Suspected Serious Injuries	459 (51.9%)	157 (17.8%)	122 (13.8%)	146 (16.5%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 11

Number and Percentage of Total Reportable Crashes, Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes, Crash Suspected Serious Injuries & Crash Fatalities, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
# of Total Reportable Crashes	13,725 (43.5%)	6,779 (21.5%)	6,438 (20.4%)	3,008 (9.5%)	1,602 (5.1%)
# of Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes	30,448 (42.0%)	15,319 (21.1%)	15,480 (21.3%)	7,240 (10.0%)	4,034 (5.6%)
# of Crash Fatalities	137 (52.7%)	66 (25.4%)	37 (14.2%)	12 (4.6%)	8 (3.1%)
# of Crash Suspected Serious Injuries	468 (48.1%)	191 (19.7%)	171 (17.6%)	99 (10.2%)	43 (4.4%)

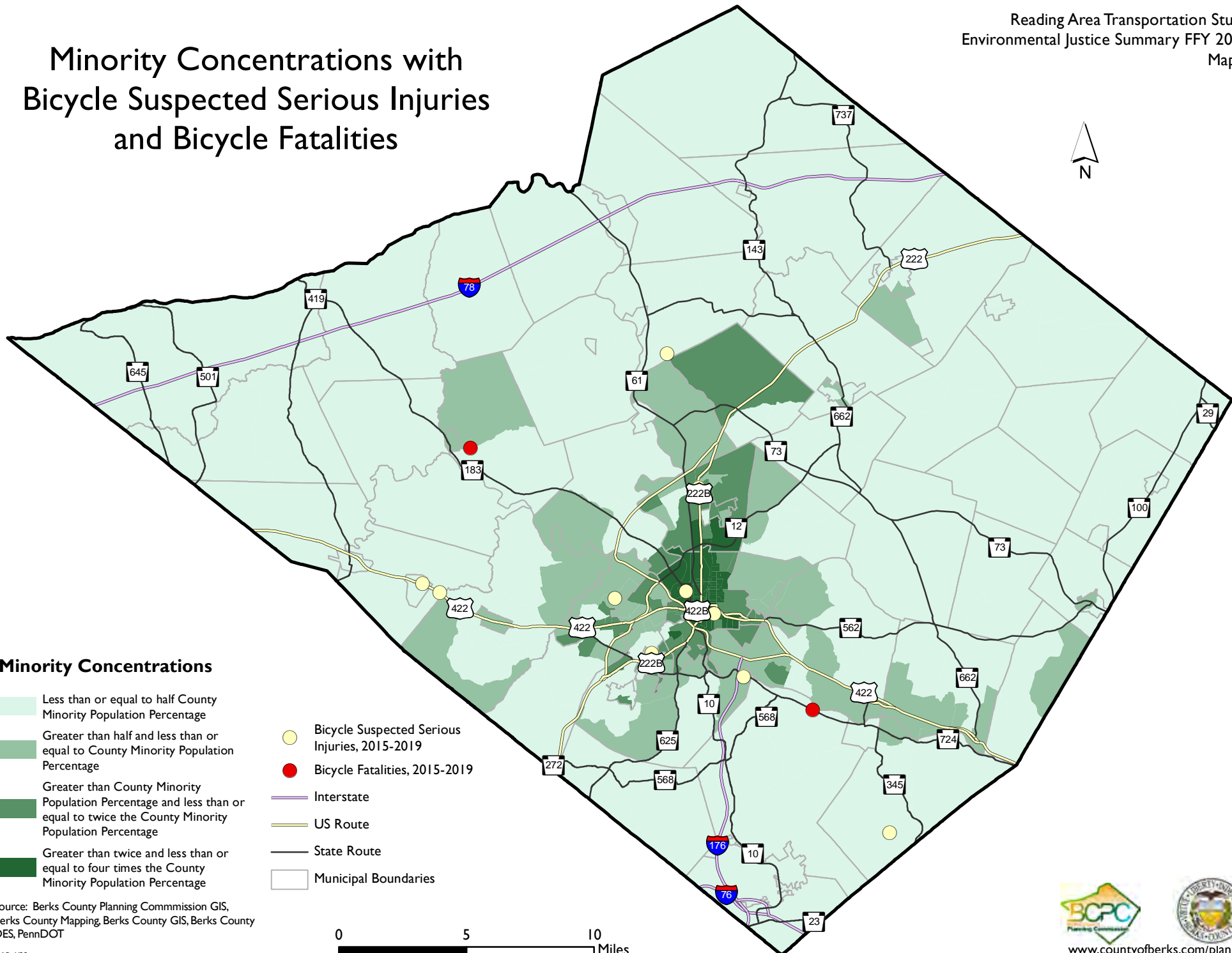
Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Maps 03 and 04 give a visual representation of locations of Bicycle Crashes with Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities for 2015-2019 in relation to Minority and Low-Income populations in Berks County.

Maps 05 and 06 show the locations of Pedestrian Crashes and with Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities from 2015-2019 in Berks County amongst concentrations of Minority and Low-Income Populations.

Maps 07 and 08 show the locations of Reportable Crashes with Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities from 2015-2019 in Berks County amongst concentrations of Minority and Low-Income Populations. Many of the reportable crashes with suspected serious injury or fatality that occur in block groups with a higher population of low-income and minority populations are occurring on highways that transect these areas.

Minority Concentrations with Bicycle Suspected Serious Injuries and Bicycle Fatalities

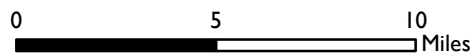


Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

- Bicycle Suspected Serious Injuries, 2015-2019
- Bicycle Fatalities, 2015-2019
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations with Bicycle Suspected Serious Injuries and Bicycle Fatalities

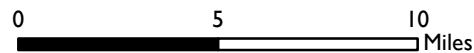


Low-Income Concentrations

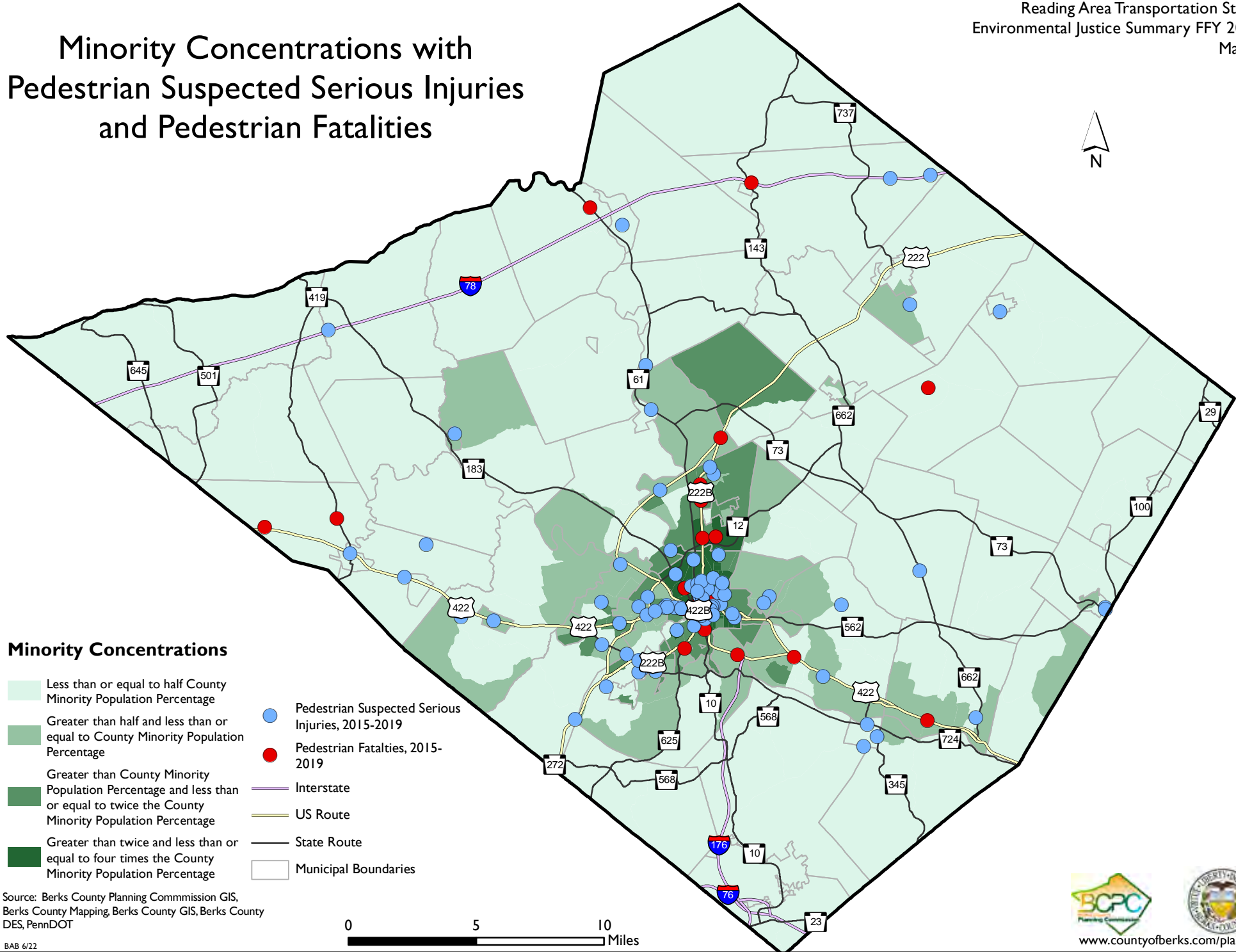
- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

- Bicycle Suspected Serious Injuries, 2015-2019
- Bicycle Fatalities, 2015-2019
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT

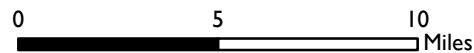


Minority Concentrations with Pedestrian Suspected Serious Injuries and Pedestrian Fatalities

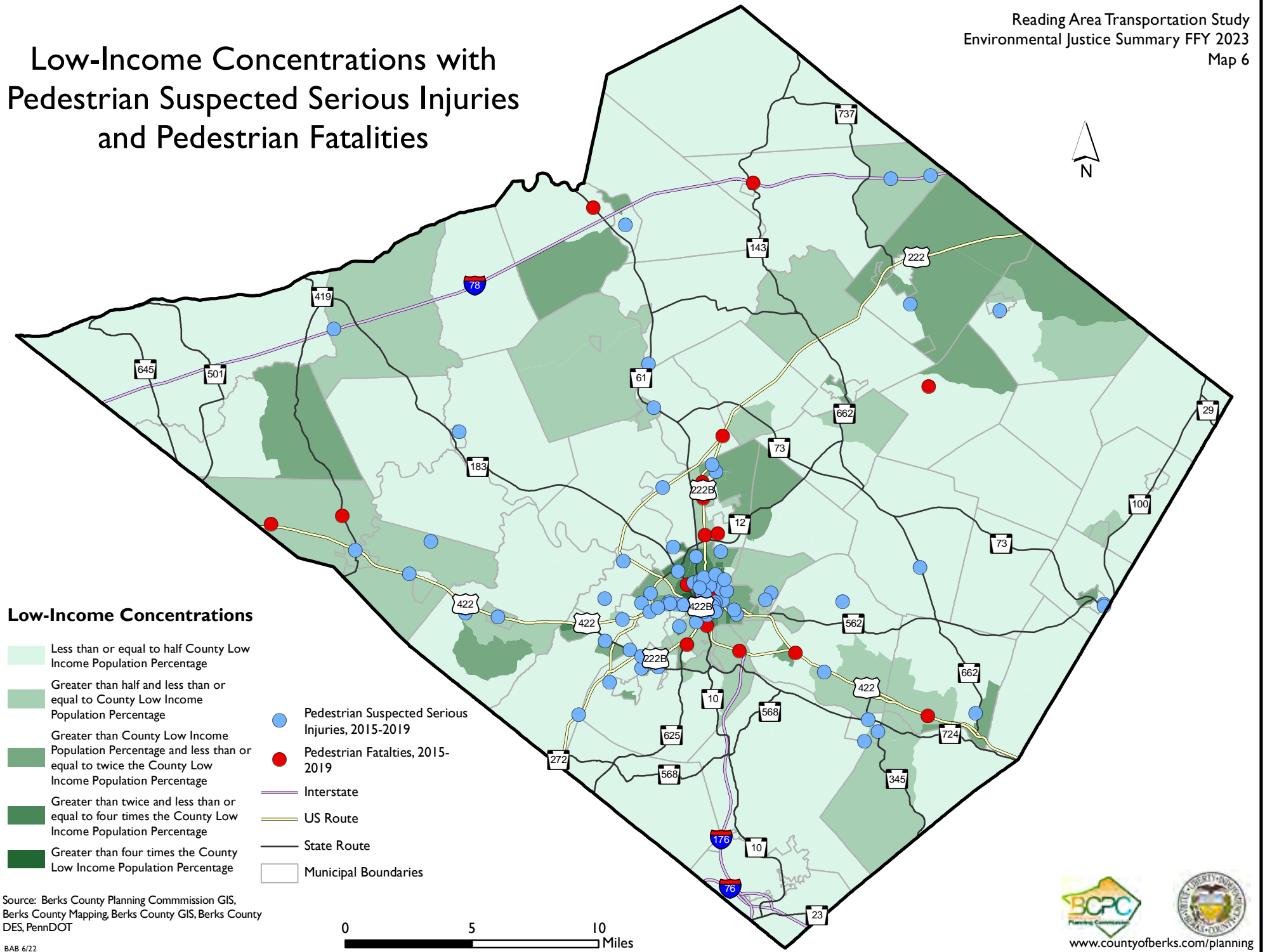


Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT

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Low-Income Concentrations with Pedestrian Suspected Serious Injuries and Pedestrian Fatalities



Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Minority Concentrations with Crash Suspected Serious Injuries and Crash Fatalities



Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

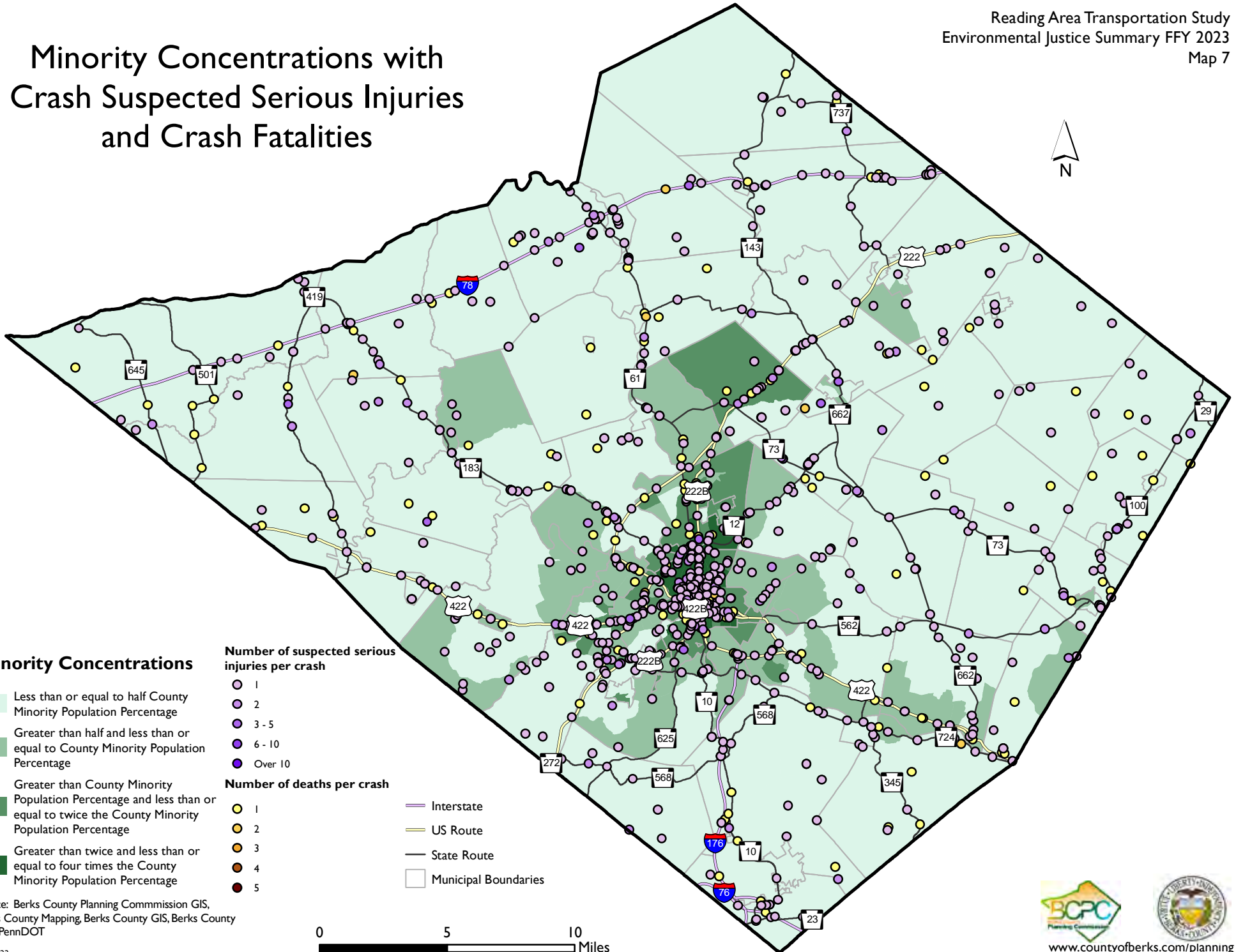
Number of suspected serious injuries per crash

- 1
- 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 10
- Over 10

Number of deaths per crash

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

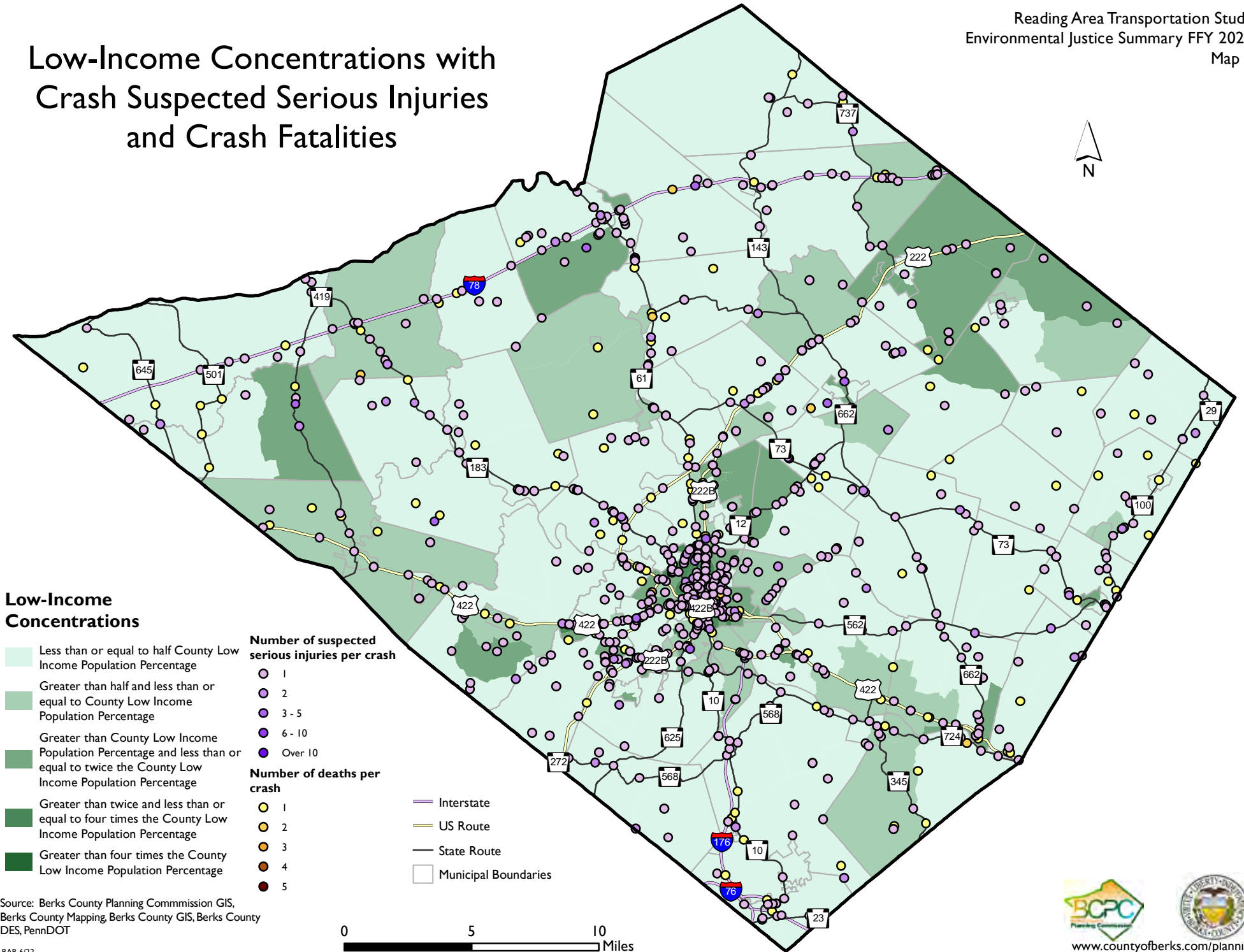
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries



Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations with Crash Suspected Serious Injuries and Crash Fatalities



Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

Number of suspected serious injuries per crash

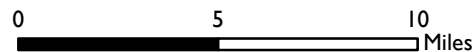
- 1
- 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 10
- Over 10

Number of deaths per crash

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Bridge and Pavement Conditions Analysis of the 2023-2026 TIP

Table 12 identifies the percentage of State Owned and Locally Owned Poor Condition or Worse Bridges and Fair Condition or Better Bridges amongst concentrations of Minority and Low-Income populations within Berks County.

Table 12

Number and Percentage of Poor Condition or Worse Bridges and Fair Condition or Better Bridges, Berks County, PA

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
# of Poor Condition or Worse Bridges	104 (72.7%)	26 (18.2%)	8 (5.6%)	5 (3.5%)
# of Fair Condition or Better Bridges	959 (61.4%)	356 (22.8%)	169 (10.8%)	78 (5.0%)
Total Bridges	1,063 (62.4%)	382 (22.4%)	177 (10.4%)	83 (4.87%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 13

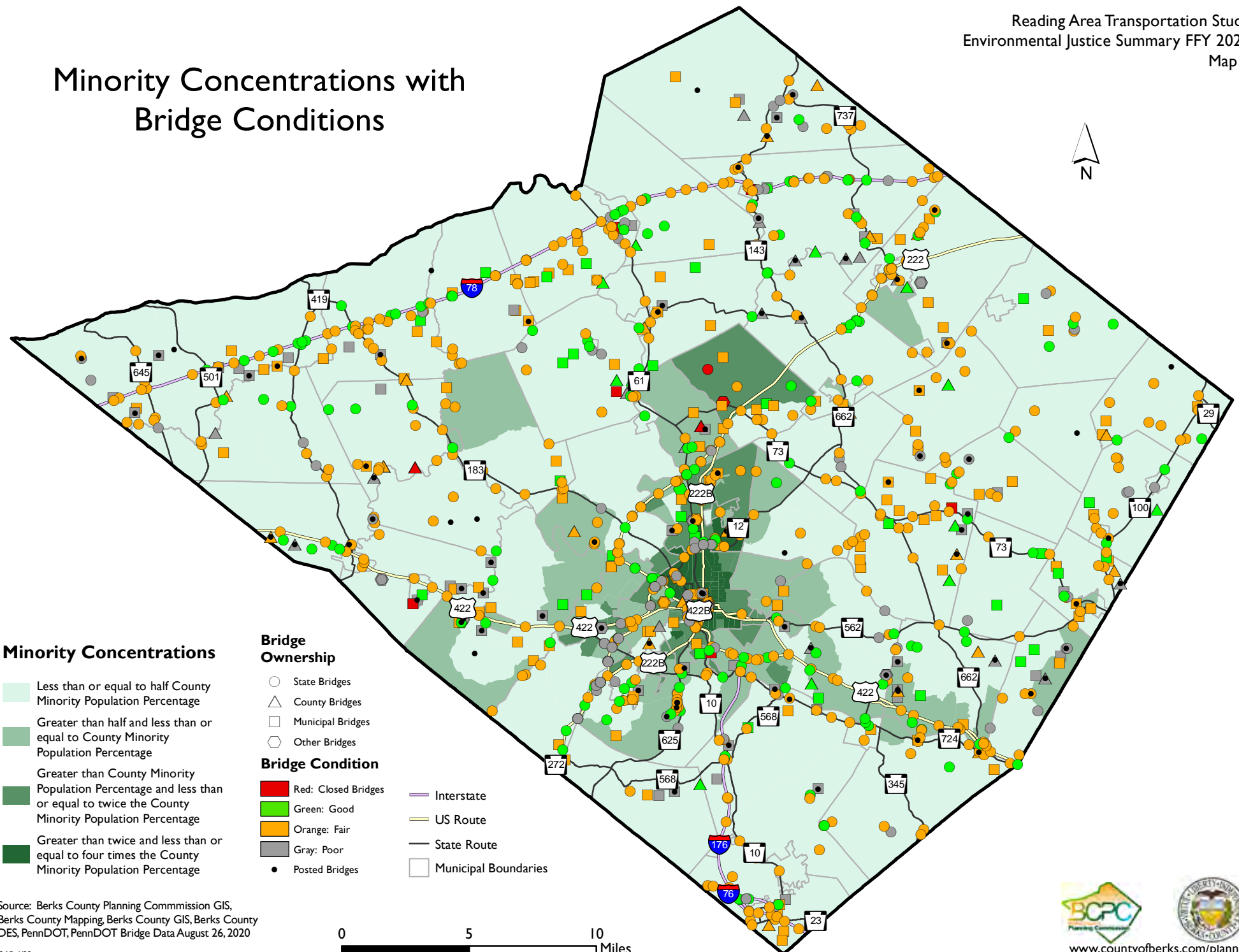
Number and Percentage of Poor Condition or Worse Bridges and Fair Condition or Better Bridges, Berks County, PA

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
# of Poor Condition or Worse Bridges	91 (64.1%)	37 (26.1%)	8 (5.6%)	4 (2.8%)	2 (1.4%)
# of Fair Condition or Better Bridges	913 (78.6%)	385 (23.9%)	265 (16.4%)	34 (2.1%)	14 (0.9%)
Total Bridges	1,004 (57.3%)	422 (24.1%)	273 (15.6%)	38 (2.2%)	16 (0.9%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 12 and Table 13 show there is not a disproportionate amount of Poor condition bridges in areas with high concentrations of Minority and Low-Income populations. Instead, a higher number of Poor condition or worse bridges are found in the block groups where Minority and Low-Income populations are below the county average with 130 and 128 bridges respectively in Poor condition or worse. The block groups with higher concentrations of Minority and Low-Income populations account for 13 and 14 bridges respectively in Poor condition or worse. Throughout Berks County, bridges included in the TIP and LRTP are selected based on the recommended treatments needed at this time based on a lowest life cycle cost approach to project programming.

Minority Concentrations with Bridge Conditions



Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

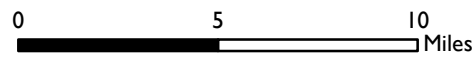
Bridge Ownership

- State Bridges
- County Bridges
- Municipal Bridges
- Other Bridges

Bridge Condition

- Red: Closed Bridges
- Green: Good
- Orange: Fair
- Gray: Poor
- Posted Bridges

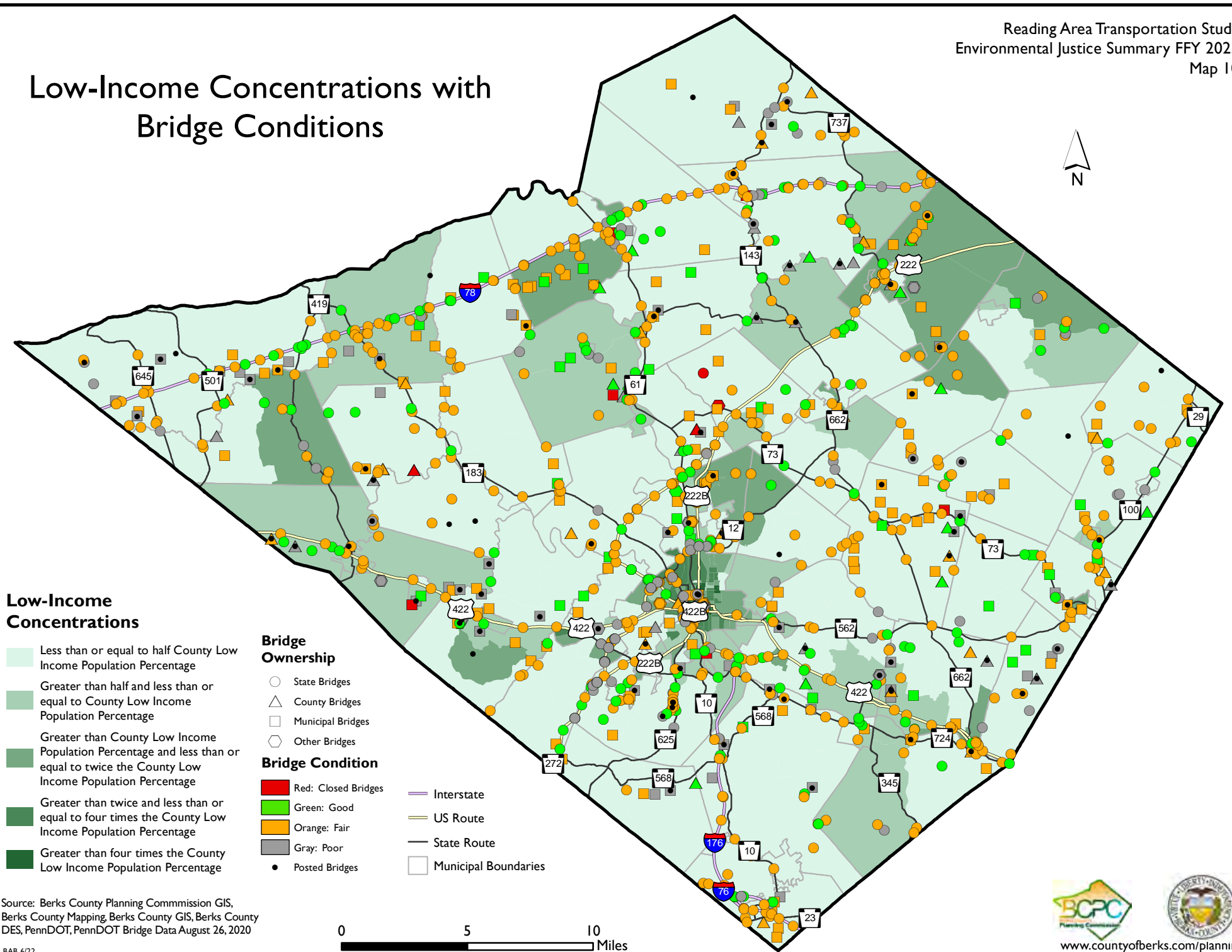
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries



Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT, PennDOT Bridge Data August 26, 2020



Low-Income Concentrations with Bridge Conditions



Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

Bridge Ownership

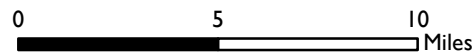
- State Bridges
- County Bridges
- Municipal Bridges
- Other Bridges

Bridge Condition

- Red: Closed Bridges
- Green: Good
- Orange: Fair
- Gray: Poor
- Posted Bridges

- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT, PennDOT Bridge Data August 26, 2020



Environmental Justice

Maps 09 and 10 display the locations of all Locally-owned and State-owned bridges in Poor Condition or Worse and Fair Condition or Better in relation to Minority and Low-Income populations.

Table 14 shows the distribution of Federal Aid Segment Miles and condition of pavement miles amongst the Minority Populations. **Table 15** shows the distribution of Federal Aid Segment Miles and condition of pavement miles amongst the Low-Income Populations.

Table 14

Number and Percentage of Condition of Federal Aid Segment Miles, Berks County, PA

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
Excellent IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	84.37 (28.0%)	13.57 (12.2%)	3.46 (6.4%)	1.14 (6.2%)
Good IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	129.93 (43.1%)	52.20 (47.1%)	24.42 (44.9%)	7.63 (41.8%)
Fair IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	61.78 (20.5%)	36.01 (32.5%)	18.08 (33.3%)	4.73 (25.9%)
Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	20.28 (6.7%)	9.15 (8.3%)	8.40 (15.5%)	4.57 (25.0%)
Other IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	5.36 (1.8%)	0.00 (0.0%)	0.00 (0.0%)	0.20 (1.1%)
Total Federal Aid Segment Miles	301.72	110.94	54.36	18.27

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 15

Number and Percentage of Condition of Federal Aid Segment Miles, Berks County, PA

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
Excellent IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	69.69 (24.0%)	33.84 (24.0%)	7.82 (10.5%)	0.46 (2.4%)	1.14 (11.0%)
Good IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	133.70 (46.0%)	57.35 (40.7%)	26.63 (35.9%)	6.59 (33.9%)	3.67 (35.4%)
Fair IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	60.34 (20.8%)	38.77 (27.5%)	27.74 (37.4%)	7.37 (37.9%)	1.44 (13.9%)
Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	21.36 (7.4%)	11.06 (7.8%)	11.76 (15.9%)	4.85 (24.9%)	3.91 (37.8%)
Other IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	5.36 (1.9%)	0.06 (0.0%)	0.20 (0.3%)	0.20 (1.0%)	0.20 (1.9%)
Total Federal Aid Segment Miles	290.46	141.09	74.14	19.47	10.36

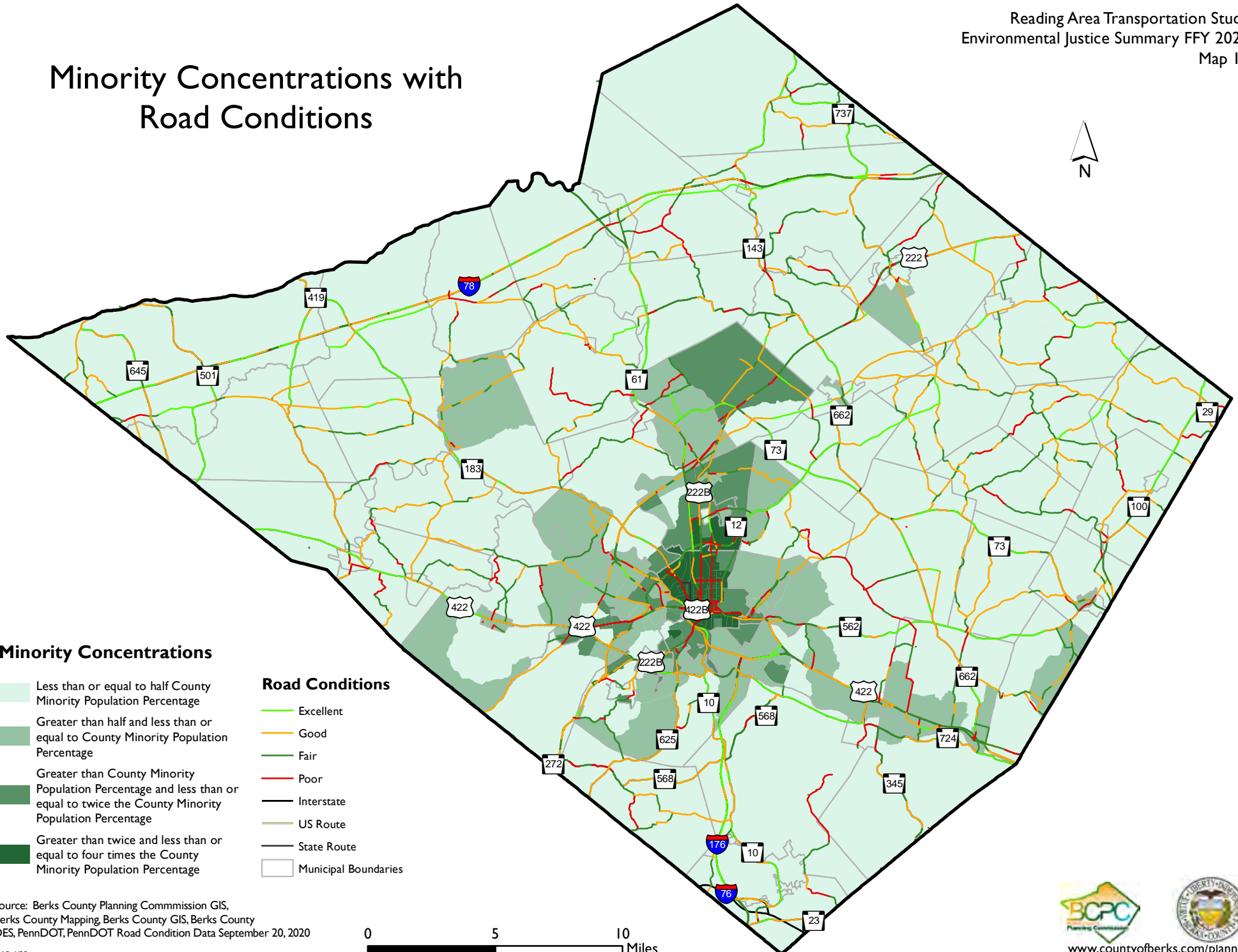
Source: American Community Survey 2017: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2019

To fully analyze the information provided in **Tables 14 and 15**, as well as **Maps 11 and 12** on the following pages, one must understand the usage of International Roughness Index (IRI) as a unit of measure for pavement conditions. The IRI is a statistic used to measure how smooth or rough a pavement surface. The IRI is separated into four categories, which are Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor where Excellent IRI is in the best condition and Poor IRI is in the worst condition. The total number of Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor Federal Aid Segment Miles differ between tables due to the buffer used to create the Minority and Low-Income Intervals. However, after breaking down the numbers approximate totals for each category can be provided with 108 Excellent Federal Aid Segment Miles, 221 Good Federal Aid Segment Miles, 128 Fair Federal Aid Segment Miles, and 48 Poor Federal Aid Segment Miles. The way **Tables 14 and 15** are analyzed is by comparing the percentages by interval for each condition.

Intervals 1 and 2 for Minority Populations are less than the county average while Intervals 3 and 4 are above the county average for Minority Population. Block Groups with less than the county average of Minority Population have a total of 412.66 Federal Aid Segment Miles block groups with higher than the county average of Minority Population add up to a total of 72.63 Federal Aid Segment Miles, which is only one fifth to one sixth of the total Federal Aid Segment Miles of Intervals 1 and 2. This should be considered when seeing high percentages next to low numbers. For all Minority Intervals, the highest percent of Federal Aid Segment Miles are in Good condition. When considering each Minority Interval separately, the distribution for Interval 1 and 2 shows mainly Excellent and Good IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles, the distribution for Interval 3 and 4 shows that Excellent and Good IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles are nearly equal to the Fair and Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles. To have a more equal percentage of IRI condition of Federal Aid Segment Miles within each interval, the consideration of resurfacing/repaving projects to Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles should be focused in small amounts in the areas with a higher than county average of Minority Populations. Smaller projects of resurfacing/repaving could add to a more equal distribution within each of these Minority Intervals as they have less total Federal Aid Segment Miles.

Intervals 1 and 2 for Low-Income Population are less than the county average while intervals 3, 4, and 5 are above the county average for Low-Income Population. For block groups with the smallest amount of Low-Income Population, the highest percent of roads have a Good IRI rating. Intervals 3 and 4 have a majority of their Federal Aid Segment Miles with a Fair IRI rating. Interval 5 has the highest Low-Income Population percentage, greater than four times the countywide Low-Income percentage, and also has a majority of Federal Aid Segment Miles with a Poor IRI rating as compared to higher IRI ratings. Although 37.8% of Federal Aid Segment Miles located within Interval 5 have a Poor IRI, this only accounts for 3.91 of the total 535.52 Federal Aid Segment Miles within Berks County. There are also 52.94 Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles, so Interval 5 only has 7.4% of all the Poor IRI segment miles countywide. By focusing resurfacing/repaving projects in the area encompassed by Interval 5, smaller projects would reduce this percentage by a much greater amount than the larger projects that would take place in areas covered by Interval 1 which has a total of 290.46 Federal Aid Segment Miles compared to the 10.36 Federal Aid Segment Miles in Interval 5. This will be considered when adding repaving/resurfacing projects to the TIP.

Minority Concentrations with Road Conditions



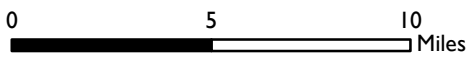
Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

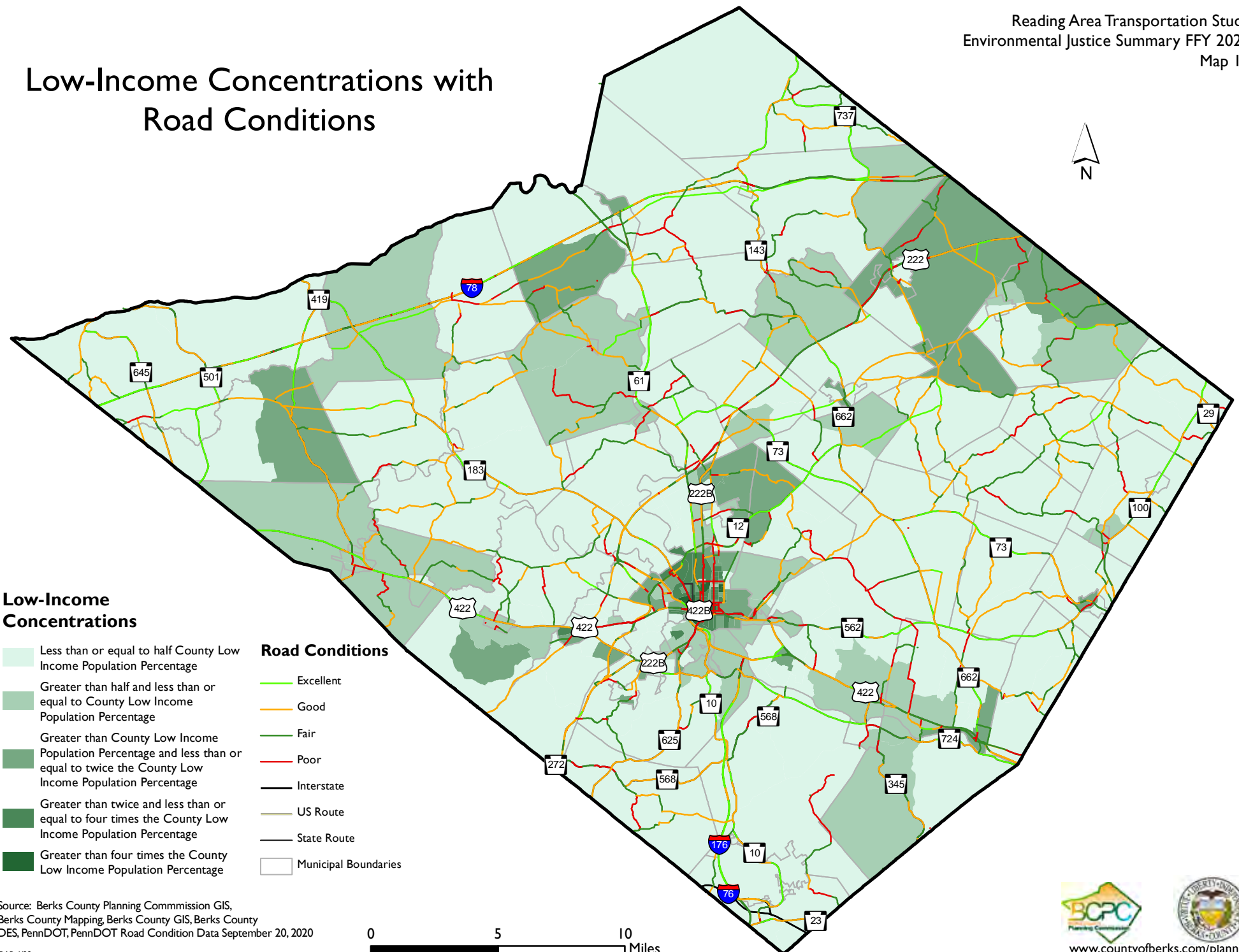
Road Conditions

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT, PennDOT Road Condition Data September 20, 2020



Low-Income Concentrations with Road Conditions



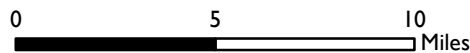
Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

Road Conditions

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT, PennDOT Road Condition Data September 20, 2020



Transit and Environmental Justice

While the 2023-2026 TIP looks to equitably manage where and how funds are spent relative to the population, one factor often overlooked is the impact of the access to public transportation within a geographic area. The transit system is primarily provided by the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA), which oversees the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA), that serves Berks County.

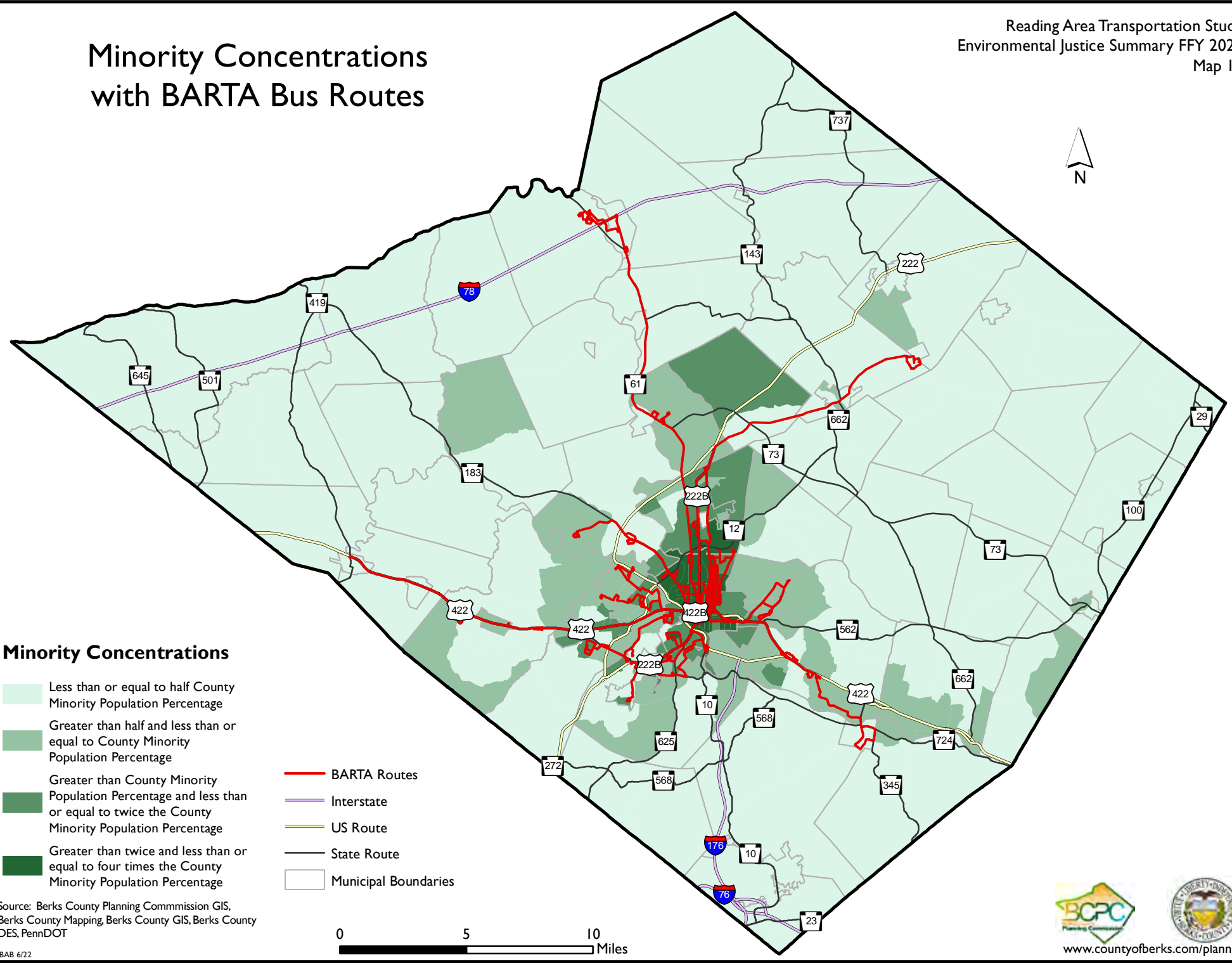
Transit projects are generated by the operating agency - the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) and include both fixed route and Special Services to provide transportation services to individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low-incomes. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that federally funded public transportation operators must accommodate passengers who live within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of a fixed bus route but are physically unable to access the service. To provide this accommodation, most public transportation providers use a paratransit service to provide eligible passengers service from their origin to their destination. The Special Services program is used to address that mandate.

The County has looked at potential pedestrian and potential bicyclist transportation needs in the Berks County Bicycle and Transportation Plan 2020 to grow and maintain access to BARTA's Fixed Route System. When considering potential pedestrian transportation needs to access this transit system a buffer of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile is used since the average transit user travels 10 minutes or less to and from their bus stop. When considering potential bicyclist transportation needs to access this transit system the buffer is raised to 2 miles, representing the distance a beginner or average cyclist can travel in 10 minutes. Through spatial analysis of **Maps 13 and 14**, these buffers were taken into consideration to determine whether a block group has access to the BARTA Fixed Route System or not.

Maps 13 and 14 display the proximity of residents to the transit system, especially concerning access for Minority and Low-Income populations. The population is broken into block groups identified by Minority and Low-Income populations in the following maps. **Map 13** shows that a majority of the block groups with Minority populations above the county average are along BARTA routes. Only two of these block groups do not have a BARTA route adjacent or running through their respective geographic area and are further than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the route, which limits pedestrian access. However, these block groups are within 2 miles of the BARTA Fixed Route System, which would allow for bicyclist access. **Map 14** shows that the Low-Income groups centrally located around the City of Reading are serviced by BARTA routes, however, six of the outlying block groups of with Low-Income populations above the county average are not along or within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the BARTA Fixed Route System. Five out of these six block groups are also more than 2 miles from these transit routes leaving residents without BARTA fixed route service even if accessed via bicycle.

In order to best facilitate the needs of all residents to access the public transportation system, regardless of type of bus including fixed route service, paratransit service, or express route service, coordination should continue to occur between Reading MPO and SCTA to make sure all avenues are being explored to improve accessibility.

Minority Concentrations with BARTA Bus Routes

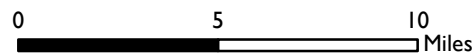


Minority Concentrations

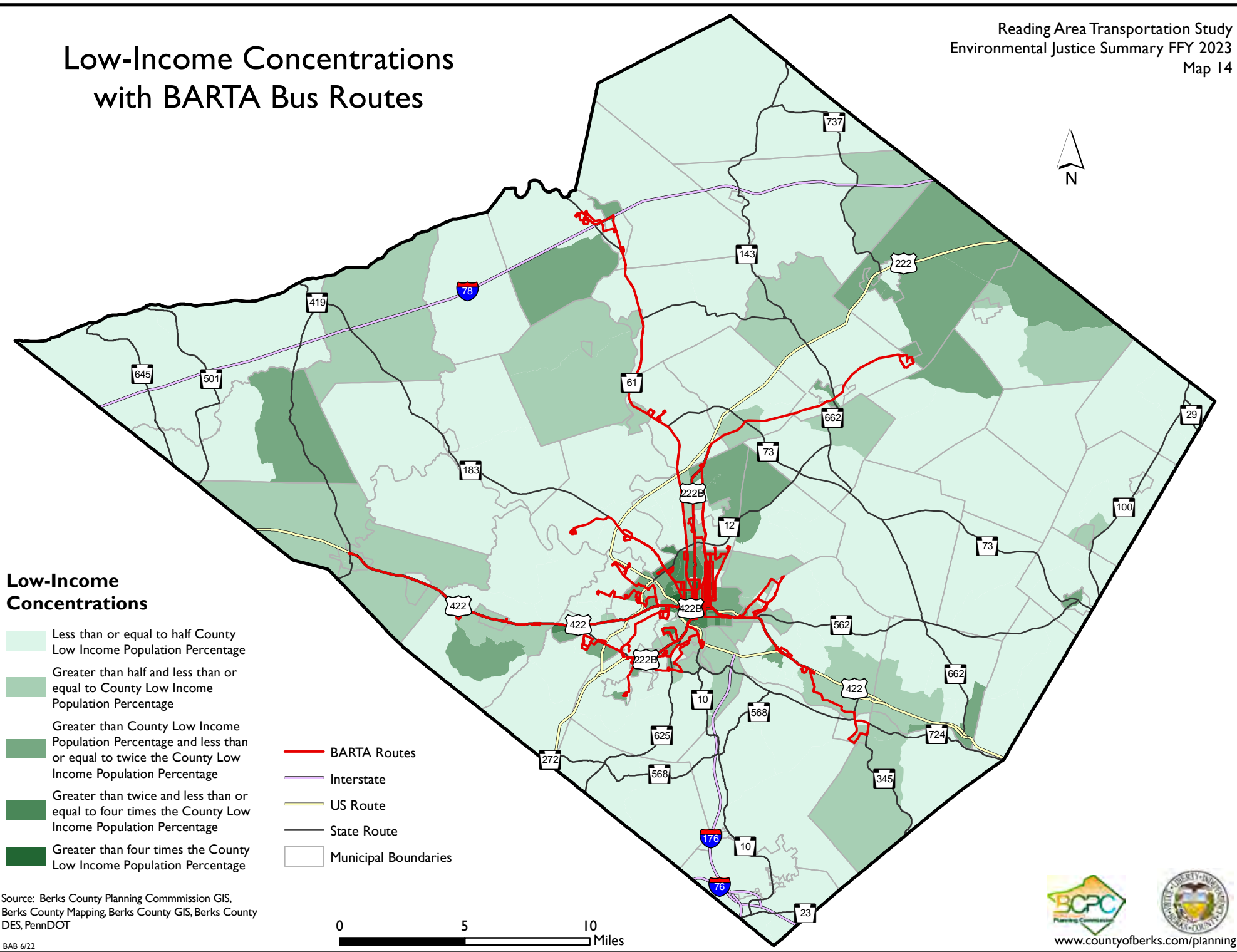
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- BARTA Routes
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations with BARTA Bus Routes

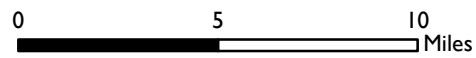


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Types of Projects and Distribution

The 2023-2026 Highway and Bridge TIP totals \$241,352,000, while the Interstate TIP totals \$75,801,000 adding up to \$317,153,000. The projects include roadway and bridge, studies, bike and pedestrian, intermodal, as well as Interstate. Transit projects totaling \$61,891,000 are also proposed and are dedicated to maintaining the current operating system, as well as improving the local BARTA bus fleet through the SCTA Transit Asset Management Program and Capital Budget. The following chart gives a breakdown of the total cost of each project mode, the percent of the total cost and the total per capita cost.

Table 16

Project Mode	All Projects		
	Total Cost	Percent of Total Cost	Total Per Capita Cost
Bike/Ped	\$2,317,000	.6%	\$5.54
Bridge	\$84,926,000	22.4%	\$203.16
Intermodal/CMAQ/ Transit	\$86,954,000	22.9%	\$208.01
Interstate	\$75,801,000	20.0%	\$181.33
Roadway	\$107,286,000	28.3%	\$256.65
Miscellaneous	\$21,760,000	5.7%	\$52.05
Total	\$379,044,000	100%	\$906.74

Per **Table 16**, each project, including line items, has been grouped into a project mode: Bike/Ped, Bridge, Intermodal/CMAQ/Transit, Interstate, Roadway, and Miscellaneous. Within the Intermodal category, projects such as transit improvement and CMAQ line items have been grouped to give us a projected total of \$86,954,000. Furthermore, the Interstate maintenance program funding totals only come from the Interstate TIP, not the Highway & Bridge TIP and involve three (3) projects all associated with the I-78 corridor, which touches none of the block groups with Minority populations above the county average and one block group above the county average for Low-Income populations, which can be seen in **Maps 15 and 16**. Additionally, the total cost of the Interstate maintenance program accounts for 20% of the total 2023-2026 TIP allocation. Roadway projects include not only restoration and reconstruction projects, but also intersection improvements, safety improvements, and shoulder upgrades. The Miscellaneous category while \$21,760,000 is for Delivery and Consulting and line items, but no actual project has been associated with this project mode.

Benefits and Burdens

As part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adoption process, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is required to analyze the impact that TIP projects have on the surrounding environments. One aspect of this analysis is evaluating the benefits and burdens a project may have on the socio-economic population surrounding a project area. The benefits that the regional transportation program can bring are access, mobility, safety and environmental quality. The burdens of the program can be a reduction in any of those areas to a community. Many transportation projects require a trade-off between those aspects of the transportation system and the distribution of the benefits and burdens. For example, a project that will decrease congestion in one community may result in a decrease in the environmental quality of another as additional vehicles begin utilizing the improved route. Increased safety may require a trade off in access or mobility, and increased access may bring mobility concerns. Benefits and burdens analysis in respect to environmental justice is done to ensure that the benefits of transportation investment are being shared equally and that the burdens created by new projects are not being allowed by one part of the public over another.

Environmental Justice

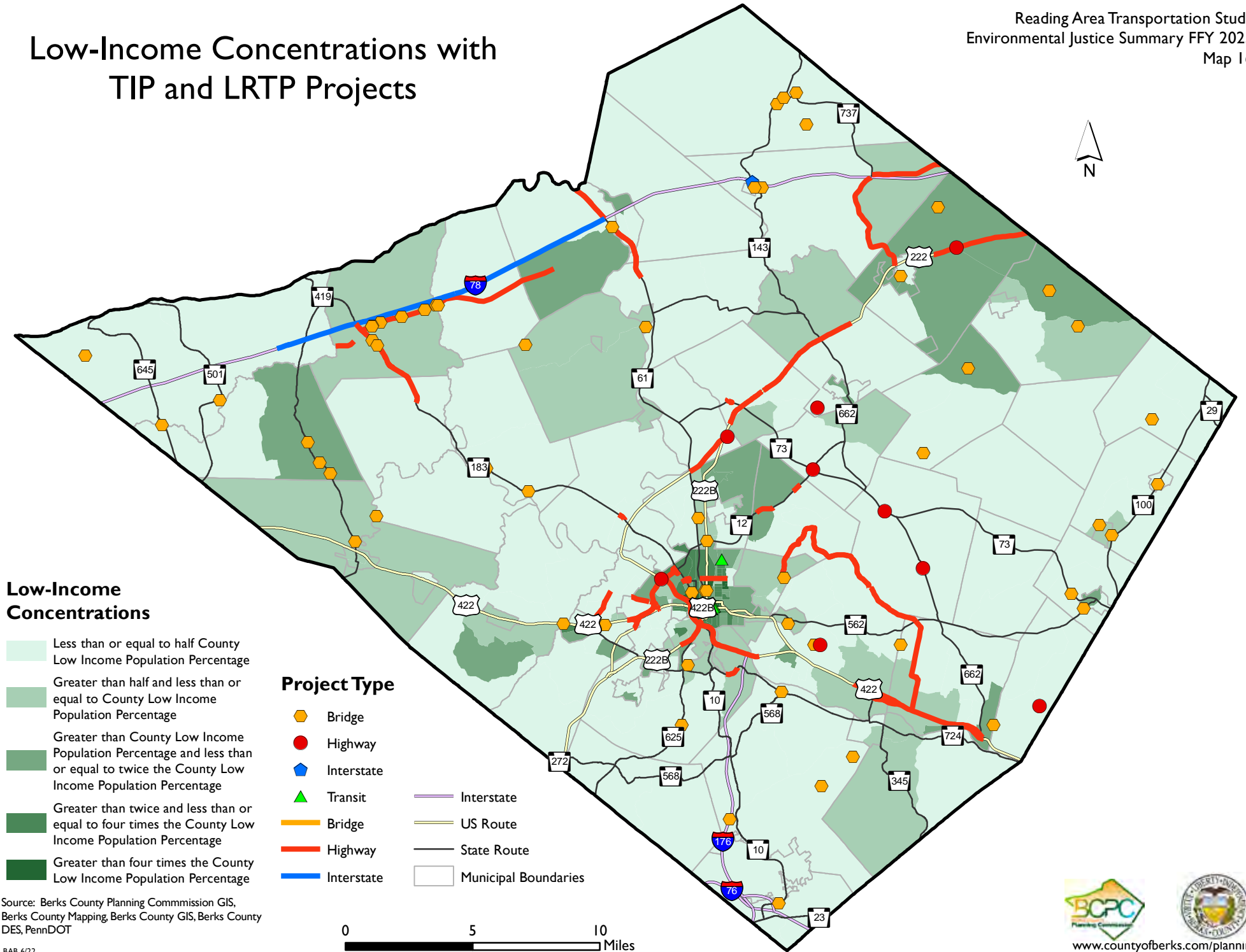
Projects on the FFY 2023 TIP are broken down into several categories including Maintenance, Bridges, Capacity, Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian, and Intermodal. Each type of project has a unique set of impacts and will affect individual populations differently. For example, maintenance projects tend to cause the least amount of impact on the population since they typically involve highway resurfacing or repaving work on existing roadways. Although these projects can cause delayed travel time and transit service, traffic detours, and work zone noise and debris, the projects are typically shorter in duration and result in improvements to the functionality of the roadway network by providing smoother driving surfaces and new roadway markings. While most bridge projects are identified as either a rehabilitation or replacement, both types of projects can lend itself to significant traffic detours, traffic delay, and noise. However, the benefits of these types of improvements result in safer bridge structures, improved roadway conditions, and updated signage.

Capacity projects, which can involve the addition of new lanes to existing roadways, new roadways to the existing network, or at times the realignment of intersections or interchanges, in an effort to provide for more traffic mobility. Special attention needs to be made when planning capacity projects, especially to low-income and minority populations. Not only can these projects result in right-of-way acquisitions to account for the additional capacity, but also construction impacts are normally more severe due to longer construction periods, travel pattern shifts, and delayed travel times among others. The consequences of the completion of capacity projects can involve the loss of property, increased traffic volumes, and decreased air quality, while other benefits can include improved transit service time, decreased travel delay, and safer roadway conditions which will result in improved quality of life for all residents and users of the roadway system.

For the RATS FFY 2023 TIP, the majority of projects will not require right of way acquisition, displace residents or cause burdens on the mobility, access, or environmental health of any community, EJ Sensitive or not. This is due to the majority of candidate projects found within the RATS Highway TIP are programmed to maintain or enhance the existing transportation system.

Maps 15 and 16 display the 2023 TIP Projects and FFY 2023-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Candidates by concentrations of Minority and Low-Income populations. The yellow hexagons denote locations of bridge candidate projects, while the red lines and circles identify highway reconstruction or resurfacing candidate projects. Any candidate projects shown in blue address the Interstate and green triangles denote Transit.

Low-Income Concentrations with TIP and LRTP Projects



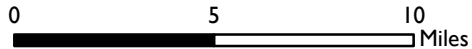
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- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

Project Type

- Bridge
- Highway
- Interstate
- Transit
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Statewide Environmental Justice Analysis Methodology 2023-2026 Pennsylvania Transportation Improvement Program

Prepared by

Scott R Williams

Transportation Planning Supervisor

Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development

Williamsport Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (WATS MPO)

Step 1

Data collection

This analysis was conducted completely on “fresh” data acquired from the below identified sources in April 2021.

Topic	Data Set	Table
Census Block Group Boundaries	US Census Bureau, 2019 State Level Geodatabase for Pennsylvania	
Census County Boundaries	US Census Bureau, 2019 State Level Geodatabase for Pennsylvania	
Race	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	B03002 Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race
Minority	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	B03002 Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race
Low-Income Households	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	B17017 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Household Type by Age of Householder
Low-Income Population	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	S1701 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months
Minority Populations by Low-Income Status	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	S1701 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months
Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP02 Selected Social Characteristics in the United States
Persons with a Disability	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP02 Selected Social Characteristics in the United States
Elderly (65 years or older)	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP05 ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates
Carless Households	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics
Computerless Households	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics
Internetless Households	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics
Crashes	PennDOT Crash Data	Statewide Crash Data for 2015 , 2016 , 2017 , 2018 , and 2019
Federal Aid Segment Miles	PennDOT RMS	FED_AID_PRIM_IND field = Y
Bridges	PennDOT BMS 2	

All US Census Bureau, 2015–2019 American Community Survey datasets were acquired for all Pennsylvania Counties and for all Pennsylvania Census Block Groups. Relevant columns from the Census tables were extracted into a two new tables to produce flat table profiles. These tables were then joined to the relevant Census geography features.

Step 2

Identifying EJ Populations

General Approach

Minority and low income populations was conducted substantially according to the methodology outlines in the South Central Pennsylvania Unified Environmental Justice Process and Methodology document distributed to Planning Partners ahead of the 2021-2024 TIP update cycle. As such, I will refer the reader to Appendix A and Appendix B of the South Central Pennsylvania Unified Environmental Justice Process and Methodology for detailed step-by-step recipes of how to bake the data ingredients into an analysis cake. However, my process differed in one crucial but important aspect that is necessary to allow a statewide uniform analysis.

The process followed for the 2021-2024 program update classified low income and minority population percentages based on natural breaks of the percentages of those populations present within the block groups of each county in Pennsylvania. The result of this was to create a custom classification of symbol intervals for each county. The presence of 67 different interval scales would lead to conducting 67 separate analyses downstream in the workflow.

Instead, I found that when Census block groups were classified into intervals based on the *ratio* of census block group minority/low income percentage to county or region overall minority/low income percentage (i.e. a ratio of “1” indicates a census block group has the same minority or low income percentage as the county average) that I was able to produce a uniform scale usable across all counties or regions in the state. One side effect of this approach is that it resulted in some counties not having all intervals. However, it gives us a uniform and easily communicated and understood way of classifying the relative concentrations of low income and minority populations across the state of Pennsylvania.

As an example, based on the procedure described above, I defined interval “1” as being all census block groups with a minority population percentage less than half the countywide or regional minority population percentage. The result is that any counties or regions with no census block groups that fit that criterion do not have that interval. By standardizing the intervals across the state we are able to make apples-to-apples comparisons between counties and regions and also the ability to scale the analysis up to larger geographic scales (or down to smaller scales) which gives us a stronger analytical product. This should make this product more useful for conducting analysis for multicounty planning partners and across PennDOT districts if we wanted to scale the analysis up to be more regional.

Definition of Minority Population and Low income Population Concentration Intervals

Minority Intervals	Ratio of Minority Population Percentage in Census Block Group to County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage
1	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage ≤ 0.5 (Census block group minority population percentage less than or equal to half of countywide or regional minority population percentage)
2	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage > 0.5 and ≤ 1 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than half and less than or equal to countywide or regional minority population percentage)
3	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage > 1 and ≤ 2 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the countywide or regional minority population percentage)
4	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage > 2 and ≤ 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the countywide or regional minority population percentage)
5	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage > 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than four times the countywide minority population percentage)

Low Income Intervals	Ratio of Low Income Population Percentage in Census Block Group to County or Planning Partner Low Income Population Percentage
1	Census Block Low Income Population Percentage / County Low Income Population Percentage ≤ 0.5 (Census block group Low Income population percentage less than or equal to half of countywide or regional Low Income population percentage)
2	Census Block Low Income Population Percentage / County Low Income Population Percentage > 0.5 and ≤ 1 (Census block group Low Income population percentage greater than half and less than or equal to countywide or regional Low Income population percentage)
3	Census Block Low Income Population Percentage / County Low Income Population Percentage > 1 and ≤ 2 (Census block group Low Income population percentage greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the countywide or regional Low Income population percentage)
4	Census Block Low Income Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Low Income Population Percentage > 2 and ≤ 4 (Census block group Low Income population percentage greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the countywide or regional Low Income population percentage)
5	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than four times the countywide minority population percentage)

Step 3

Assessing Conditions

Assessment of conditions analysis was only conducted for components of the transportation system for which statewide datasets are available (namely pavement conditions of the Federal Aid System, bridges, and reportable crashes). All of these data are freely available from the PennDOT Open Data Portal (<https://data-pennshare.opendata.arcgis.com/>). Additional data that should be considered by planning partners would be walkway networks, transit stops, and bicycle infrastructure. If statewide datasets become available for these components of the state transportation system, they could be easily incorporated into future iterations of the analysis.

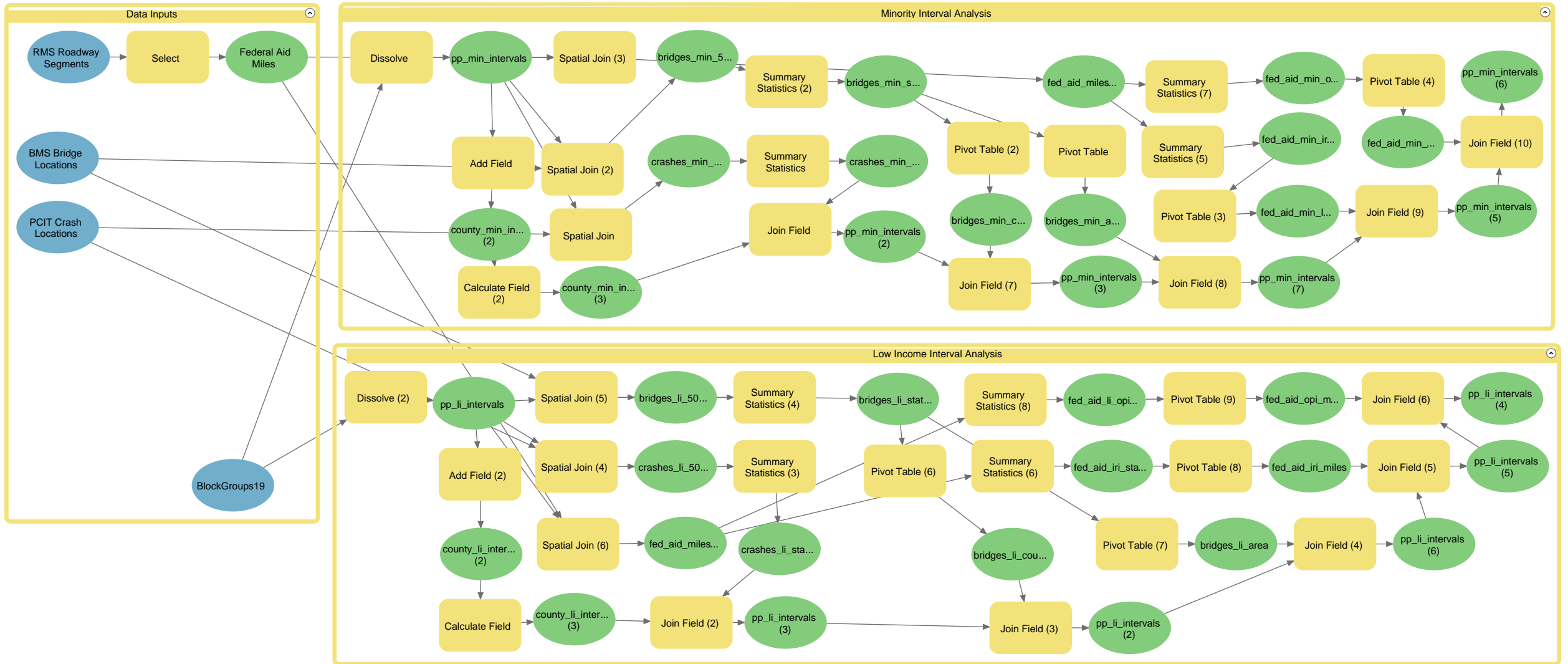
To perform the assessment of conditions analysis, two important steps were conducted:

1. A map layer was created from dissolving together block groups of the same interval classification within each county and region for low income and minority concentration. These “interval areas” describe the contiguous areas within a county that fall within the same classification.
2. Transportation assets and crash locations were considered in the analysis of an interval area if located within 50 meters of the boundary of the dissolved interval area. In other words, the dissolved interval areas were buffered 50 meters for the analysis. This would allow the capture of features on the border of block groups or providing access to them.

All analysis was conducted within ArcGIS Pro and any attempt to verify or replicate this analysis would most appropriately begin on that platform. As such, instead of trying to produce a written procedure of the analytical steps the next page shows the ArcGIS Pro model used to daisy-chain together the various geospatial processing tools that processed the data. In a general sense, the following aspects of the transportation system were summarized by county and low income and minority concentration interval:

- Federal aid segment miles with “excellent,” “good,” “fair,” “poor,” or “other” pavement condition
- Number and bridge deck area of poor/not poor bridges
- Reportable crashes occurring 2015–2019. The 5-year totals are provided in the data extract and can be divided by 5 to get the average annual amounts. Crashes of the following types were analyzed:
 - Total Crashes
 - Total Persons Involved in Crashes
 - All Bicycle Crashes
 - Bicycle Crash Fatalities

- Bicycle Crash Suspected Serious Injuries
- All Pedestrian Crashes
- Pedestrian Crash Fatalities
- Pedestrian Crash Suspected Serious Injuries
- All Nonmotorized Crashes
- Nonmotorized Fatalities
- Nonmotorized Suspected Serious Injuries
- All Horse and Buggy Crashes
- Total Crash Fatalities
- Total Crash Suspected Serious Injuries



APPENDIX K

Meeting the Mobility Needs of Minority Populations

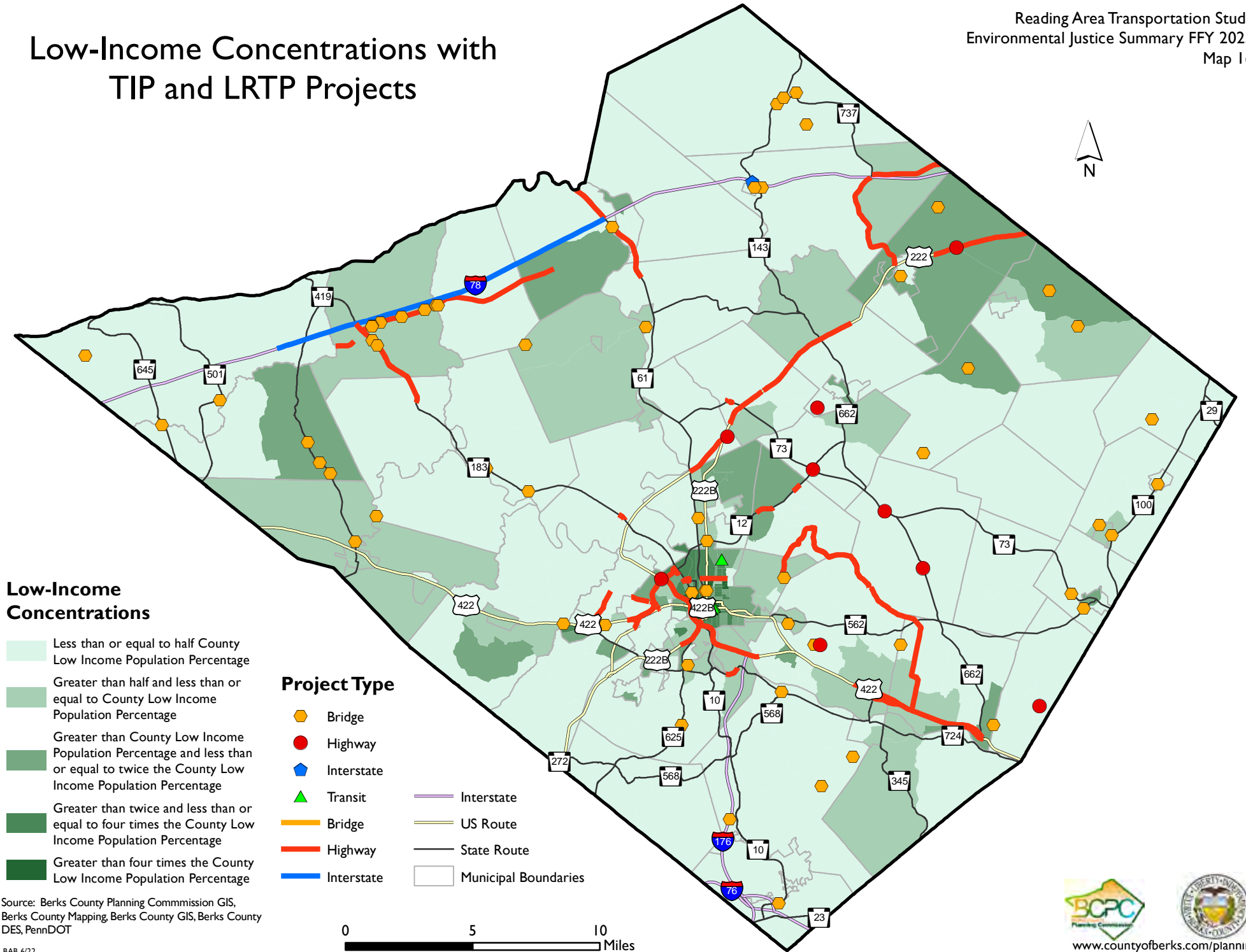
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APPENDIX L

Demographic Maps and Supporting Materials Showing Distribution of State and Federal Funds for Public Transportation Projects

Low-Income Concentrations with TIP and LRTP Projects



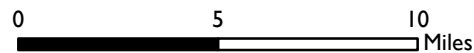
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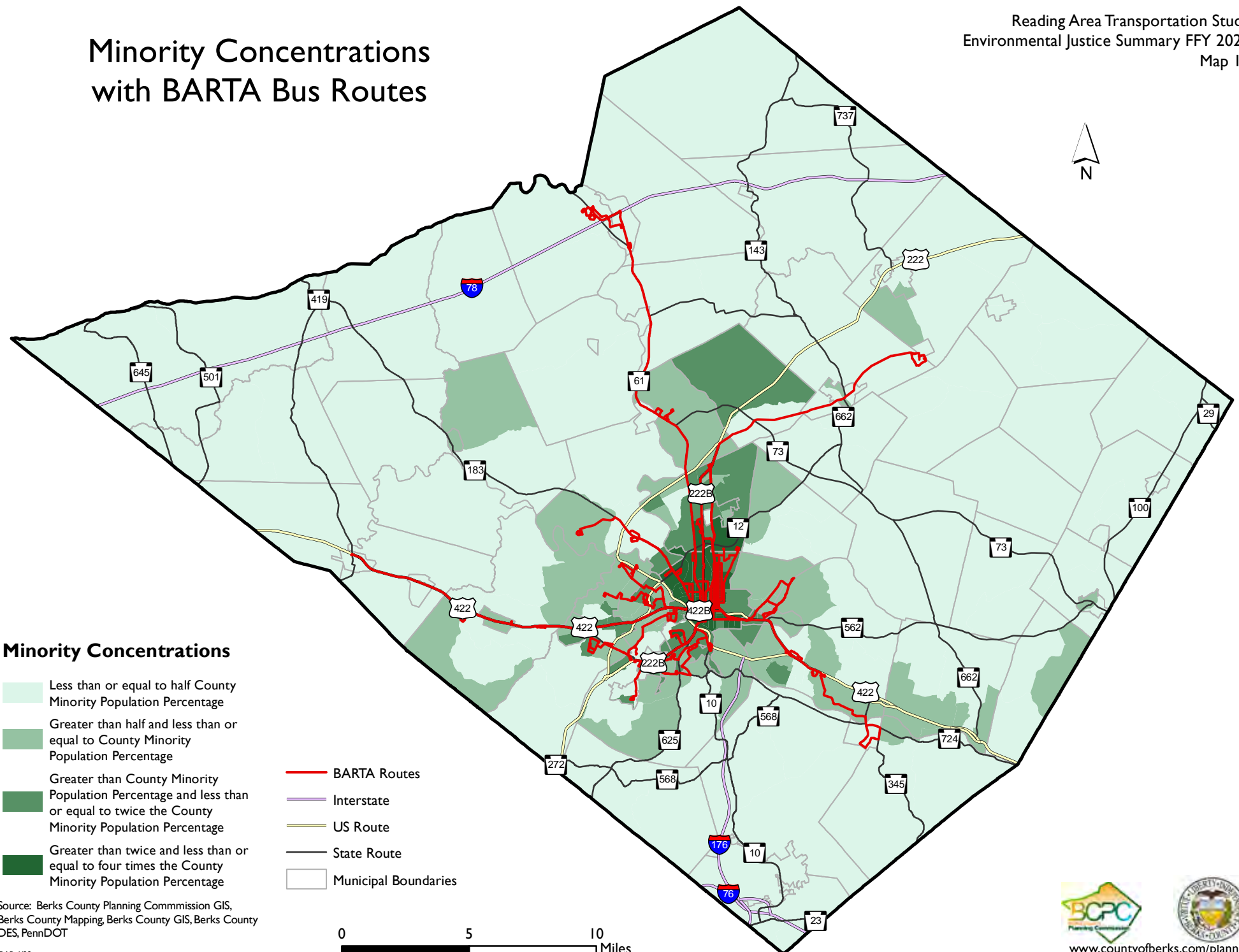
Project Type

- Bridge
- Highway
- Interstate
- Transit
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
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Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Minority Concentrations with BARTA Bus Routes

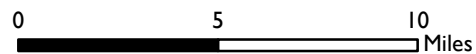


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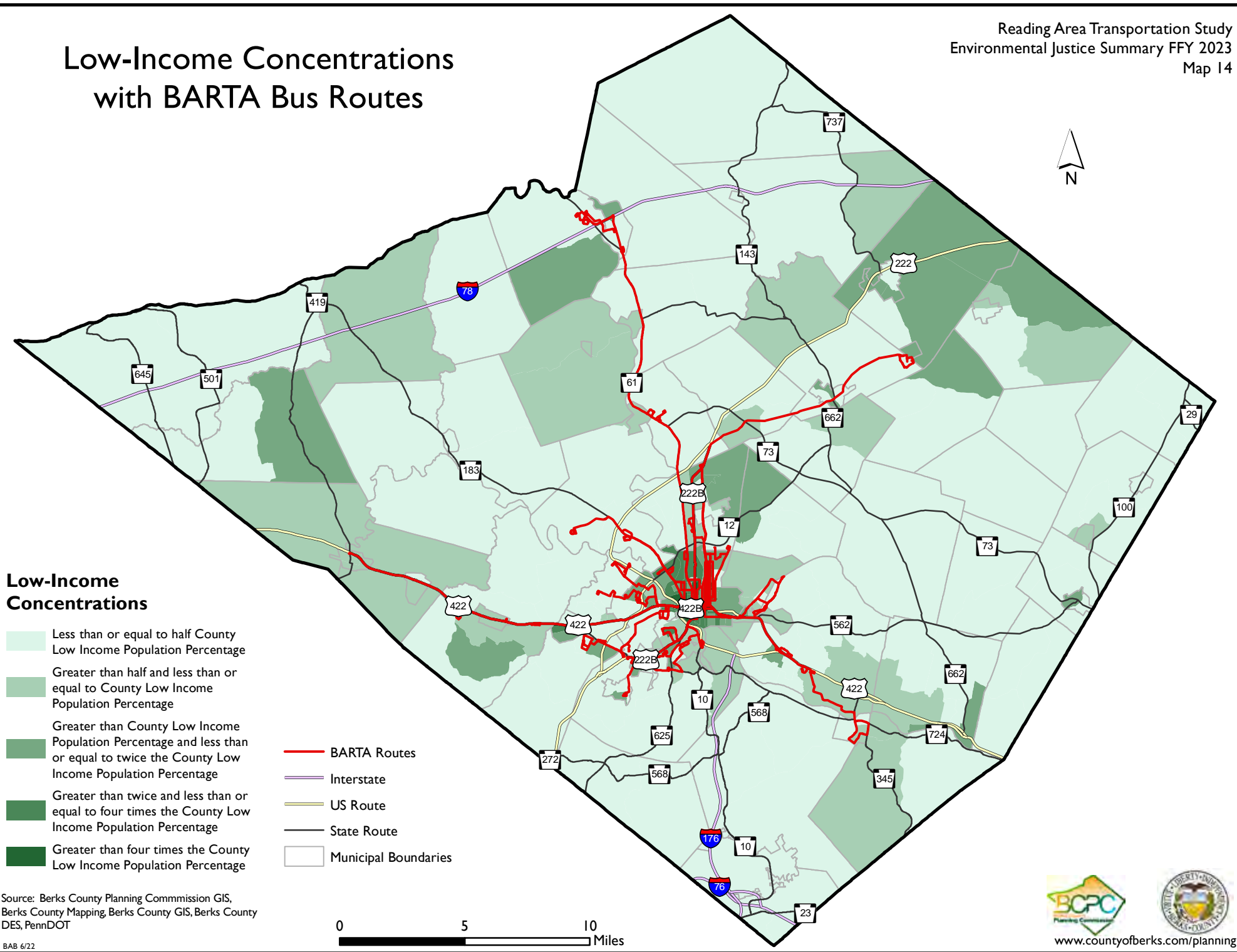
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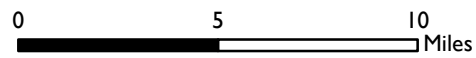


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Environmental Justice

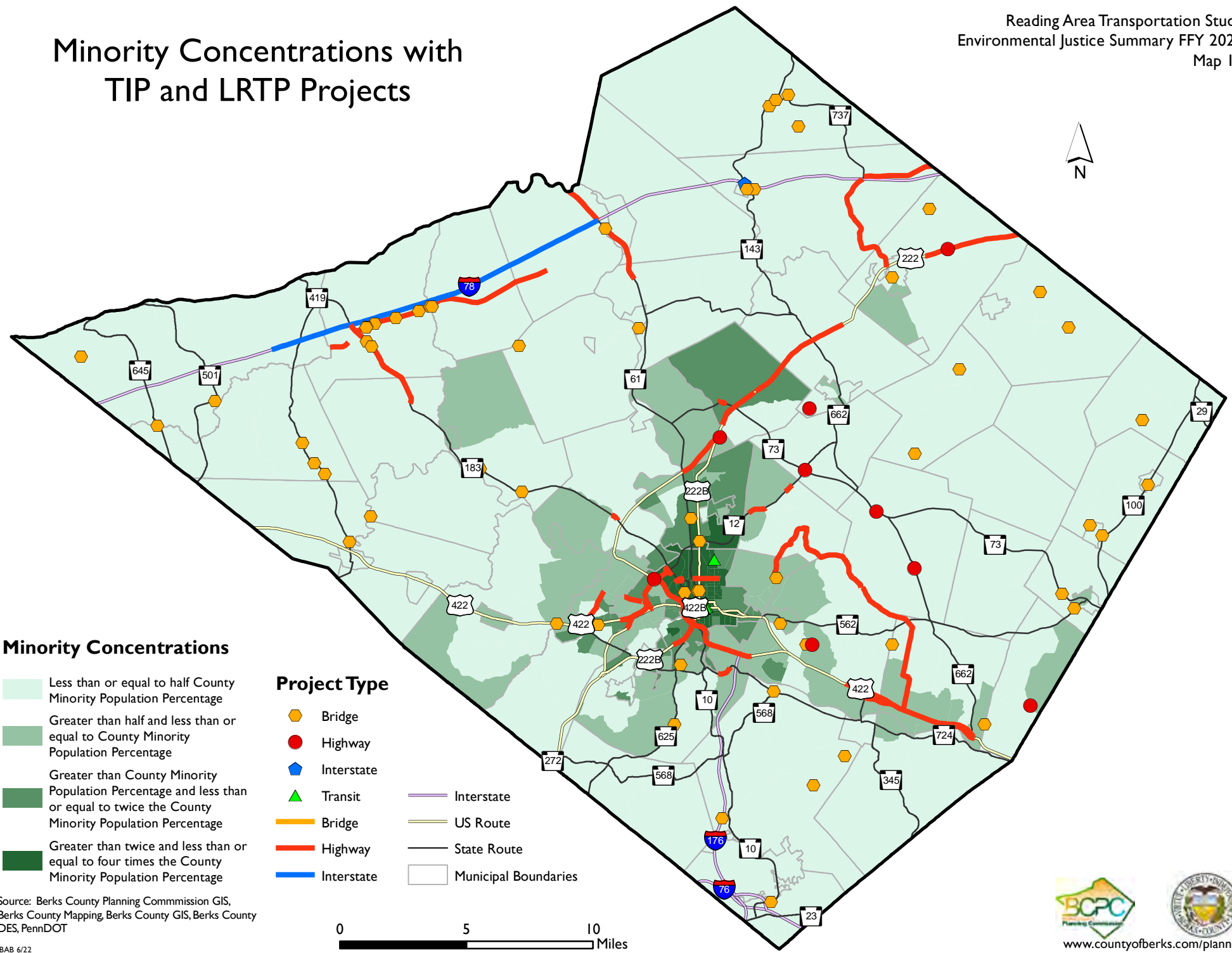
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Maps 15 and 16 display the 2023 TIP Projects and FFY 2023-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Candidates by concentrations of Minority and Low-Income populations. The yellow hexagons denote locations of bridge candidate projects, while the red lines and circles identify highway reconstruction or resurfacing candidate projects. Any candidate projects shown in blue address the Interstate and green triangles denote Transit.

Minority Concentrations with TIP and LRTP Projects



Minority Concentrations

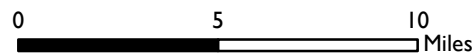
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Project Type

- Bridge
- Highway
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- Bridge
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- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT

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www.countyofberks.com/planning

APPENDIX M

**Analysis of the MPO's Transportation System Investments that Identifies and
Addresses any Disparate Impacts**

(No Content)

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