

Appendix E

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**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE**

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
C/o**

Berks County Planning Commission

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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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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

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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.

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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

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- 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

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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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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 ensure 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.

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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>

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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

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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.

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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

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- 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*

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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.

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- 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

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- 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->

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[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*.

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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

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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.

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- 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).

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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

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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

**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

FAX: 610-478-6316

EMAIL: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

The person named above is appointed as the Title VI Compliance Officer and is responsible for the implementation of 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
FAX: 610-478-6316
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

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.

Environmental Justice Summary

The preparation of an Environmental Justice Summary is required by Executive Order 12898 of 1994 and is based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It requires recipients of federal aid to certify and ensure nondiscrimination in the use of those funds.

The basic principles addressed are:

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

In support of that, a separate document, the ***FFY 2025-2028 Environmental Justice Summary***, was prepared. It identifies concentrations of minority and low-income populations throughout Berks County. It then identifies the number, percentage, and location of Total Reportable Crashes and associated Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities, People Using Nonmotorized Modes Involved in Crashes and associated Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities, Horse and Buggy Crashes, People on Bicycles Involved in Crashes and associated Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities, Pedestrians Involved in Crashes and associated Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities, Bridge and Federal Aid Segment Mile Conditions, Transit Service, and Types of Projects and Distribution included in the FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program and evaluates those criteria against locations of minority and low-income populations.

The report found no disproportionately high or adverse effects but did recommend careful consideration of these issues in future program updates. A copy of the ***FFY 2025-2028 Environmental Justice Summary*** can be found on the Berks County Planning Commission website at: www.berkspa.gov/planning.

Piper, Alan

From: Piper, Alan
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 3:37 PM
To: Piper, Alan
Subject: State Transportation Commission 2023 Public Comment Period for the 12-Year Program (TYP) Update is Now Open
Attachments: 03-01-23-dot-pennndot-invites-public-feedback-on-transportation-in-pennsylvania-1.pdf; stc-2023-fact-sheet-english (1).pdf; stc-2023-fact-sheet-spanish.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please consider participating in the State Transportation Commission 12-Year Program (TYP) Update survey. A Press Release and Fact Sheets in both English and Spanish are attached. In addition to helping the State Transportation Commission, the results from the survey help us prepare our local Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Please feel free to forward this to other who may be interested.

Thank you.



2023 Public Comment Period for the 12-Year Program (TYP) Update

The State Transportation Commission (STC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation are excited to announce the 2023 Public Comment Period for the update of the 12-Year Program. The Public Comment Period is open Wednesday, March 1, through Sunday, April 30, 2023.

The STC recently released the 2023 [Transportation Performance Report](#) (TPR). This report contains information about how Pennsylvania's transportation system performed over the last two years. We encourage you to read and share the report and then - Tell Us What YOU Think!

Your feedback is important! Please take a few minutes to complete our [Transportation Survey](#) online or contact us at 717-783-2262 to request a paper copy or to complete the survey over the phone.

We also encourage you to join us for the Online Public Forum on April 12, 2023, featuring a presentation from PennDOT officials and a live Q&A session. More details will follow, so you'll be hearing from us again soon!

The internet links included in this content may be blocked due to internet security settings. To view the content referenced in these links, please visit the State Transportation Commission website at TalkPATransportation.com.

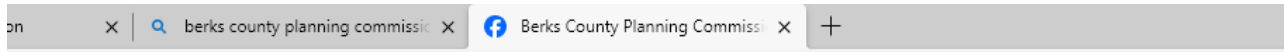
Thank You!



Alan Piper | Planner III - Transportation
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6313 Fax: 610-478-6316



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



Email or phone

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
March 15, 2023 · 🌐



Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) ✓
March 8, 2023 · 🌐

Let us know how to improve Pennsylvania's transportation! Your feedback makes a difference. Take our survey at TalkPATransportation.com.

1 🗨

Like

Comment



Email or phone

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Photos

[See all photos](#)



Berks County Planning Commission
April 5, 2023 · 🌐

The 2023 Public Comment Period for the 12-Year Program Update is open from Wednesday, March 1, through Sunday, April 30, 2023. Please provide your input by completing the survey below:

<https://survey.talkpatransportation.com/...>

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

TAKE THE SURVEY

March 1 - April 30

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

State Transportation Commission

3 ➔

berks county planning commissi x Berks County Planning Commissi x +

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Like **Comment**

Berks County Planning Commission
April 20, 2023 · 🌐

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

TAKE THE SURVEY

March 1 - April 30

pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION State Transportation Commission

Berks County Planning Commission
April 5, 2023 · 🌐

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1 ↗

The screenshot shows the homepage of bctv.org. The navigation bar includes 'Open Menu', 'bctv.org', 'Watch Now', and 'Donate Today'. The main content area features several news articles:

- Two Film Screenings to Address the Topic of Grief at Death Café** (Arts & Culture, MAR 14, 2023)
- Secrecy is too often the norm in Pa. state and local governments** (Opinion, MAR 14, 2023)
- Wyomissing Public Library to Host Program About The Underground Railroad** (Education, MAR 14, 2023)
- PA: New Legislation To Prevent Future Train Derailments** (Government, MAR 14, 2023)
- Spotlight on Berks County Parks and Greenway Strategic Plan** (Environment, MAR 14, 2023)
- 2023 Public Comment Period for the 12-Year Program (TYP) Update Is Now Open** (Government, MAR 14, 2023)

On the right side, there is a 'Featured Events' calendar for March:

- MAR 18**: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, **Take Five on 5th**
- MAR 21**: March 21 @ 9:00 am - April 23 @ 4:00 pm, **Gallery Exhibit: Autumn Spears: Becoming**
- MAR 22**: 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm, **Berks Jazz Fest Night at the Liederkranz**

At the bottom, there is a 'For You, By You!' section and a language selector set to 'English'.

Piper, Alan

From: Timochenko, Amanda
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 12:15 PM
To: Timochenko, Amanda
Subject: FW: State Transportation Commission 2023 Public Comment Period for the 12-Year Program (TYP) Update is Now Open
Attachments: 03-01-23-dot-pennndot-invites-public-feedback-on-transportation-in-pennsylvania-1.pdf; stc-2023-fact-sheet-english (1).pdf; stc-2023-fact-sheet-spanish.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please consider participating and sharing the State Transportation Commission 12-Year Program (TYP) Update survey as the results from the survey help us prepare our Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

TAKE THE SURVEY

March 1 - April 30

  State Transportation Commission

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Thank You!



Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!

Amanda Timochenko | Transportation Planner II
Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6314 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: atimochenko@countyofberks.com

Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

2025 12-Year Program Update: Regional Transportation Survey Summary
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (RATS)



State Transportation Commission

A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR REGION

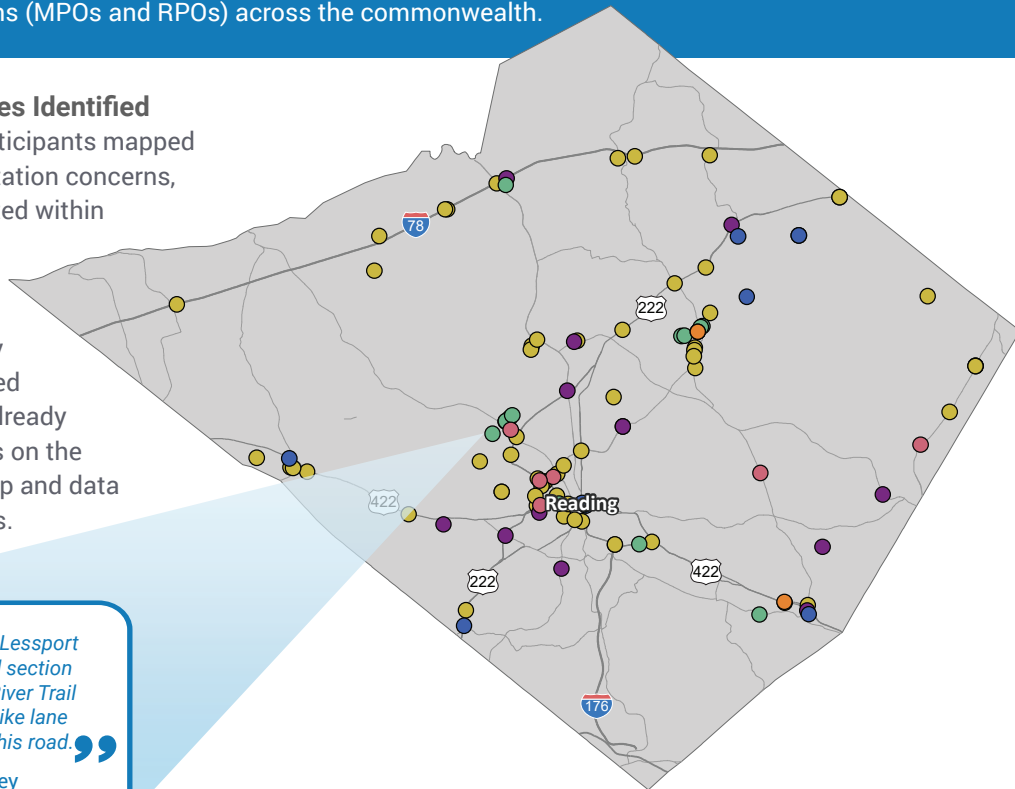


The State Transportation Commission held a 60-day Public Comment Period for the 2025 12-Year Program (TYP) Update from March 1, through April 30, 2023. The public was invited to provide input through taking the Transportation Survey and participating in an Online Public Forum. The Online Public Forum, held on Wednesday, April 12, was broadcasted on a webinar platform with a call-in option, and on Facebook Live. The public could also request assistance to participate in the Survey or Public Forum by contacting PennDOT's Program Center by email or phone. All public feedback received was reviewed and compiled to convey current transportation priorities and trends statewide and regionally for the benefit of the Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations (MPOs and RPOs) across the commonwealth.

Transportation Issues Identified

Statewide, survey participants mapped about **4,250** transportation concerns, **109** of these are located within the **RATS region**.







During the mapping exercise, some survey participants discovered their concerns were already addressed by projects on the 2023 TYP. See the map and data below for more details.



“This portion of W Lessport Road is a marked section of the Schuylkill River Trail and there is no bike lane or sidewalks on this road.”
 Local Survey Participant

Number of Issues Identified

The icons below correspond with the same color dots on the map.

- 
69
 ROADWAY
- 
12
 BRIDGE
- 
13
 BIKING/
 WALKING
- 
12
 TRANSIT
- 
3
 FREIGHT
- 
6
 CONCERN(S)
 ALREADY
 ADDRESSED

Examples of a 2023 TYP Project that Addressed Public Concerns

- SR 3023 STATE HILL ROAD - SR 222 SB TO NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD

- PA 12 WEST RESURFACE - 422 WB RAMPS TO SR 183

- SR 183 (BERNVILLE ROAD) RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT



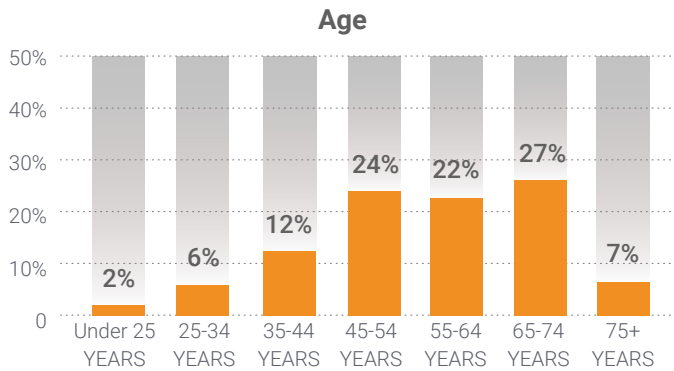
2025 12-Year Program Update: Regional Transportation Survey Summary
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (RATS)

State Transportation Commission

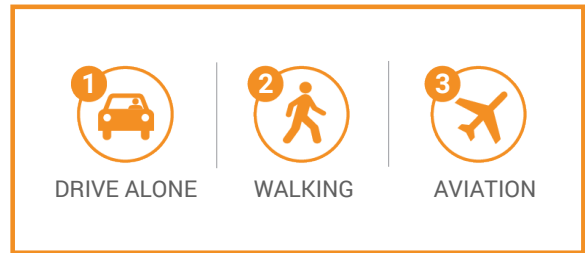
ABOUT THE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR REGION

Over 10,000 individuals participated in the survey statewide, and **185** of the survey participants identified with the **RATS region** through feedback provided. Learn more about the participants from this region.

Male	89	52%
Female	76	44%
Third gender/Nonconforming	2	1%
I prefer to self-describe	0	0%
I prefer not to answer	5	3%



Top Transportation Modes



Transportation Priorities Ranking

- 1 ROAD PAVEMENT**
Repairing, restoring, reconstructing, and maintaining Pennsylvania's 120,000 miles of state and local roadways to improve your travel
- 2 BRIDGES**
Repairing, replacing, and maintaining Pennsylvania's 31,000 state and local bridges
- 3 TRAFFIC FLOW**
Using technology to improve traffic flow and construction of new roads and additional travel lanes to safely move people and goods more efficiently
- 4 INTERSTATE HIGHWAY**
Specific, prioritized investments in reconstructing Pennsylvania's 1,868 miles of interstate highway
- 5 PASSENGER RAIL**
Intercity and commuter rail service across Pennsylvania with out-of-state connections
- 6 WALKING**
Accessible and connected routes to get you where you need to go safely
- 7 FREIGHT**
Modern highways, railways, airports, and waterways to support the economy and ensure the efficient movement of goods and services
- 8 BICYCLING**
Safe bicycle routes and facilities throughout the commonwealth to get you where you need to go
- 9 TRANSIT**
Accessible and timely public transportation that covers an extensive service area and crosses regions
- 10 AVIATION**
Modern facilities, operations, and a wide range of commercial airline choices at airports



TalkPATransportation.com
 717.783.2262
 RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov

Office of the State Transportation Commission and Transportation Advisory Committee
 P.O. Box 3365 | Harrisburg, PA 17105



2025 12-Year Program Update: 2021 and 2023 Regional Survey Results Comparison
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (RATS)

June 2023

State Transportation Commission

2023

185 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

109 MAPPED ISSUES
6 RESOLVED

2021

313 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

153 MAPPED ISSUES
62 RESOLVED

About the Survey Participants

2023

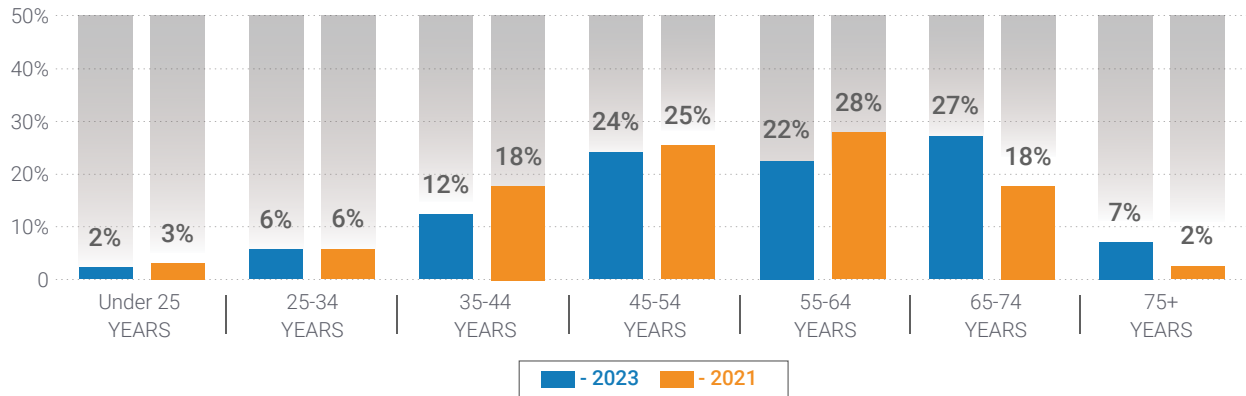
Male	52%
Female	44%
Third gender/Nonconforming	1%
I prefer to self-describe	0%
I prefer not to answer	3%

2021

Male	53%
Female	45%
Third gender/Nonconforming	0%
I prefer to self-describe	0%
I prefer not to answer	2%

Responses to demographic questions were optional.

Age



Top Transportation Modes

2023

- DRIVE ALONE
- WALKING
- AVIATION

2021

- DRIVE ALONE
- WALKING
- AVIATION

Highest Ranked Priorities

2023

- ROAD PAVEMENT
- BRIDGES
- TRAFFIC FLOW

2021

- ROAD PAVEMENT
- TRAFFIC FLOW
- BRIDGES



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Office of the State Transportation Commission and Transportation Advisory Committee
 P.O. Box 3365 | Harrisburg, PA 17105

Reading Area Transportation Study

(610) 478-6300
FAX: (610) 478-6316

c/o Berks County Planning Commission
Berks County Services Center
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601-4309

To: Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee
From: Devon B. Hain, Transportation Planner II
Re: STC Public Survey Results
Date: July 13, 2023

In the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission's (STC's) effort to gain public input for the 2025 Twelve Year Program, they opened an eight-week public comment period in spring of 2023. This public outreach generated over 10,500 survey responses with 4,428 transportation issues to be identified statewide. Berks County received 109 survey responses with mapped transportation issues. We separated these results by responses focused on highways and bridges and to those focused on active transportation and public transportation. Examining the data from the 109 valid responses has provided us with the following information.

A majority of the highway comments showed public concern with congestion and safety along 422, 222, and Interstate 78. The West Shore Bypass (422) was identified as having issues at the Lancaster Avenue and I-176 interchanges, which will be addressed through TIP projects. The interchange area in Wyomissing Borough where 222, 422, and 12 come together received comments requesting line repainting, advance lane signage, interchange improvements, and speed enforcement, many of these issues will be addressed through various TIP projects. Route 222 received many comments concerning congestion in areas where there is only 1 lane in each direction. Multiple projects on the TIP focus on widening and expanding capacity on this roadway. Areas along I-78 were identified that needed pavement maintenance, congestion was also noted in construction areas. In addition to the comments focused on congestion and safety, there were multiple comments discussing the amount of trash along 422 and 78 requesting clean ups along these highways.

Highway and bridge comments of note that are not currently addressed in the TIP include issues with Pricetown Road's intersection with 662. The stretch of 662 between Pricetown Road and Main Street in Fleetwood had multiple maintenance comments. The 183 SB turn lane onto 222 NB was pointed out as being too short. The amount of traffic on 100 and resulting intersection issues were made. The impact of the Amazon facility in Upper Bern and its impact on Wolf Creek/Shartlesville Rd was noted. Additional comments can be found in the provided summary.

There were 20 active transportation comments this survey period. Places where conflict between vehicles and pedestrians were identified that could include signal timing, painted crosswalks, pedestrian signing, ADA ramps, sidewalks, and walking paths were identified. Comments were also made regarding the need for wider shoulders and bike lanes. Being able to realign the Schuylkill River Trail to get it entirely off road throughout Berks County was also mentioned.

Public Transportation comments consisted of 1 request for increased bus service to Deka and encourage workers to use this service through incentives. There were also 14 comments made requesting bus or passenger rail to areas within Berks County such as Kutztown, Womelsdorf, Sinking Spring, and Wyomissing. Areas outside of Berks County that access was requested to were Schuylkill County, Adamstown, Lancaster, Lebanon, Pottstown, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and New York City.

STC Survey Highway and Bridge Results**Alsace:**

- 2 comments were concerned with congestion and safety on SR 12 (Pricetown Road) and its intersection with Elizabeth Ave. This intersection and the related congestion will be addressed through the implementation of Project 79467.

Amity:

- 1 comment showed urgency for the completion of rehabilitation/replacement of the bridge on Levengood Rd over Manatawny Creek.
- 3 comments addressed congestion and speeding along 422 through Amity and Exeter. Suggestions were made to turn this stretch of 422 into an expressway or bypass. 13 signalized intersections will be upgraded along 422 in Amity and Exeter Townships through Project 110075.

Bern:

- 1 comment focused on the congestion of SR 183 between 222 and Upper Van Reed Rd. It was suggested that another NB and SB lane be added through this entire section rather than a narrowing from 2 lanes to 1 lane and then widening back to 2 lanes. Capacity will be added to 183 through Project 117721, which involves the widening of 183 to eliminate the narrow section between 222 and West Leesport Rd.
- 1 comment focused on the congestion of SR 183 SB at the turning arrow to get onto 222 NB. It was suggested that this lane be lengthened to allow more vehicles to stack in this turn lane without blocking the 183 SB lane of traffic.
- 1 comment addressed the need to repave 222 between 183 and the Spring Ridge exits.
- 1 comment noted that the speed limit on West Leesport Road is too high and the recommendation was made to lower the speed limit to 25MPH and increase police enforcement along this road to aid in the reduction of speeding vehicles.

Bethel:

- 1 comment pointed out the right lanes of I-78 in Bethel Township are in need of repair. The condition of these lanes will be improved through the resurfacing Project 85903, which is included in the current Interstate TIP.
- 1 comment mentioned the need for clean up along I-78 due to the abundance of trash and blown out tires.

Brecknock:

- 1 comment notes that there is excessive speeding along 222 through Spring and Brecknock Townships.

Colebrookdale:

- 1 comment questioned when the Funk Road bridge will be repaired. This bridge will be rehabilitated through Project 10751.
- 1 comment noted the congestion on 100 NB at the intersection with County Line Road, it is noted that this is at the southern border of Colebrookdale Township. The congestion occurring NB at this traffic light is within Montgomery County.

Cumru:

- 3 comments noted safety concerns when merging onto SR 422 from the I-176 Interchange due to the short length of acceleration lanes. The reconstruction of this interchange will be addressed by Projects 114439 and 72814, which are Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the West Shore (US 422) Reconstruction.
- 2 comments noted safety and maintenance concerns along 422 as they note the abundance of potholes. Maintenance issues will be addressed by Projects 114439 and 72814, which are Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the West Shore (US 422) Reconstruction. The abundance of trash along 422 was also noted.

Exeter:

- 3 comments addressed congestion and speeding along 422 through Amity and Exeter. Suggestions were made to turn this stretch of 422 into an expressway or bypass. 13 signalized intersections will be upgraded along 422 in Amity and Exeter Townships through Project 110075.
- 1 comment noted serious congestion issues at the end of 422 where it meets Perkiomen Ave. It was noted the congestion blocks the intersection at this ramp and the suggestion was made to extend the right turn lane on 422 onto W 47th St.
- 1 comment noted the excessive trash and potholes along the highway portion of 422.

Fleetwood:

- 1 comment discussed how the addition of the traffic light at the railroad tracks on 662/South Richmond Street has created a major issue on the side streets off 662 as many cars will use the side streets such as Locust, Poplar, Spruce, Cedar, and Pine to avoid this light. Many of these cars are speeding through these dense residential areas.
- 1 comment noted the poor condition of roadway over the railroad track on 662/South Richmond Street.
- 1 comment noted the confusing nature of the intersection of 662/South Richmond Street and West Locust Street. It was stated that numerous cars traveling NB on 662 have turned onto the railroad tracks instead of West Locust Street due to the proximity of the intersection to the railroad tracks. The addition of better signage, lighting, line painting, and barriers were mentioned as possible solutions to this issue.

Greenwich:

- 3 comments expressed concern relating to I-78. These comments focused on the length of time taken to complete construction, [the disapproval for tolling the bridge near Lenhartsville](#), and the abundance of trash and blown out tires along this interstate. [The reconstruction of the I-78 bridge over 143 in Lenhartsville will not receive funds from tolling and is included under Project 97274.](#)
- 1 comment noted the increase of truck traffic along 737 between I-78 and 222 and the resulting need for shoulders as there are no shoulders along this route for a majority of the distance between I-78 and 222. This safety concern will be addressed through the application of a high surface friction treatment under Project 114407.

Hamburg:

- 1 comment mentioned the need for clean up along I-78 due to the abundance of trash and blown out tires.

Hereford:

- 3 comments were made concerning the intersection of 100 and Huffs Church Road. These comments mentioned that it has become difficult to turn onto 100 from Huffs Church Road, especially at peak travel times. It was noted that the number of accidents at this intersection has increased and there is a need for safety measures at this intersection. The comments suggested a traffic light at this intersection could assist in solving this issue.

Jefferson:

- 1 comment discusses the increased traffic on Shartlesville/Wolf Creek Road due to the traffic generated by the Amazon facility. The increase of accidents and a resulting fatality were also mentioned showing need for safety improvements. A portion of Shartlesville Road is within Jefferson Township.

Leesport:

- 1 comment notes the excessive congestion on Wall Street leading up to the traffic light at its intersection with 61. It takes multiple lights to be able to go through and the stacking along Wall Street often results in the access to side streets, businesses, and residences being blocked.
- 1 comment mentions the corner of Wall Street with Lee/Center Streets as being dangerous due to it being too narrow and not having proper sight distance.
- 1 comment discusses how narrow the road is along Main Street, specifically between Leesport Ave and Reeser Street, resulting in difficulty for two vehicles to pass by each other.

Lenhartsville:

- 1 comment notes the insufficient turning radius at the intersection of Old 22/Penn St and 143/Willow St, resulting in difficulty for large trucks to safely make right turns.

Longswamp:

- 1 comment expresses the need for repaving the roads within Mountain Village Mobile Home Park. It was stated that the roads get patched and crack sealed, however without repaving, the potholes return just to be patched over again.

Lower Heidelberg:

- 1 comment notes that repairs are needed to the drainpipe related paving near the intersection of Rebers Bridge Road and Wagner Road.

Maidencreek:

- 2 comments address the safety issues of roundabouts in Maidencreek Township and resulting in truck turn overs and the uncertainty of where vehicles within the circle are headed due to need for more signage, the lanes being too narrow, and the roundabouts being too small. Concern due to the abundance of rerouted traffic due to accidents occurring from these roundabouts was also mentioned.
- 1 comment addresses the need to make 222 a four-lane highway bypassing the townships from the Lehigh County line to the west to meet up with the existing 4 lane highway near the border of Maidencreek and Ontelaunee Townships. Although turning 222 into a 4-lane bypass is not a programmed project, 222 congestion will be addressed by multiple projects in the current TIP. Project 92414 has been implemented from the 2021-2024 TIP, which included the improvements at the intersection of 222 and 73, two new roundabouts on 222 at Tamarack/Genesis Drive and Schaeffer Road, as well as widening 222 to four lanes to the west and east of 73. Project 61972 will widen 222 to four lanes from Schaeffer Road in Maidencreek Township to the Kutztown Bypass, this project also includes the construction of two new roundabouts at Pleasant Hill and Richmond Roads. Project 97234 includes the preliminary engineering phase for widening 222 to two lanes in both directions for 3.81 miles between the 222/Kutztown Bypass north to the Berks/Lehigh County Line. Project 90569 consists of intersection improvements and the construction of a roundabout at Long Lane Rd in Maxatawny.

Marion:

- 1 comment shows concern for the poor condition of Sheridan Road adjacent to Mill Creek, which is a tributary to Tulpehocken Creek. This is along Sheridan Road between the southern county border and William Penn Blvd. This same comment showed similar concern for Sheridan Road adjacent to Tulpehocken Creek north of Main Street/William Penn Blvd.

Maxatawny:

- 3 comments addresses safety concerns and congestion along 222. Frequent accidents, congestion especially around the intersection with Long Lane Road, and the need for more lanes and limited access were all noted. The congestion on 222 will be addressed by multiple projects around this area in the current TIP. Project 90569 which consists of intersection improvements and the construction of a roundabout at Long Lane Road to improve safety and reduce congestion. Project 97234 includes the preliminary engineering phase for widening 222 to two

lanes in both directions for 3.81 miles between the 222/Kutztown Bypass north to the Berks/Lehigh County Line, which will also address congestion concerns along 222.

- 1 comment noted the increase of truck traffic along 737 between I-78 and 222 and the resulting need for shoulders as there are no shoulders along this route for a majority of the distance between I-78 and 222. This safety concern will be addressed through the application of a high surface friction treatment under Project 114407.

Muhlenberg:

- 1 comment notes the poor drainage under the roadway near the Frush Valley Road and Hilltop Road intersection. This section of road needs maintenance often and the addition of proper drainage was mentioned as a possible solution to this issue.
- 1 comment draws attention to the short length of the on ramps from North 5th Street Highway onto 12. Due to their inadequate length, the commenter notes this as a safety issue.

Oley:

- 1 comment notes safety issues at the intersection of Oley Turnpike Road and 662/Memorial Highway. This comment will be addressed through Project 105963. This project involves the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of 662/Memorial Highway and Oley Turnpike Road.

Penn:

- 1 comment discusses the increased traffic on Shartlesville/Wolf Creek Road due to the traffic generated by the Amazon facility. The increase of accidents and a resulting fatality were also mentioned showing need for safety improvements. A portion of Shartlesville Road is within Penn Township.

Reading:

- 2 comments concentrate on safety concerns at the 422 interchange with Lancaster Avenue. These concerns are safety and congestion driven. Comments focus on the safety and congestion caused by exit and entrance ramps being at the left lane. These issues will be addressed by Projects 114439 and 72814, which are Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the West Shore (US 422) Reconstruction. These projects will include the Lancaster Avenue interchange reconstruction and realignment.
- 3 comments focus on congestion and safety issues along 12 from 422 to the River Road exit. Suggestions were made to widen the road, add traffic control, and reduce the speed limit. These comments will be addressed through Project 89215. This project involves highway resurfacing, driveway curb closures, guide rail and single face barrier upgrades, glare screen installation, pavement restriping to provide lengthened acceleration lanes and tree removal/trimming.
- 2 comments note the safety issues and needed maintenance of 422. The high volume of traffic, short on ramps, and dodging of potholes add to the safety issues. Maintenance issues will be addressed by Projects 114439 and 72814, which are Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the West Shore (US 422) Reconstruction. The need for trash cleanup along this roadway was also mentioned.

Richmond:

- 1 comment addresses safety issues of the roundabout in Richmond Township. The uncertainty of where vehicles within the circle are headed due to need for more signage, the lanes being too narrow, and the roundabouts being too small were all concerns of note.
- 1 comment notes safety concerns for vehicles turning onto Fleetwood Lyons Road from Dryville Road as there is heavy traffic and a hill to the right cutting down on visibility, especially when drivers are going above the speed limit.
- 1 comment addresses the need to make 222 a four-lane highway bypassing the townships from the Lehigh County line to the west to meet up with the existing 4 lane highway near the border of Maidencreek and Ontelaunee Townships. Although turning 222 into a 4-lane bypass is not a programmed project, 222 congestion will be addressed by multiple projects in the current TIP. Project 92414 has been implemented from the 2021-2024 TIP, which included the improvements at the intersection of 222 and 73, two new roundabouts on 222 at Tamarack/Genesis Drive and Schaeffer Road, as well as widening 222 to four lanes to the west and east of 73. Project 61972 will widen 222 to four lanes from Schaeffer Road in Maidencreek Township to the Kutztown Bypass, this project also includes the construction of two new roundabouts at Pleasant Hill and Richmond Roads. Project 97234 includes the preliminary engineering phase for widening 222 to two lanes in both directions for 3.81 miles between the 222/Kutztown Bypass north to the Berks/Lehigh County Line. Project 90569 consists of intersection improvements and the construction of a roundabout at Long Lane Rd in Maxatawny.

Ruscombmanor:

- 1 comment of concern in this township is the safety and congestion of the intersection of 12/Pricetown Rd and 662/Memorial Hwy. Due to high traffic volumes and an abundance of left turns, especially north from 12 onto 662, the suggestion was made to add left turn lanes.
- 1 comment addresses a safety issue at the intersection of 662 and Poplar Road. Multiple accidents have occurred around this intersection due to snow, ice, rain slicked roads, and speeding. Visibility at this intersection is also a concern when turning onto 662 due to the presence of an embankment.
- 1 comment expresses concern of 662 between Poplar Road and Houck Road (southern end). It is mentioned that the outside few feet of the travel lanes seem to be sinking in the section where the roadway is elevated.
- 1 comment mentions the intersection of 662 and Houck Rd (southern end) has a drainage culvert. However, the shoulder and grass are higher than the road, causing water to accumulate and pond on the surface of the roadway. They suggest that lowering the height of the shoulder and surrounding ground would allow the water to flow into this culvert.

South Heidelberg:

- 1 comment addresses safety concerns along Krick Road at the railroad tracks. There is heavy propane and oil tanker traffic from the nearby terminal on this road. The commenter proposes that a new bridge over this double track, mainline, high speed railroad crossing would enhance safety and stimulate economic development in the adjoining industrial park and corridor.

Spring:

- 2 comments address the congestion and safety on State Hill Road from Penn Ave north to Van Reed Rd. The suggestion was made to add a traffic circle/roundabout at the intersection of State Hill Rd and Penn Ave to alleviate traffic congestion at the southern end of this stretch of State Hill Rd. Project 105954 addresses corridor safety improvements that will consider widening, access management, roundabout(s), and traffic signal updates/coordination. Project 117603 involves improvements to State Hill Road intersections with SR 222 ramps. Project 117620 addresses the conversion of the State Hill Rd intersection with Penn Avenue into a roundabout.
- 1 comment notes that there is excessive speeding along 222 through Spring and Brecknock Townships.

Tilden:

- 1 comment mentions the need for clean up along I-78 due to the abundance of trash and blown out tires.
- 2 comments note safety and congestion issues along I-78 throughout Tilden Township. There is excessive speeding without enough enforcement. It was also noted in the comments that the widening of I-78 will not be enough to handle the amount of traffic.

Upper Bern:

- 1 comment mentions the need for clean up along I-78 due to the abundance of trash and blown out tires.
- 1 comment discusses the increased traffic on Shartlesville/Wolf Creek Road due to the traffic generated by the Amazon facility. The increase of accidents and a resulting fatality were also mentioned showing need for safety improvements. A majority of Wolf Creek Road is within Upper Bern Township.
- 1 comment suggests intersection improvements are needed where Wolf Creek Rd meets Old 22. The comment addresses the amount of traffic, width of the intersection, and visibility.

Upper Tulpehocken:

- 1 comment mentions the need for clean up along I-78 due to the abundance of trash and blown out tires.
- 1 comment discusses the increased traffic on Shartlesville/Wolf Creek Road due to the traffic generated by the Amazon facility. The increase of accidents and a resulting fatality were also mentioned showing need for safety improvements. A portion of Shartlesville/Wolf Creek Road is within Upper Tulpehocken Township.

Washington:

- 2 comments discuss the high volume of traffic along 100 through Washington Township and suggest turning 100 into an expressway as it is the best route between Pottstown and Allentown.

Wernersville:

- 1 comment identifies congestion issues at the intersections along 422/Penn Ave. It was suggested that syncing the traffic lights along Penn Avenue would clear up some of this congestion.

West Reading:

- 2 comments note the safety issues and needed maintenance of 422. The high volume of traffic, short on ramps, and dodging of potholes add to the safety issues. Maintenance issues will be addressed by Projects 114439 and 72814, which are Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the West Shore (US 422) Reconstruction. The need for trash cleanup along this roadway was also mentioned.

Windsor:

- 1 comment mentioned the need for clean up along I-78 due to the abundance of trash and blown out tires.

Womelsdorf:

- 1 comment identifies congestion issues on East High Street when merging onto Conrad Weiser Parkway/422.
- 1 comment addresses the need for a wider intersection at 419/West High St and North 3rd St. The comment notes that tractor trailers and other large trucks have difficulty making the turn from West High St onto North 3rd St. This results in vehicles mounting the sidewalk at the corner of this intersection, nearly hitting the house at this location.
- 1 comment mentions the water runoff on the south side of West High St between 2nd St and Water St during rainfalls. The comment notes that during rainfall the runoff in this location rises to the level of the curb and averages 6 feet in width. Storm drains, redesign of road pitch, and curb relief were mentioned as possible solutions to this issue.

Wyomissing:

- 2 comments were made about the congestion and safety issues in the area of the ramp to continue on 222 SB and the ramp to stay on 422 WB prior to the Papermill Rd exit. This issue will be addressed through the addition of an auxiliary lane along 222 SB between the 222/422 Interchange and the Papermill Rd exit as a part of project 110008.
- 4 comments were made about safety, congestion, and confusion in the area where 12, 222, and 422 converge. Suggestions include line repainting, adding lanes, reconfiguration, and advance signage. Some of these issues will be addressed through Project 110007. This project involves concrete patching and ultra-thin overlay of 222. Project 114108 will also address this issue through the creation of a northbound auxiliary lane from the entrance ramp of the State Hill Road interchange to the SR 422 eastbound exit ramp.
- 2 comments address the congestion and safety on State Hill Road from Penn Ave north to Van Reed Rd. The suggestion was made to add a traffic circle/roundabout at the intersection of State Hill Rd and Penn Ave to alleviate traffic congestion at the southern end of this stretch of State Hill Rd. Project 105954 addresses corridor safety improvements that will consider widening, access management, roundabout(s), and traffic signal updates/coordination. Project 117603 involves improvements to State Hill Road intersections with SR 222 ramps. Project

117620 addresses the conversion of the State Hill Rd intersection with Penn Avenue into a roundabout.

- 1 comment identifies the need for an interchange from 222 SB onto 12 EB as well as an interchange for an interchange from 12 WB onto 222 NB.

STC Survey Active Transportation and Public Transportation Results

Active Transportation Comments:

- **Berks Countywide:**
 - 1 comment suggests that there is a need to get the Schuylkill River Trail off road throughout all of Berks County.
- **Bern:**
 - 2 comments express the need for the Schuylkill River Trail to be offroad throughout Bern Township.
 - 2 comments request active transportation improvements along West Leesport Rd to allow residents to safely access area business.
- **Exeter:**
 - 1 comment expresses the need for active transportation improvements along East Neversink Rd between 422 and Perkiomen Ave as this area is frequented by active transportation users.
- **Fleetwood:**
 - 2 comments focus on the need for pedestrian improvements such as crosswalks and signage across Main Street. Areas in particular include the Fleetwood Park as well as Walnut, Laurel, Buttonwood, and Willow Streets.
- **Fleetwood and Richmond:**
 - 2 comments express the need for active transportation improvements along West Main Street and Park Road from the borough to Lenhart Rd to allow safer passage for Fleetwood residents to access areas such as Boyer's Food Market and the Post Office.
- **Leesport:**
 - 1 comment notes that there should be a bike lane along Wall Street. Specifically, the intersection of Wall St and Lee/Center St as this is a dangerous, narrow corner.
 - 1 comment states that Wall Street is too narrow between Leesport Ave and Reeser St. It is noted that it is difficult for two vehicles to pass each other. Street widening and active transportation infrastructure including a bike lane were requested in this location.
- **Lenhartsville:**
 - 1 comment notes that a painted pedestrian crossing be located at the intersection of Old 22/Penn St and 143/Willow St.
- **Ontelaunee:**
 - 1 comment expresses the need for active transportation improvements between Leesport through Ontelaunee to Muhlenberg Township. Suggestions include bike lanes, ADA ramps, sidewalks, and a shared multiuse path.
 - 2 comments focus on the need for active transportation improvements along 73/Lake Shore Drive. The comment notes that the road and shoulder are too narrow to ride a bike or walk along 73/West Shore Drive.
- **Spring:**
 - 1 comment notes that active transportation infrastructure needs to be added along 724 around the bridge over 222 to allow residents to access businesses safely without traveling in a car.

- **Union:**
 - 1 comment indicates that there needs to be a better crossing for the Schuylkill River Trail across 724 near Main St. Based on the location indicated, this refers to the Monocacy Crossing, which is an overhead bridge that was completed in September of 2021 with funds from DCNR, DVRPC, and a donation from Peggy Whittaker.
- **West Reading:**
 - 1 comment identifies safety issues at the access points of Delaney Circle in West Reading. Suggested improvements include speed and stop sign enforcement, better signage, and newly painted crosswalks.
 - 1 comment suggests that drivers do not yield to pedestrians at the intersection of Penn Avenue and 5th Avenue. Better enforcement or a longer pedestrian light prior to the left-hand turn light were suggestions to address this issue.

Public Transportation Comments:

- **Berks Countywide:**
 - 14 comments were made regarding transit service from Reading with access to areas such as Kutztown and Allentown to the east; Schuylkill County to the north; Wyomissing, Sinking Spring, Adamstown, Lancaster, Womelsdorf, and Lebanon to the west; and Pottstown to the south. Furthermore, some of these comments express the need for commuter passenger service to areas even further away such as New York City, Philadelphia, and Harrisburg.
 - 1 comment focuses on the need to increase bus service to Deka and use of existing public transportation through incentives to employees. The comment states that this could help reduce congestion, accidents, and speeding on the surrounding roadways and major routes into this area.

Timochenko, Amanda

From: Piper, Alan
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 2:22 PM
To: Barnhardt, Kevin; Blauser, Jessica; Burns, Lynne A.; Frankowski, Brittney; Heintzman, Jonathan; Hunter, David; Leinbach, Christian Y; Lopez, Barbara; Medaglia, Lawrence; Rivera, Michael S; Shupp, Pamela; Sihelnik, Lucine; Torres, Carmen L; Yocom-Grill, Anne-Marie
Cc: Ellison, Shanice; Hain, Devon; McGough, Matthew; Golembiewski, Michael; Showers, Ashley; Timochenko, Amanda
Subject: FW: Transportation Projects - Municipal Request Opportunity
Attachments: Municipality Project Solicitation.pdf

Commissioners and others;

Just a heads up that the following e-mail was distributed to all Berks County municipalities this afternoon soliciting project recommendations for the next update of the Transportation Improvement Program. If you or any constituent municipalities have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



Alan Piper | Planner III - Transportation
Berks County Planning Commission
 633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
 Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6313 Fax: 610-478-6316



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

From: Piper, Alan
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 2:11 PM
To: Piper, Alan <APiper@countyofberks.com>
Subject: Transportation Projects - Municipal Request Opportunity

Dear Municipal Official,

The Berks County Planning Commission, acting in its capacity as staff to the Reading Area Transportation Study, has begun the process of updating the FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the FFY 2027-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for Berks County. As part of this process, we are requesting municipal input on potential highway and bridge and transit projects that are recommended for consideration to be included in

these plans. The attached memorandum describes the eligibility requirements and the process to be followed to submit recommendations.

The memorandum also provides a link to a web page that contains resources for assisting in this process and a survey to be used in making the submissions.

Please forward this to all appropriate elected officials and staff in your municipality with interest in this matter.

Recommendations are due by July 14, 2023.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me. My contact information is listed below.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this effort.

Link to Web Page:

<https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/plans-and-programs/transportation-projects-municipal-request-opportunity>



Alan Piper | Planner III - Transportation
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6313 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: apiper@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

Reading Area Transportation Study

(610) 478-6300

FAX: (610) 478-6316

c/o Berks County Planning Commission

Berks County Services Center

633 Court Street, 14th Floor

Reading, PA 19601-4309

ACTION REQUIRED BY JULY 14, 2023

MUNICIPAL REQUEST OPPORTUNITY

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

May 26, 2023

Dear Municipal Official:

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the regional transportation planning organization for the Reading, Pennsylvania metropolitan area. The Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization covers all of Berks County.

The Berks County Planning Commission, as staff to the Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee (RATS), has begun the process of updating the FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FFY 2027 – 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Berks County region. As part of this process, we are requesting municipal input on potential highway and bridge and transit projects for consideration to be included in these plans.

You may submit as many requests as you feel are necessary. Project requests should be limited to:

- 1) Major capital improvements (not routine maintenance) for inclusion in these plans.
- 2) Recommendations can be made for any state-owned highway or bridge.
- 3) We can only consider recommendations for non-safety related highway improvements to municipally-owned roadways if they are part of the approved Federal-Aid Highway System (see attached map). Funding in this category is extremely limited.
- 4) We may consider the use of safety funding to address high crash locations on any roadway.
- 5) We may only consider improvements to municipal bridges that are greater than 20 feet in length.

Please provide as much information as you can regarding your recommendations and any supporting documentation if available. Projects requested by multiple municipalities will be given additional consideration.

Please visit (<https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/plans-and-programs/transportation-projects-municipal-request-opportunity>)

to access a survey form for each new project you are recommending for consideration.

Also on the website is documentation for current projects that have already been programmed.

Projects identified in the following documents do not need to be resubmitted.

- The current list and mapping of programmed projects on the FFY 2023-2026 TIP.
- The current list and mapping of programmed projects on the FFY 2023-2045 LRTP.

Your recommendations, along with those received from other municipalities, will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the request that the County submits to PennDOT. **There is no guarantee that a project will be added to the program.** The actual amount of available funding will not be determined until a review is completed of the status of the current projects and their costs later this year.

Please submit the Berks County Transportation Project Request Survey no later than July 14, 2023.

Please submit any relevant documentation like maps, photos, studies, letters, etc. that you feel will be useful in defining this problem to:

E-Mail: planning@countyofberks.com

OR

Fax: (610) 478-6316

OR

Mail: Berks County Planning Commission
Attention: Transportation Project Requests
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Alan Piper via email at apiper@countyofberks.com or by phone at (610) 478-6300.

Thank you for your participation in this effort.

AMT/ADP

**BERKS COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION PROJECT REQUEST FORM
2023**

1.0 PROJECT ADVOCATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Local Advocate Type: Municipality _____ Individual _____ Agency / Organization

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

1.1 Problem Location

County: Berks

Municipality: _____

MPO: Reading MPO PennDOT District: 5-0

Problem Type: Highway Bridge Transit

Primary Road Name / Route: _____

Intersecting Road Name / Route: _____

Stream Crossed: _____

Has any prework such as a study or preliminary design begun? _____

1.2 Problem Description / Justification

(Please check the line or lines that most closely reflect the problem category and provide any additional description as appropriate.)

- Roadway Preventative Maintenance**
- Bridge Maintenance**
- Congestion**
- Safety**
- Land Use & Economic Development**
- Transit, Pedestrian & Alternative Travel Modes**
- Restrictions to Freight Movement**

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Please be clear on your assessment of the problem, expanding on what you have checked or providing new information if none of the checked boxes apply.

LAND USE / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Is there anything else relating to land use or development that you feel is relevant to this problem?

Are there any environmental concerns that you feel are relevant to this problem?

FUNDING

Has any federal, state, county, municipal or private /other funding been set aside for addressing this problem? If so, please identify.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITY: _____

If submitting more than one request, please rank (1,2,3...) all project recommendations in terms of your municipal priorities with “1” being the highest priority. **Do not use the same number more than once.**

ATTACHMENTS:

Please attach any relevant documentation like maps, photos, studies, letters, etc. that you feel will be useful in defining this problem.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
READING AREA
TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

The Reading Area Transportation Study Technical and Coordinating Committees will hold a special joint meeting on Thursday, December 21, 2023 beginning at 1:30 pm to consider the draft listing of highway, bridge and transit projects for inclusion in the FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. This will be a virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams and YouTube. Details on how to participate in this meeting either online or via phone will be posted to the Berks County Public Meetings web page (<https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/commissioners/meetings>).

The Reading MPO is committed to compliance with nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies applicable to the programs and activities it administers. We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Michael Golembiewski at (610) 478-6300 or planning@countyofberks.com at least 72 hours before the scheduled event. The MPO will attempt to honor requests made after this time as it is able. If you believe you have been denied participation opportunities, or otherwise discriminated against based on disability, Title VI, or another covered nondiscriminatory basis, you may file a complaint using the procedures provided in our complaint process document or by contacting Michael Golembiewski at (610) 478-6300 or planning@countyofberks.com.

Personas que necesiten acomodo razonable o con preguntas pueden comunicarse al 610-478-6300.

Alan D. Piper, MPO Secretary
RE Dec 14 A-1

READING EAGLE
12/14/23

PUBLIC NOTICE

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITY
DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM,
DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS,
AND
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY**

The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee announces the availability for citizens, local governments and interested organizations to review and comment on the following documents: the *Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program*, *Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis*, and the *Draft Environmental Justice Summary* for Berks County. These are planning documents that list various roadway, public transit, and off-road transportation projects and planning efforts in Berks County proposed over the next four years. Comments will be accepted beginning Sunday March 24, 2024, through the close of business on Tuesday April 23, 2024.

Copies of the *Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program*, *Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis*, and *Draft Environmental Justice Summary* are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission> and in print at the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601; BARTA, 1700 N. 11th Street, Reading, PA 19604; and PennDOT District 5-0, 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101.

Two (2) Public Meetings to review the *Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program*, *Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis* and *Draft Environmental Justice Summary* will take place. The first will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. This meeting will be conducted both in-person and virtually using Microsoft Teams and YouTube. Instructions for connecting to this meeting virtually will be available at the Berks County Public Meetings web page at <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/commissioners/meetings>. The second meeting will be held Thursday April 11, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the first floor Conference Room at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533. This meeting will be conducted in-person only.

The Berks County Services Center and Agricultural Center are handicapped accessible. The Services Center is served by BARTA. Spanish language interpretation services will be provided with a minimum of ninety-six (96) hours prior notice. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested no less than seven (7) days prior to the meetings. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610-478-6300.

Please submit written comments to: TIP Comments
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St. – 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Comments may also be faxed to 610-478-6316 or emailed to planning@berkspa.gov

The Reading MPO is committed to compliance with nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies applicable to the programs and activities it administers. We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact the ADA/Title VI Coordinator at (610) 478-6300 or planning@berkspa.gov at least 72 hours before the scheduled event. The MPO will attempt to honor requests made after this time as it is able.

If you believe you have been denied participation opportunities, or otherwise discriminated against based on ADA/Disability, Title VI, or another covered nondiscriminatory basis, you may file a complaint using the procedures provided in our [complaint process document](#) or by contacting the ADA/TITLE VI Coordinator at (610) 478-6300, at planning@berkspa.gov or at the address listed above.

AVISO PUBLICO

ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE DEL ÁREA DE READING
OPORTUNIDAD PARA REVISIÓN PÚBLICA Y COMENTARIOS
BORRADOR FFY2025-2028 PROGRAMA DE MEJORAS AL TRANSPORTE,
BORRADOR ANÁLISIS DE CONFORMIDAD CON LA CALIDAD DEL AIRE
Y
BORRADOR RESUMEN DE JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL

El Comité Coordinador del Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading (Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee) anuncia a los ciudadanos, gobiernos locales y organizaciones interesadas la disponibilidad para que puedan revisar y comentar sobre los borradores de los siguientes documentos: Programa de Mejoras al Transporte FFY 2025-2028 (*Draft Transportation Improvement Program*), Análisis de Conformidad de Calidad del Aire (*Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis*) y Resumen de Justicia Ambiental (*Draft Environmental Justice Summary*) para el condado de Berks. Estos son documentos de planificación que enumeran varios proyectos de carreteras, transporte público, transporte fuera de carreteras, y esfuerzos de planificación en el condado de Berks propuestos para los próximos cuatro años. Se aceptarán comentarios a partir del domingo 24 de marzo de 2024 hasta el cierre de las operaciones comerciales el martes 23 de abril de 2024.

Copias del borrador FFY 2025-2028 del Programa de Mejoras al Transporte, del borrador del Análisis de Conformidad de Calidad del Aire y del borrador del Resumen de Justicia Ambiental están disponibles para revisión pública en el sitio web de la Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks (Berks County Planning Commission): <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission>. También estarán disponibles de forma impresa en la Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks (Berks County Planning Commission) 633 Court St – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601; BARTA, 1700 N. 11th Street, Reading, PA 19604; y en PennDOT District 5-0, 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101.

Se llevarán a cabo dos (2) reuniones públicas para revisar los documentos *Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program*, *Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis* y *Draft Environmental Justice Summary*. La primera reunión se celebrará el lunes 8 de abril de 2024, comenzando a las 3:30 p.m., en el Commissioner's Boardroom localizado en el piso 13 de Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. Esta reunión se llevará a cabo tanto de forma presencial como virtual a través de Microsoft Teams y YouTube. Las instrucciones para conectar con la reunión de forma virtual estarán disponibles en la página web

<https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/commissioners/meetings>. La segunda reunión se llevará a cabo el jueves 11 de abril de 2024, comenzando a las 6:00 p.m. en la sala de conferencias (Conference Room), primer piso, en el Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533. Esta reunión solamente se efectuará de manera presencial.

Tanto el Berks County Services Center como el Agricultural Center son lugares accesibles a personas con discapacidades. Barta le presta servicios a Services Center. Se proveerán servicios de intérpretes en español si se solicitan con al menos noventa y seis (96) horas de anticipación. Estos documentos estarán disponibles en lenguajes y formatos alternativos si se solicitan con no menos de siete (7) días previos a las reuniones. Las personas que requieren acomodos razonables o que tengan preguntas deben comunicarse al (610) 478-6300.

Por favor, someta sus comentarios por escrito a:

TIP Comments
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St. – 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Los comentarios también se pueden enviar por fax al 610-478-6316 o por “email” a planning@berkspa.gov

El MPO de Reading está comprometido con el cumplimiento de estatutos de no discriminación, órdenes ejecutivas, regulaciones y políticas aplicables a los programas y actividades que administra. Nos esforzamos por auspiciar eventos inclusivos y accesibles que permitan que todas las personas puedan participar y se involucren de forma plena. Para solicitar acomodo razonable o para preguntas sobre la accesibilidad, por favor comuníquese con el contacto de ADA/ Title VI Coordinator (Coordinador de Título VI) al (610) 478-6300 o a planning@berkspa.gov con al menos 72 horas antes de la fecha programada del evento. El MPO intentará atender las solicitudes luego de estas fechas límites en la medida que sea posible.

Si usted considera que se le han negado las oportunidades de participación, o que se ha discriminado contra usted conforme el Título VI, Ley ADA/Discapacidad, o en virtud de alguna otra disposición de no discriminación, usted puede radicar una querrela/queja (“complaint”) siguiendo los procedimientos descritos en nuestro documento [complaint process document](#) o puede comunicarse con ADA/ Title VI Coordinator (Coordinador de Título VI) al (610) 478-6300, a planning@berkspa.gov o a la dirección que aparece arriba.

<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITY DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS, AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY</p> <p>The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee announces the availability for citizens, local governments and interested organizations to review and comment on the following documents: the Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and the Draft Environmental Justice Summary for Berks County. These are planning documents that list various roadway, public transit, and off-road transportation projects and planning efforts in Berks County proposed over the next four years. Comments will be accepted beginning Sunday, March 24, 2024, through the close of business on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.</p> <p>Copies of the Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and Draft Environmental Justice Summary are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission and in print at the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601; BARTA, 1700 N. 11th Street, Reading, PA 19604; and PennDOT District 5-0, 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101.</p> <p>Two (2) Public Meetings to review the Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and Draft Environmental Justice Summary will take place. The first will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. This meeting will be conducted both in-person and virtually using Microsoft Teams and YouTube. Instructions for connecting to this meeting virtually will be available at the Berks County Public Meetings web page at https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/commissioners-meetings. The second meeting will be held Thursday, April 11, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the first floor Conference Room at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533. This meeting will be conducted in-person only.</p> <p>The Berks County Services Center and Agricultural Center are handicapped accessible. The Services Center is served by BARTA. Spanish language interpretation services will be provided with a minimum of ninety-six (96) hours prior notice. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested no less than seven (7) days prior to the meetings. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610-478-6300.</p> <p>Please submit written comments to:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>TIP Comments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Berks County Planning Commission</td> </tr> <tr> <td>633 Court St. – 14th Floor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading, PA 19601</td> </tr> </table> <p>Comments may also be faxed to 610-478-6316 or emailed to planning@berkspa.gov</p> <p>The Reading MPO is committed to compliance with nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies applicable to the programs and activities it administers. We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact the ADA/Title VI Coordinator at (610) 478-6300 or planning@berkspa.gov at least 72 hours before the scheduled event. The MPO will attempt to honor requests made after this time as it is able.</p> <p>If you believe you have been denied participation opportunities, or otherwise discriminated against based on ADA/Disability, Title VI, or another covered nondiscriminatory basis, you may file a complaint using the procedures provided in our complaint process document or by contacting the ADA/TITLE VI Coordinator at (610) 478-6300, at planning@berkspa.gov or at the address listed above.</p> 	TIP Comments	Berks County Planning Commission	633 Court St. – 14 th Floor	Reading, PA 19601	<p>AVISO PÚBLICO</p> <p>ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE DEL ÁREA DE READING OPORTUNIDAD PARA REVISIÓN PÚBLICA Y COMENTARIOS BORRADOR FFY2025-2028 PROGRAMA DE MEJORAS AL TRANSPORTE, BORRADOR ANÁLISIS DE CONFORMIDAD CON LA CALIDAD DEL AIRE Y BORRADOR RESUMEN DE JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL</p> <p>El Comité Coordinador del Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading (Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee) anuncia a los ciudadanos, gobiernos locales y organizaciones interesadas la disponibilidad para que puedan revisar y comentar sobre los borradores de los siguientes documentos: Programa de Mejoras al Transporte FFY 2025-2028 (Draft Transportation Improvement Program), Análisis de Conformidad de Calidad del Aire (Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis) y Resumen de Justicia Ambiental (Draft Environmental Justice Summary) para el condado de Berks. 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633 Court St. – 14 th Floor									
Reading, PA 19601									

Reading Area Transportation Study

(610) 478-6300
 FAX: (610) 478-6316

c/o Berks County Planning Commission
 Berks County Services Center
 633 Court Street, 14th Floor
 Reading, PA 19601-4309

March 21, 2024

Contact: Alan Piper
 Transportation Planner
 (610) 478-6300 Ext. 6313
apiper@berkspa.gov

NEWS RELEASE**For Immediate Release**

**LOCAL OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE FOUR-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
 FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT**

Reading, PA (March 21, 2024) -

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee, the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation in Berks County, is pleased to present the Draft FFY 2025 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and related documents for public review and comment. A complete copy of the draft plans can be found on the Berks County Planning Commission website at: www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission

Draft Transportation Improvement Program

The Draft FFY 2025 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the regionally agreed upon list of priority transportation projects. The draft TIP contains 112 projects totaling nearly \$365.8 million for project phases to be advanced during that four-year period. It includes 95 projects or programs addressing highway and bridge needs and 17 projects addressing public transportation. There is also a statewide Interstate Management Program that is separate from the regional TIP. There are 2 Interstate management projects totaling \$13.9 million scheduled in Berks County.

Major projects included in the Draft TIP include:

- **upgrade and widening of US 222 North from Schaeffer Road, Maiden Creek Township to the Kutztown Bypass in Richmond Township,**
- **reconfiguration of the interchange between US 222 and US 422 in Wyomissing,**
- **reconstruction of the US 422 (Penn Avenue) intersection with PA 724 and Mull Avenue in Sinking Spring Borough,**
- **a series of congestion and safety improvement projects on**
 - **PA 61 from north of Shoemakersville to the Schuylkill County line in Perry, Windsor and Tilden Townships and Hamburg Borough**
 - **PA 12 from Elizabeth Avenue to PA 73 in Alsace and Ruscombmanor Twps., and**
 - **State Hill Road in Wyomissing, and**
- **beginning the reconstruction of the US 422 West Shore Bypass in Reading, West Reading, and Cumru Townships.**
- **Other projects include numerous bridge replacements, pavement improvements, and other smaller corridor safety and intersection improvements.**
- **Transit projects address vehicle replacements and operations for BARTA.**

Reading Area Transportation Study News Release

March 21, 2024

Page 2

Opportunity for Review and Public Comment

The Reading MPO encourages the public to review and pose questions about the Draft Transportation Improvement Program and related documents to state, county, transit and MPO staff through its ongoing public involvement process and during the public comment period.

Public Comment Period - The public comment period begins on **March 24, 2024** and will end at 5:00 P.M. on **April 23, 2024**.

Public Comment Meeting – Two meetings have been scheduled to allow the public to review the plans and provide any comments.

- The first meeting will be held on **Monday April 8, 2024** beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, Berks County Services Center, 13th Floor, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. This will be a hybrid meeting with participation available both in person and virtually.
- The second meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 11, 2024** beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Bern Township, PA. This meeting will be in-person only.

Comments may also be emailed to planning@berkspa.gov, faxed to 610-478-6316, or submitted by mail to TIP Comments, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601.

Any comments offered will be considered by the MPO committee prior to final adoption of the plan which is anticipated to occur at their next meeting on May 16, 2024.

Additional Documents Available for Public Review and Comment during this same period:

Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis – Provides the required analysis of the air quality implications of the projects included in the TIP and LRTP and demonstrates conformity with current air quality standards.

Draft Environmental Justice Summary – Provides an analysis of the impacts of the proposed plan of projects ensuring that there are no disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income populations.

Copies of the Draft TIP and related documents - A copy of the Draft Transportation Improvement Program and all other related documents are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission

###

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for Berks County. It is charged with assessing the transportation needs of our area (both highway and public transportation), preparing a Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. These plans then guide the activities of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the South Central Transit Authority providing services in Berks County as BARTA.

Piper, Alan

From: Piper, Alan
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 2:31 PM
To: Reading Eagle News Desk; WFMZ; Henshaw, Steven; BCTV (bctv@bctv.org)
Cc: Ron Young
Subject: Reading Area Transportation Study News Release - Draft FFY 2025-28 Transportation Improvement Program Released for Public Review and Comment
Attachments: RATS TIP News release - 3-21-2024 (F).pdf

Attached please find a news release announcing The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee's release of the draft FFY 2025-28 Transportation Improvement Program for Public Review and Comment.

The Draft FFY 2025 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the regionally agreed upon list of priority transportation projects. The draft TIP contains 112 projects totaling nearly \$365.8 million for project phases to be advanced during that four-year period. It includes 95 projects or programs addressing highway and bridge needs and 17 projects addressing public transportation. There is also a statewide Interstate Management Program that is separate from the regional TIP. There are 2 Interstate management projects totaling \$13.9 million scheduled in Berks County.

For more details see attached document.

**Effective Immediately – Our e-mail addresses have changed. My new address is Apiper@berkspa.gov
Our web site address has also been changed. It is now www.berkspa.gov/planning
Please update your records accordingly. Thank you.**



Coming Together *Working Together*
for *Achieve Success!*

Alan Piper | Planner III - Transportation
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6313 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: Apiper@berkspa.gov
Web: www.berkspa.gov/planning



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Municipal Websites

Contact Information



David N. Hunter, AICP
Executive Director



Ashley Showers
Assistant Director

Address:
Planning Commission
Berks County Services
Center, 14th Floor
633 Court Street
Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300
Fax: 610-478-6316

Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm



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

DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Draft listing of transportation projects and funding for FFY 2025-2028
View Documents

2023 ANNUAL REPORT
2023 Annual Report
See the 2023 highlights of the Planning Commission
View

E-FLASH
E-Flash Updates
View

Planning Advice: For Utility Scale Solar Facilities and Resources
View

Programs / Services

Search

Back to Plans and Programs
 Back to
 Transportation/Reading MPO

DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

DRAFT FFY 2025 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Environmental Justice Summary, and Air Quality Conformity Analysis

PUBLIC NOTICE AND HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS
 AVISO PÚBLICO Y CÓMO ENVIAR COMENTARIOS

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the regionally agreed-on list of priority projects required by federal transportation legislation. It lists all transportation projects in Berks County that intend to use federal funds over the next four years (FFY 2025-2028), along with non-federally funded projects that are regionally significant. The list is multi-modal, meaning that it includes highway, bridge, and public transit projects as well as non-traditional bicycle and pedestrian projects.

The DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 TIP for Berks County contains 112 projects totaling \$365.8 million for the phases to be advanced during the next four years. It includes 96 projects valued at \$264.2 million addressing the highway system and bridges and 17 projects valued at \$101.6 million addressing the transit system.

There is also a DRAFT statewide Interstate Management Program that is separate from the regional TIP. There are two (2) Interstate Management Program projects located in Berks County with a value of \$13.9 million.

(The following documents are in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. To view a PDF document, you must have Adobe's free Acrobat Reader.)

Intro TIP Document (11 MB file size)

Executive Summary (16 pages executive)

Cover Page & Table of Contents

SECTION 1: Introduction and Program Summary

- Introduction
- General Overview of the TIP
- Program Summary
- Opportunity for Review and Public Comments

SECTION 2: Highway and Bridge Projects

- Explanation of Project Descriptions, Maps, Codes and Abbreviations
- Highway, Bridge and Enhancement Projects
- Highway, Bridge and Enhancement Financial Plan
- Interstate Management Program
- Interstate Management Projects
- Project Maps

SECTION 3: Transit Projects

- Explanation of Maps, Project Descriptions, Codes and Abbreviations
- Transit Projects
- Transit Financial Plan

APPENDICES

- A. Procedures for TIP Administrative Actions
- B. Financial Evidence
- C. Air Quality Conformity Documentation and Resolution
- D. MPO Organizational Structure and Self-Certification Resolution
- E. Public Participation Policy and Documentation

Approvals (to be added upon receipt after adoption)

BATS Membership

TIP Amendments/Modifications

Between the regular two-year updates to the TIP, it may become necessary to make Amendments (project additions or deletions) or Modifications (changes to project schedules or funding) based on updates to available funding levels, updated engineering and/or cost estimates, changing project schedules, or changing priorities. These changes are regulated by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) found in Appendix A. As these changes are approved, we will post them here. The first document will list project- or phase-specific information. The second document will be an updated spreadsheet reflecting both prior and current changes to the program.

FFY 2025 Environmental Justice Summary

The Environmental Justice Summary reviews and identifies how the transportation planning process and transportation improvements identified in the TIP and LTP are distributed within the region. The projects and programs are reviewed against the locations of various demographic groups throughout the county and reviews the potential effects of projects and programs. The steps used in the completion of these analyses are summarized in this report.

Air Quality Conformity Analysis

The Air Quality Conformity Analysis is an integral part of the Transportation Improvement Program. Using the Planning Commission's Travel Demand Forecasting Model and US EPA's MOVES air quality emissions model, the mix of projects and strategies shown in the TIP has been shown to conform to air quality standards for ground-level ozone set for Berks County.

Resources

- Pennsylvania State Website
- FEMA - After Flood Info

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Berks County Services Center | 633 Court Street, 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601- 4309
Phone: 610.478.6300 | Fax: 610.478.6316 | Email: planning@berkspa.gov

*Christopher J. Spohn, Chairman | Lisa Weaver-Gonzalez, Vice-Chair | Lee C. Olsen, AIA, NCARB, Secretary
 Glenn R. Knoblauch | Thomas C. McKeon, AICP, CECD
 Sarah Phillips | David H. Turner | Miguel A. Herrera | Jodi L. Gauker
 David N. Hunter, Sr., AICP, Executive Director | David N. Peris, Assistant County Solicitor*

March 20, 2024

Sidney Hill, Chief
 Onondaga Nation
 4040 Route 11
 Nedrow NY 13120

Re: Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
 Draft Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program
 (TIP) 30-day Public Comment Period – March 24, 2024 through April 23, 2024

Dear Chief Hill:

Greetings to you. With respect to the special status of Federally Recognized Tribes and Nations, the purpose of this letter is to provide you with notice of the 30-Day Public Comment Period for the [draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#), [draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#), and the [draft Environmental Justice Summary](#), per the Federal Highway Administration's regulations, 23 CFR §450.316. With this letter, the Reading MPO would like to formally extend to the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma an invitation to contribute comments from March 24, 2024 through April 23, 2024. Additionally two (2) Public Meetings to review the [Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program](#), [Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#) and [Draft Environmental Justice Summary](#) will take place. The first will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. This meeting will be conducted both in-person and virtually using Microsoft Teams and YouTube. Instructions for connecting to this meeting virtually will be available at the Berks County Public Meetings web page at <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/commissioners/meetings>. The second meeting will be held Thursday April 11, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the first floor Conference Room at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533. This meeting will be conducted in-person only. The presentation given at the meeting can be found here. Other interested parties, including governmental agencies and the public, are also concurrently receiving this notice.

www.countyofberks.com/planning

The TIP, also known as a short-range plan, includes all transportation projects in the regional planning area that anticipate using federal transportation funding within the four-year period. When these projects advance past the planning phase of project development, you will be consulted during the Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) consultation process consistent with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) policy. This project-specific outreach during Section 106 and NEPA consultation will occur regardless of your participation in the TIP Public Comment Period. The documents provided for public comment are attached and include:

- [Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)
- [Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#)
- [Draft Environmental Justice Summary](#)

These documents can also be accessed electronically at <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission>.

If you wish to provide comments on the [draft FFY 2025-2028 Reading MPO Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#) and other related documents, please provide comments to:

TIP Comments
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St. – 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

A copy of the [Public Comment Period and Meeting Notice](#) for the draft FFY 2025-2028 Reading MPO TIP and related documents is also attached. Following the TIP Public Comment Period, all comments and questions will be taken into consideration. A full summary of the process, comments and responses will be made available upon request.

If you have questions about a specific project or wish to propose changes to the TIP documents to better facilitate the value of these documents to address your needs and others that may need an enhancement for the consultation efforts, please contact Alan D. Piper, Transportation Planner III, at the address listed above or by telephone (610-478-6300 Ext. 6313), fax (610-478-6316) or email (apiper@berkspa.gov).

Sincerely,

David N. Hunter, Sr., AICP
Executive Director
Berks County Planning Commission

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT - Reading Area Transportation Study, Draft Transportation Improvement Program
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024 3:12:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
Deborah Dotson, Tribal President
PO Box 825
31064 State Highway 281, Bldg 100
Anadarko, OK 73005
[REDACTED]

Re: Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Draft Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
30-day Public Comment Period – March 24, 2024 through April 23, 2024

Dear Tribal President Dotson:

Greetings to you. With respect to the special status of Federally Recognized Tribes and Nations, the purpose of this letter is to provide you with notice of the 30-Day Public Comment Period for the [draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#), [draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#), and the [draft Environmental Justice Summary](#), per the Federal Highway Administration's regulations, 23 CFR §450.316. With this letter, the Reading MPO would like to formally extend to the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma an invitation to contribute comments from March 24, 2024 through April 23, 2024. Additionally two (2) Public Meetings to review the [Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program](#), [Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#) and [Draft Environmental Justice Summary](#) will take place. The first will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. This meeting will be conducted both in-person and virtually using Microsoft Teams and YouTube. Instructions for connecting to this meeting virtually will be available at the Berks County Public Meetings web page at <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/commissioners/meetings>. The second meeting will be held Thursday April 11, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the first floor Conference Room at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533. This meeting will be conducted in-person only. The presentation given at the meeting can be found here. Other interested parties, including governmental agencies and the public, are also concurrently receiving this notice.

The TIP, also known as a short-range plan, includes all transportation projects in the regional planning area that anticipate using federal transportation funding within the four-year period. When these projects advance past the planning phase of project development, you will be consulted during the Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) consultation process consistent with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) policy. This project-specific outreach during Section 106 and NEPA consultation will occur regardless of your participation in the TIP Public Comment Period.

The documents are provided for public comment. Due to their large file sizes, we cannot attach them directly to this email. However, the links provided below include:

[Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)

- [Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#)
- [Draft Environmental Justice Summary](#)

These documents can also be accessed electronically at <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission>.

If you wish to provide comments on the [draft FFY 2025-2028 Reading MPO Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#) and other related documents, please provide comments to:

TIP Comments
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St. – 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

A link to the [Public Comment Period and Meeting Notice](#) for the draft FFY 2025-2028 Reading MPO TIP and related documents is also provided. Following the TIP Public Comment Period, all comments and questions will be taken into consideration. A full summary of the process, comments and responses will be made available upon request.

If you have questions about a specific project or wish to propose changes to the TIP documents to better facilitate the value of these documents to address your needs and others that may need an enhancement for the consultation efforts, please contact Alan D. Piper, Transportation Planner III, at the address listed above or by telephone (610-478-6300 Ext. 6313), fax (610-478-6316) or email (apiper@berkspa.gov).

Sincerely,

*Michael D. Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler,
for*

David N. Hunter, Sr., AICP
Executive Director
Berks County Planning Commission

EFFECTIVE 1/19/2024, MY NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: mgolembiewski@berkspa.gov PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS. THANK YOU!



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@berkspa.gov
Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

Sent Via E-mail (actual email addresses removed for privacy) on Thursday, March 21, 2024, to:

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
John R. Johnson, Governor
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Devon Frazier, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
Katelyn Lucas, Historic Preservation Assistant
PO Box 825
31064 State Highway 281, Bldg 100
Anadarko, OK 73005

Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
Deborah Dotson, Tribal President
PO Box 825
31064 State Highway 281, Bldg 100
Anadarko, OK 73005

Delaware Tribe of Indians
Brad KillsCrow, Chief
5100 Tuxedo Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Delaware Tribe of Indians
Susan Bachor, Historic Preservation Representative
126 University Circle
Stroud Hall Rm 437
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Glenna Wallace, Chief
PO Box 350
Seneca MO 64865

Shawnee Tribe
Cassie Harper, Tribal Administrator
PO Box 189
29 S Highway 69A
Miami OK 74355

Opportunity for Public Comment - Reading Area Transportation Study Transportation Improvement Program

Reply Reply All Forward Fri 3/22/2024 4:03 PM

Notifications To

This message was sent with High importance.

- LegalAd_PublicNotice-ENGLISH-LEGAL-SIZE.pdf 117 KB
LegalAd_PublicNotice_Spanish.pdf 139 KB

PUBLIC NOTICE

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITY
DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM,
DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS,
AND
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY

The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee announces the availability for citizens, local governments and interested organizations to review and comment on the following documents: the Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and the Draft Environmental Justice Summary for Berks County.

Copies of the Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and Draft Environmental Justice Summary are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission

Two (2) Public Meetings to review the Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Draft Environmental Justice Summary will take place. The first will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th Floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA.

The Berks County Services Center and Agricultural Center are handicapped accessible. The Services Center is served by BARTA. Spanish language interpretation services will be provided with a minimum of ninety-six (96) hours prior notice.

Please submit written comments to: TIP Comments
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Comments may also be faxed to 610-478-6316 or emailed to planning@berkspa.gov

The Reading MPO is committed to compliance with nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies applicable to the programs and activities it administers. We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully.

If you believe you have been denied participation opportunities, or otherwise discriminated against based on ADA/Disability, Title VI, or another covered nondiscriminatory basis, you may file a complaint using the procedures provided in our complaint process document or by contacting the ADA/TITLE VI Coordinator at (610) 478-6300, at planning@berkspa.gov or at the address listed above.



Reading Area Transportation Study

(610) 478-6300

c/o Berks County Planning Commission

FAX: (610) 478-6316

Berks County Services Center

633 Court Street, 14th Floor

Reading, PA 19601-4309

TO: Berks County area Library Directors

FROM: Michael D. Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler

RE: Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Public Comment Period advertisements

DATE: March 20, 2024

Attached you will find two advertisements (1 in English and 1 in Spanish) for the Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and related Public Comment Period. The Public Comment period runs from this coming Sunday March 24th through Tuesday April 23rd. To make the public more fully aware of the Public Comment opportunities, we respectfully ask that you post these advertisements in a prominent area of your library. They may be removed at the end of the Public Comment Period after April 23rd.

We deeply appreciate your assistance in this endeavor. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call (Ext. 6304) or email mgolembiewski@berkspa.gov.

MDG/

Attach: Public Notices (English and Spanish) for the Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



Berks County Planning Commission

284 likes • 347 followers

Posts About Reels Photos Videos

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 ·

We want to hear from you!

The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee wants your comments on the following draft documents:
-Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program
-Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis... See more



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee

4

4

Like

Comment

Log in or sign up for Facebook to connect with friends, family and people you know.

[Log In](#)

or

[Create new account](#)

The screenshot shows the homepage of bctv.org. The navigation bar includes 'Open Menu', 'bctv.org', 'Watch Now', and 'Donate Today'. The main content area features three news articles:

- Royals Sign 6'5" Defenseman Tony Malinowski to SPC**
The Reading Royals, proud ECHL affiliate of the Philadelphia...
SPORTS & RECREATION
MAR 25, 2024
Read More
- Shapiro's Alternative to a Key Climate Program Comes with One Major Catch: It Needs GOP Support**
by Kate Huangpu of Spotlight PA Photo courtesy of...
GOVERNMENT
MAR 25, 2024
Read More
- Public Notice: Reading Area Transportation Study Public Review and Comment Opportunity**
by Berks County Planning Commission
The Reading Area Transportation...
ESPAÑOL
MAR 25, 2024
Read More

The right sidebar contains 'the HUB a bctv publication' with a subscription prompt, 'Upcoming Local Events' (March 19, 26, and 26), and a 'View Calendar' link. A language dropdown menu is set to 'English'.

bctv.org Watch Now

Public Notice: Reading Area Transportation Study Public Review and Comment Opportunity

Aviso Público: Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading Oportunidad para Revisión Pública y Comentarios

Mar 25, 2024



by Berks County Planning Commission

The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee announces the availability for citizens, local governments, and interested organizations to review and comment on the following documents: Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft JIP Quality Conformity Analysis, and Draft Environmental Justice Summary for Berks County. These are planning documents that list various roadway, public transit, and off-road transportation projects and planning efforts in Berks County proposed over the next four years. Comments will be accepted beginning Sunday, March 24, through the close of business on Tuesday, April 23.

Copies of Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft JIP Quality Conformity Analysis, and Draft Environmental Justice Summary are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission and in print at the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St., 14th Floor, Reading; BARTA, 1700 N. 11th St., Reading; and PennDOT District 5-0, 1002, Hamilton St., Allentown.

Two public meetings to review Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft JIP Quality Conformity Analysis, and Draft Environmental Justice Summary will take place. The first will be held on Monday, April 8, beginning at 3 p.m., in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 12th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court St., Reading. This meeting will be conducted both in-person and virtually using Microsoft Teams and YouTube.

Instructions for connecting to this meeting virtually will be available at the Berks County Public Meetings web page at https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/commissioners-meetings. The second meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11, beginning at 6 p.m. in the first-floor Conference Room at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport. This meeting will be conducted in person only.

The Berks County Services Center and Agricultural Center are handicapped accessible. The Services Center is served by BARTA. Spanish language interpretation services will be provided with a minimum of 96 hours prior notice. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested no less than seven days prior to the meetings. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610-478-6300.

Please submit written comments to:

TIP Comments
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Comments may also be faxed to 610-478-6316 or emailed to planning@berkspa.gov.

The Reading MPO is committed to compliance with nondiscrimination statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies applicable to the programs and activities it administers. We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact the ADA/Title VI Coordinator at (610) 478-6300 or planning@berkspa.gov at least 72 hours before the scheduled event. The MPO will attempt to honor requests made after this time as it is able.

If you believe you have been denied participation opportunities or otherwise discriminated against based on ADA/Disability, Title VI, or another covered nondiscriminatory basis, you may file a complaint using the procedures provided in our [complaint process document](#) or by contacting the ADA/TITLE VI Coordinator at (610) 478-6300, at planning@berkspa.gov or at the address listed above.

por Berks County Planning Commission

El Comité Coordinador del Estado de Transporte del Área de Reading (Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee) anuncia a los ciudadanos, gobiernos locales y organizaciones interesadas la disponibilidad para que puedan revisar y comentar sobre los borradores de los siguientes documentos: Programa de Mejoras al Transporte FFY 2025-2028 (Draft Transportation Improvement Program), Análisis de Conformidad de Calidad del Aire (Draft JIP Quality Conformity Analysis), y Resumen de Justicia Ambiental (Draft Environmental Justice Summary) para el condado de Berks. Estos son documentos de planificación que enumeran varios proyectos de carreteras, transporte público, transporte fuera de carreteras, y esfuerzos de planificación en el condado de Berks propuestos para los próximos cuatro años. Se aceptarán comentarios a partir del domingo 24 de marzo de 2024 hasta el cierre de las operaciones comerciales el martes 23 de abril de 2024.

Copias del borrador FFY 2025-2028 del Programa de Mejoras al Transporte, del borrador del Análisis de Conformidad de Calidad del Aire, y del borrador del Resumen de Justicia Ambiental están disponibles para revisión pública en el sitio web de la Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks (Berks County Planning Commission): <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission>. También estarán disponibles de forma impresa en la Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks (Berks County Planning Commission), 633 Court St., 14th Floor, Reading; BARTA, 1700 N. 11th St., Reading; y en PennDOT District 5-0, 1002 Hamilton St., Allentown.

Se llevará a cabo dos reuniones públicas para revisar los documentos Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Draft JIP Quality Conformity Analysis, y Draft Environmental Justice Summary. La primera reunión se celebrará el lunes 8 de abril, comenzando a las 3:30 p.m., en el Commissioner's Boardroom localizado en el piso 12 de Berks County Services Center, 633 Court St., Reading. Esta reunión se llevará a cabo tanto de forma presencial como virtual a través de Microsoft Teams y YouTube.

Las instrucciones para conectar con la reunión de forma virtual estarán disponibles en la página web: <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/commissioners-meetings>. La segunda reunión se llevará a cabo el jueves 11 de abril, comenzando a las 6 p.m. en la sala de conferencias (Conference Room), primer piso, en el Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport. Esta reunión solamente se efectuará de manera presencial.

Tanto el Berks County Services Center como el Agricultural Center son lugares accesibles a personas con discapacidades. Barta le presta servicios a Services Center. Se proveerán servicios de intérpretes en español si se solicitan con al menos 96 horas de anticipación. Estos documentos estarán disponibles en lenguajes y formatos alternativos si se solicitan con no menos de siete días previos a las reuniones. Las personas que requieren acomodos razonables o que tengan preguntas deben comunicarse al (610) 478-6300.

Por favor, envíe sus comentarios por escrito a:

TIP Comments
Berks County Planning Commission



Get your free subscription to The Hub - Your community in your inbox.



Upcoming Local Events

- 19 March 19 @ 6:00 am - April 21 @ 4:00 pm
Crisis Game: The Trial of Fife
- 26 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Magic Show with Tom Yurkiv
- 26 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Muzzing Nation Learning Expo

View Calendar



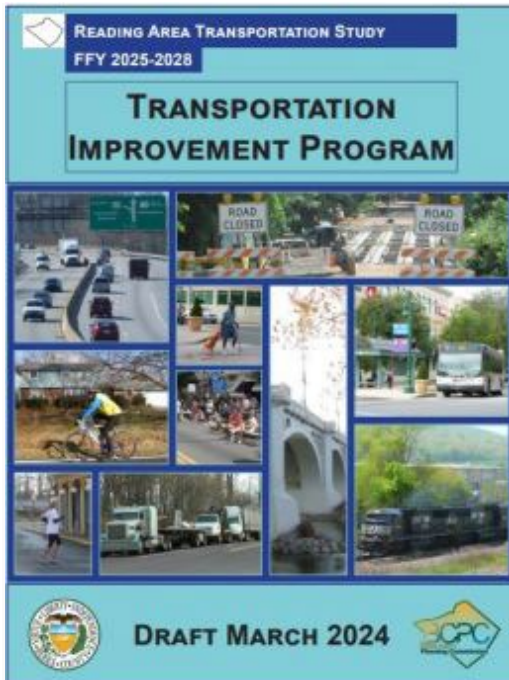
The screenshot shows the Reading Eagle website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "All Sections" and a search icon. Below this, the date "Wednesday, April 3rd 2024" and "E-Edition" are displayed. The main headline is "READING EAGLE". A navigation menu includes "News", "Sports", "Things to Do", "Business", "Opinion", "Obituaries", "Classifieds", and "Special Sections". A "TRENDING:" section highlights "Primary election 2024 guide". The main content area features several articles:

- Wyomissing and Spring Township end joint fire services agreement** (SUBSCRIBER ONLY): Former Capt. Ethan J. Holmes is promoted to chief of the Wyomissing Fire Department after the decision to end the agreement. 
- Public review period opens for highway, bridge and transit needs in Berks**: 3 hours ago.
- Safe Berks will host events to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month** (SUBSCRIBER ONLY): 23 hours ago.
- Tower Health seeking community input on health issues**: 23 hours ago.
- Senior communities answer call from Hope Rescue Mission for donations** (SUBSCRIBER ONLY): 

Additional images include a group of people holding a large check and a person holding a small dog wrapped in a white blanket.

Public review period opens for highway, bridge and transit needs in Berks

The Reading Area Transportation Study is accepting comments on the draft 2025–2028 Transportation Improvement Program.



The Reading Area Transportation Study's draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is available for review through April.

By [READING EAGLE](#) | news@readingeagle.com

PUBLISHED: April 2, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. | UPDATED: April 3, 2024 at 8:49 a.m.

The Reading Area Transportation Study is accepting comments on the draft 2025-28 Transportation Improvement Program, a regionally consensual list of priority projects.

Two meetings are scheduled for the public to review the plan and related documents and provide comments.

RATS is the designated metropolitan planning organization covering Berks County for transportation projects that receive federal and state funding.

The plan contains 112 projects totaling nearly \$365.8 million for project phases to be advanced during that four-year period. It includes 95 projects or programs addressing highway and bridge needs and 17 projects addressing public transportation.

A copy of the draft plan can be found at the Berks County Planning Commission website, berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission

The following meetings are scheduled:

- April 8 at 3 p.m. in the Berks County commissioners' board room on the 13th floor of the county services center. This will be a hybrid meeting with participation available in-person and virtually.
- April 11 at 6 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Bern Township. This meeting will be in-person only.

Feedback may also be made by email to planning@berkspa.gov and fax to 610-478-6316, or mail addressed to Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St., 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601.

The public comment period ends April 23 at 5 p.m.

Any comments will be considered by the committee before final adoption of the plan, which is anticipated to occur at the group's next meeting May 16.

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 FFY 2025 – 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
 PUBLIC MEETING – APRIL 8, 2024

NAME	REPRESENTING	E-MAIL
Michael Gukembienko	BCPL	
Amanda Timochenko	BCPC	
Alex Piper	BCPC	
CARL LONG	IS	
Melissa Lewis	IS	
MATT MCGOUGH	BCPC	
ADRIAN JADE	WYOMISSA	
Ashley Snowers	BCPC	
Jessica Jones	SCJA Board and Agency	

**RATS Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Meeting #1
April 8, 2024, Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom
Meeting Notes and Public Comments**

The first of two (2) Public Meetings on the draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was held on Monday, April 8, 2024, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, in downtown Reading, PA. The meeting was held in-person with a virtual option through the Berks County YouTube Channel. Attendees included:

In Person

Alan D. Piper, Senior Transportation Planner, Berks County Planning Commission
Amanda Timochenko, Transportation Planner, Berks County Planning Commission
Michael D. Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission
Ashley Showers, Assistant Director, Berks County Planning Commission
Matt McGough, Transportation Planner, Berks County Planning Commission
Carl Long, Berks County Information Systems
Jessica M. Jones, Exec. Director, Area Agency on Aging / SCTA Board Member
Adrian Jadic, Wyomissing Borough resident

Virtual

Melissa Lewis, Berks County Information Systems
Lauri Ahlskog, South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) staff
Michael Donchez, PennDOT District 5-0
Christopher Kufro, District Engineer, PennDOT District 5-0
Suzanne Moser, PennDOT District 5-0
Lawrence Peterson, PennDOT District 5-0
Jennifer Ruth, PennDOT District 5-0
Keith Boatman, SCTA staff

The meeting began at 3:03 p.m. with Mr. Piper introducing himself and the draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. He gave a presentation that outlined components of the Draft TIP, the process for TIP development, what it is and what it is not. He then highlighted major projects within each of the five (5) 'Planning Regions' within Berks County. He also discussed the Statewide Interstate TIP and the Transit TIP. After this presentation he asked for questions. Two were received:

1. Ashley Showers, Asst. Director, Berks County Planning Commission:
 - a. Question regarding two (2) bridge projects on PA 183 near Blue Marsh Lake (and bridge projects countywide), will trail connections and bicycle/pedestrian access be considered and/or maintained? Mr. Piper responded that all bridge projects take bicycle and pedestrian access into consideration. Additionally, consideration

of local and regional trails are part of a project's scoping process. Mr. Piper noted that the two bridges on PA 183 were undergoing surface overlay treatments only. They already have full-width shoulders and would not be changed in any way other than the overlay project.

2. Adrian Jadic, Wyomissing Borough Resident:

- a. Expressed a desire to ensure that the Lancaster Avenue interchange included for reconstruction as an element of the US 422 West Shore Bypass – Phase 1 reconstruction project (MPMS# 114439) make better connections to the planned passenger rail station in downtown Reading. Mr. Piper responded that, through the planned reconstruction of both the Penn St./Penn Ave. interchange and the Lancaster Ave. interchange, connections to downtown Reading would be significantly improved easing the connection to a downtown station.
- b. Mr. Jadic expressed support for the proposed State Hill Road project (MPMS# 105954) and the roundabouts that are presently planned. Mr. Piper thanked him for his support.

After these initial comments, Mr. Piper briefly described the Air Quality Conformity Report and the Conformity / Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) process.

Finally, Mr. Piper described the Environmental Justice Report and associated processes.

He again asked for questions from the audience regarding these two plans. None were received.

Mr. Piper closed the presentation with a "Next Steps" discussion describing the TIP adoption / submission / concurrence process along with associated dates, and a recap of how to submit comments. He then thanked the audiences (in-person and virtual) for attending. The meeting concluded at approximately 3:40 p.m.

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 FFY 2025 – 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
 PUBLIC MEETING – APRIL 11, 2024

NAME	REPRESENTING	E-MAIL
Michael Gubinski	BCPC / RATS	
MATT MCGOUGH	BCPC	
Craig Lutz	Senator Gebhard	
Dan Best	Senator Gebhard	
ADRIAN JADIC	WYOMING	
Dan Tobias	Bern Tap	
Kimberly Fies	Bucks Co Dept of AG	
Amanda Timchenko	BCPC	
Alan Piper	BCPC	

**RATS Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Meeting #2
April 11, 2024, Berks County Agricultural Center
Meeting Notes and Public Comments**

The second of two (2) Public Meetings on the draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was held on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at the Berks County Agricultural Center located at 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA. The meeting was held in-person. Attendees included:

Alan D. Piper, Senior Transportation Planner, Berks County Planning Commission
Amanda Timochenko, Transportation Planner, Berks County Planning Commission
Michael D. Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission
Matt McGough, Transportation Planner, Berks County Planning Commission
Craig Lutz, PA Senator Chris Gebhard's Office
Daniel Bost, PA Senator Chris Gebhard's Office
Dan Tobias, Bern Township Supervisor
Kimberly Fies, Deputy Director, Berks County Dept. of Agriculture
Adrian Jadic, Wyomissing Borough resident

The meeting began at 6:02 p.m. with Mr. Piper introducing himself and the draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. He gave a presentation that outlined components of the Draft TIP, the process for TIP development, what it is and what it is not. He then highlighted major projects within each of the five (5) 'Planning Regions' within Berks County. Throughout the presentation, questions regarding aspects of individual projects were asked and answered. Mr. Piper also discussed the Statewide Interstate TIP and the Transit TIP. After this presentation he asked for questions.

1. Dan Tobias, Bern Township Supervisor
 - a. Questioned how the US 222 Auxiliary Lane-Wyomissing "Hard Shoulder" project (MPMS #110008) would affect traffic on adjacent PA 12 westbound attempting to access the Paper Mill Road exit. Mr. Piper explained how the proposed project would potentially change lane configurations and the expected results. Mr. Piper mentioned that this project has been amended from its original configuration to also include proposed improvements in the northbound direction between State Hill Road and the US 422 East exits.
 - b. General question about what was proposed for the the SR 183 (Bernville Road) Lane Drop Hourglass Fix project (MPMS #117721). Mr. Piper outlined the current lane configuration in the project area and explained the proposed changes. He emphasized that there is only funding for the initial Study in the TIP. Additional

phases and construction will be considered for future TIP's following completion of the study.

- c. General comment about the number of development proposals in Bern Township and how they will place additional traffic stress on the entirety of PA 183 throughout the Township. Mr. Piper acknowledged Mr. Tobias' comment and concurred with his assessment.

2. Kimberly Fies, Deputy Director, Berks County Dept. of Agriculture

- a. Commented about the number of workers at East Penn Manufacturing (DEKA Battery) using PA 12 to access the facility, and questioned if they were accounted for in the designs for both projects on PA 12 [SR 12 Elizabeth Ave (MPMS #79467) and SR 12 Alsace Manor (MPMS #110318)]. Mr. Piper explained that, throughout the Study and Preliminary Engineering phases of both projects, traffic counts were taken that included time-of-day. East Penn Mfg. is a very large facility that does not run 'standard' shifts and there are times where non-standard traffic volumes peak based on shift changes at the facility.
- b. Questioned if there was any involvement of agricultural land condemnation in any proposed projects. Mr. Piper explained there are small sliver takes of agricultural land where improvements are made to existing highways running adjacent to farmland. Efforts are made to keep these to a minimum. Mr. Piper noted that the only project that is currently included on the approved Long Range Transportation Plan that may require significant acquisition of agricultural land is the proposed reconstruction of US 222 between the Kutztown Bypass and the Lehigh County line (MPMS# 97234). No specific alignment has been determined at this time and preliminary designs are not currently scheduled to begin until FFY 2029.

After these initial comments, Mr. Piper briefly described the Air Quality Conformity Report and the Conformity / Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) process.

Finally, Mr. Piper described the Environmental Justice Report and associated processes.

He again asked for questions from the audience. None were received.

Mr. Piper closed the presentation with a "Next Steps" discussion describing the TIP adoption / submission / concurrence process along with associated dates, and a recap of how to submit comments. He then thanked the audience for attending.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:15 p.m.

DRAFT FFY 2025 – 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

GREATER READING CHAMBER ALLIANCE

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ADVOCACY COUNCIL

APRIL 12, 2024

- The Reading MPO FFY 2025-28 TIP contains 112 projects with a total investment of \$365.8 Million
 - 95 Highway and Bridge projects (\$284.2 Million)
 - 17 Transit Projects (\$81.6 million)
- The document also identifies 2 projects in Berks County included in the Statewide Interstate program with a value of \$13.9 Million
- Transit Projects
 - Primarily Vehicle Replacements and Operating Assistance
 - Vehicle Maintenance (State of Good Repair)
 - Bus Shelter Replacements
 - Facility and Equipment Upgrades
 - Solar Panel Installation at both Operations Center and Transfer Center
 - Repairs to Franklin Street Station
 - Implementation of a Mobility Hub in Sinking Spring
- Project location maps and detailed descriptions can be found in Sections 2 and 3 of the TIP.
- The complete TIP and associated documents and related materials are available for review at: www.berkspa.gov/planning
- **Public Comment Period is open through April 23, 2024**
 - Comments may be submitted either by mail to:
TIP Comments
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St. – 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601
 - or via e-mail to: planning@berkspa.gov

Presenters:Alan Piper, Senior Transportation Planner – apiper@berkspa.govAmanda Timochenko, Planner II – atimochenko@berkspa.gov

NORTHEAST BERKS CHAMBER of COMMERCE

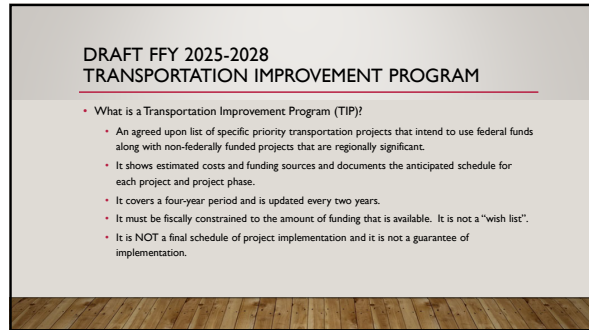
APRIL MEMBER BREAKFAST

When: April 19th at 7:30am
Where: Kutztown University South Dining Hall
Members & Guests-\$25
Non-Members-\$50

Join us and hear from the Berks County Planning Commission on the draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and various planned highway projects proposed in northeastern Berks County.



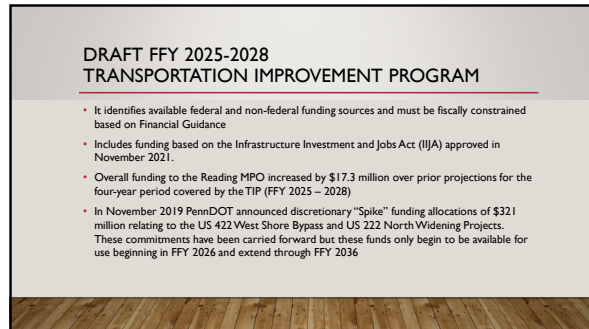
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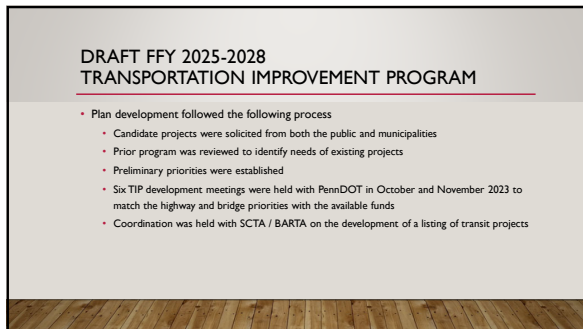
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DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

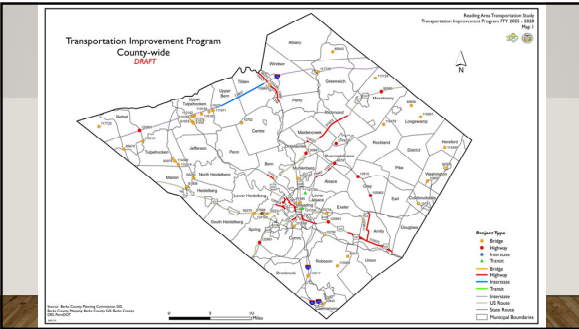
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- Project locations can be found on the maps on the following pages. Detailed descriptions can be found in the Public Narratives sections of the TIP document.

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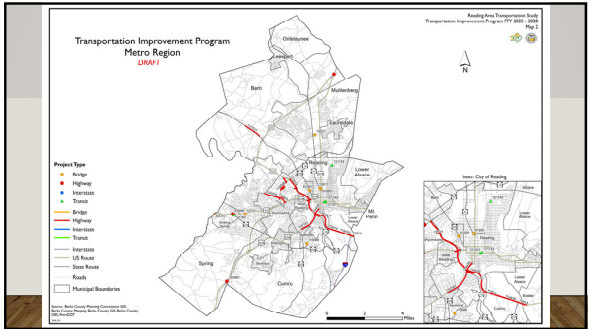
DRAFT FFY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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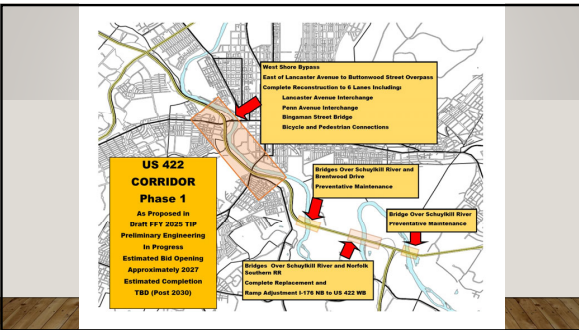
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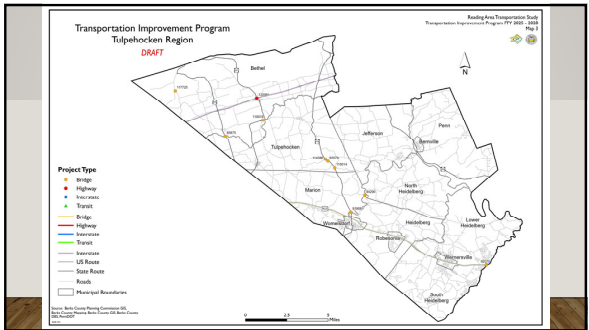
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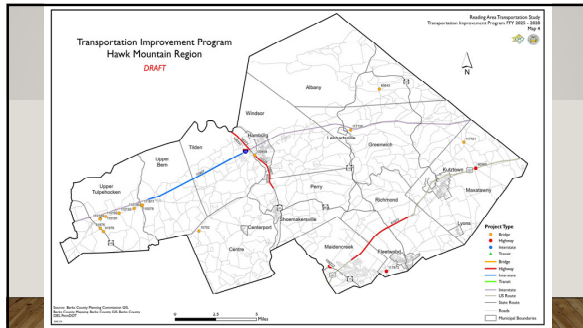
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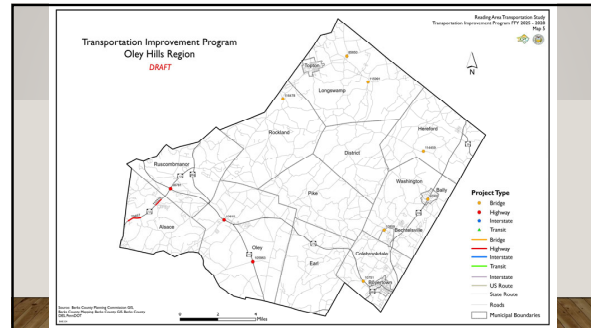
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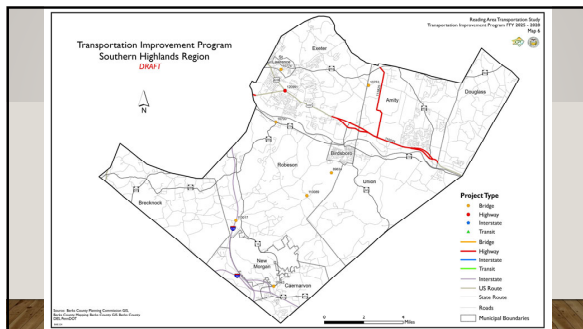
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**TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PLAN
QUESTIONS??**

The complete DRAFT Transportation Improvement Program can be found by clicking [HERE](#)

Questions / Comments can be submitted to planning@berkspa.gov

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**DRAFT FFY 2025
AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS REPORT**

- Required under the Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Must demonstrate that the plans, programs and projects meet the transportation conformity requirements of the CAA and the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) in nonattainment areas
- Berks County is currently nonattainment for 1997 and 2008 8-hour Ozone standards
- The conformity determination includes an assessment of future highway emissions and must show that the required conformity tests were met for each analysis year

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**DRAFT FFY 2025
AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS REPORT**

- Interagency consultation is used to determine applicable emissions models, analysis years and emissions tests
- Evaluation includes traffic modeling based on current highway network and planned improvements for the years 2025, 2035, and 2045
- Model outputs are run through EPA's MOVES model for estimating emissions
- Result – Draft FFY 2025 TIP is found to conform to the applicable air quality State Implementation Plan and EPA requirements
- The complete Air Quality Conformity Report can be found by clicking [HERE](#)

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DRAFT FFY 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY

- Required by Executive Order 12898 of 1994 and based on Title VI of the Civil rights Act of 1964
- Requires recipients of federal aid to certify and ensure nondiscrimination
- Basic principles addressed are:
 - Avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations
 - Ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process
 - Prevent the denial, reduction of, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations

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DRAFT FFY 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY

- Identifies concentrations of minority and low-income populations throughout Berks County
- Identifies locations of Bicycle Crashes involving a motor vehicle, Pedestrian Crashes and Fatalities, Bridge and Pavement Conditions (Excellent and Poor), Transit Service, and TIP and LRTP Projects and evaluates against locations of minority and low-income populations
- Report found no disproportionately high or adverse effects when considering the projects included in this program
- The complete Environmental Justice Summary can be found by clicking [HERE](#)

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FFY 2025 – 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

- A minimum 30-day Public Review and Comment Period is Required
- Copies of the Public Notice in both English and Spanish were sent by e-mail on Friday, March 22, 2024 to all Berks County municipalities, Federal and State elected officials representing Berks County, the MPO mail list, MPO committees, and all Native American tribes with historical interests in Berks County
- An advertisement in both English and Spanish was run in the Reading Eagle on Sunday, March 24, 2024.
- The Public Review and Comment Period formally began on March 24, 2024 and ends April 23, 2024 (31 days)

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FFY 2025 – 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

- Two Public Meetings will be held:
 - Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:00 PM, in the Commissioners' Board Room, 13th Floor Berks County Services Center; 633 Court Street, Reading PA 19601. This will be held both in-person and virtually. Instructions for connecting to this meeting virtually will be available at this web page: (www.berkspa.gov/departments/commissioners/meetings)
 - Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533 (In-person only)

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FFY 2025 – 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

- This presentation will be posted to our web site so that it may be viewed at any time through April 23, 2024
- Comments may be submitted either by mail to
TIP Comments
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St. – 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601
- or via e-mail to: planning@berkspa.gov

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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Any comments received must be reviewed by the MPO committees prior to adoption of plans
- Responses must be issued to all comments
- Scheduled adoption by RATS on May 16, 2024
- Anticipated adoption by State Transportation Commission in August 2024
- Anticipated adoption by US DOT by September 30, 2024
- TIP Implementation begins October 1, 2024

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Reading MPO**Public Comment Period for the
FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program,
Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report and FFY 2025-2028 Environmental Justice Summary**

The Public Comment Period began March 24, 2024 and ended April 23, 2024

Comments and Response to Comments:

Complete copies of all written comments follow this summary.

Laurinda Alcorn – Citizen

E-Mail dated 4/2/24

Comment: Concerned that neither the Spring Street “Subway” nor the Heisters Lane underpass were included in the TIP based on their condition and impacts to traffic and their importance in facilitating movements under the Norfolk Southern lines that divide the City of Reading.

Response: We acknowledge that there are issues relating to traffic movements and vehicle height restrictions at the Heisters Lane underpass and vehicle height restrictions and frequent flooding issues at the Spring Street “Subway”. The Heisters Lane bridge is identified as an unfunded project in the Reading MPO’s FFY 2023-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. The bridges in question are owned and maintained by Norfolk Southern Railroad. Their tracks pass over Spring Street (SR 2014) and Heisters Lane (SR 2011), both State owned and maintained streets. We have not received any request for funding from either Norfolk Southern to address the bridge conditions or from PennDOT to address traffic and flooding issues at either of these bridges. Additionally, we did not receive any request from the City of Reading during this TIP cycle to consider improvements at either of these crossings. Should a formal request be made by any of these parties going forward, we will consider adding improvements to the TIP subject to financial constraints.

Ashley Showers, Assistant Director, Berks County Planning Commission

Verbal Comments During April 8, 2024 Public Meeting

Comment: Will trail connections and bicycle/pedestrian access be considered and/or maintained for the bridge rehabilitation projects on PA 183 near Blue Marsh Lake?

Response: All highway and bridge projects take bicycle and pedestrian access into consideration through the use of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Checklist as a part of the design process. Additionally, consideration of local and regional trails are part of a project’s pre-design scoping process. The two bridges on PA 183 are undergoing surface overlay treatments only.

They already have full-width shoulders that are capable of accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians and would not be changed in any way other than the surface overlay.

Adrian Jadic – Citizen

Verbal Comments During April 8, 2024 Public Meeting, April 11, 2024 Public Meeting and Letter dated 4/23/2024

Comment: Expressed a desire to ensure that the Lancaster Avenue interchange included for reconstruction as an element of the US 422 West Shore Bypass – Phase 1 reconstruction project (MPMS# 114439) make better connections to the planned passenger rail station in downtown Reading.

Response: Through the planned reconstruction of both the Penn St./Penn Ave. interchange and the Lancaster Ave. interchange, including the reconstruction of the Bingaman Street Bridge, connections to downtown Reading would be significantly improved easing the connection to a downtown station.

Comment: Mr. Jadic expressed support for the proposed State Hill Road project (MPMS# 105954) and the roundabouts that are presently planned.

Response: Mr. Piper thanked him for his support.

Kim Schultz – Citizen

Verbal Comments provided by Telephone 4/11/24

Comment- Concerns regarding the TIP proposing additional locations for roundabouts throughout Berks County and their use by trucks.

Response – Roundabouts are a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Proven Safety Countermeasure.

<https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/roundabouts>

They can substantially reduce crashes that result in serious injury or death. Roundabouts can: Improve Safety; Promote Lower Speeds and Traffic Calming; Reduce Conflict Points; and Lead to Improved Operational Performance. They can be used to meet a wide range of traffic conditions because they are versatile in size, shape and design. Penn DOT believes these benefits will help to address the safety and congestion concerns currently experienced.

Dan Tobias – Bern Township Supervisor / Citizen**Verbal Comments During April 11, 2024 Public Meeting and E-Mail dated 4/23/24**

Comment: Question regarding the nature of the US 222 Auxiliary Lane-Wyomissing “Hard Shoulder” project (MPMS3 110008) and its impact on westbound PA 12 traffic destined for the Paper Mill Road exit.

Response: The general scope of the project was discussed. This project is currently in the preliminary design phase of development. It has been expanded to include improvements in both the southbound and northbound directions. PennDOT will present the preliminary designs for this project at a public forum later this year (date tbd).

Comment: Need for better ways to notify public of planned meetings. Newspaper no longer effective. Difficult to find information on internet unless you already know where to look.

Response: The Reading MPO currently uses newspaper advertisements, direct e-mail distributions, the Berks County Planning Commission web site and Facebook posts to advertise meeting information and review opportunities as documented elsewhere in this Appendix. We will continue to investigate additional options to get information out to a broader audience.

Comment: Question regarding the nature of the proposed project for the SR 183 (Bernville Road) Lane Drop Hourglass Fix in Bern Township (MPMS#117721).

Response: It was explained that the proposal is to fix that portion of PA 183 between the US 222 Interchange and West Leesport Road to eliminate the transition from a five-lane cross section to a two-lane cross section and then back to a five-lane cross section. The project is only programmed for a study at this time to investigate the problem area and make recommendations for design and construction phases on future TIPs subject to financial constraints.

Comment: Very disappointed with your obsession with roundabouts. They are awful, and I avoid them like the plague. Please don't put them on State Hill Road.

Response – Roundabouts are a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Proven Safety Countermeasure.

<https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/roundabouts>

They can substantially reduce crashes that result in serious injury or death. Roundabouts can: Improve Safety; Promote Lower Speeds and Traffic Calming; Reduce Conflict Points; and Lead to Improved Operational Performance. They can be used to meet a wide range of traffic

conditions because they are versatile in size, shape and design. Penn DOT believes these benefits will help to address the safety and congestion concerns currently experienced.

Mr. Tobias was provided with information on attending the PennDOT Plans Display for the State Hill Road Project (MPMS# 105954) held on April 24, 2024 and speaking directly to project designers.

**Kimberly Fies, Deputy Director, Berks County Dept. of Agriculture
Verbal Comments During April 11, 2024 Public Meeting**

Comment: Commented about the number of workers at East Penn Manufacturing (DEKA Battery) using PA 12 to access the facility, and questioned if they were accounted for in the designs for both projects on PA 12 [SR 12 Elizabeth Ave (MPMS #79467) and SR 12 Alsace Manor (MPMS #110318)].

Response: Throughout the Study and Preliminary Engineering phases of both projects, traffic counts were taken that included time-of-day. East Penn Mfg. is a very large facility that does not run 'standard' shifts and there are times where non-standard traffic volumes peak based on shift changes at the facility. These factors were considered in the project designs.

Comment: Questioned if there was any involvement of agricultural land condemnation in any proposed TIP projects.

Response: There are small sliver takes of agricultural land where improvements are made to existing highways running adjacent to farmland such as US 222 Widening (MPMS#61972) and the SR 662 Oley and Turnpike Road Intersection (MPMS# 105963). Efforts are made to keep these to a minimum. The only project that is currently included on the approved Long Range Transportation Plan that may require significant acquisition of agricultural land is the proposed reconstruction of US 222 between the Kutztown Bypass and the Lehigh County line (MPMS# 97234). No specific alignment has been determined at this time and preliminary designs are not currently scheduled to begin until FFY 2029.

**Heather Goodman – Citizen
E-Mail Dated 4/15/24**

Comment: Concerned that the bridge on Levensgood Road over the Manatawny Creek in Amity Township was not addressed in the TIP.

Response: The Levensgood Road bridge is owned and maintained by Berks County (Weidner's Mill Bridge #34-E). Due to the type of construction used when this bridge was built originally, there are no easy repairs. The County intends to repair this bridge by removing and replacing

the entire deck of the bridge. This project will be completed using local funding and is not required to appear on the Transportation Improvement Program. An advertisement will be issued in the next few weeks requesting proposals to design this repair. We anticipate that it will take two years to complete the design and associated permitting. Reconstruction is currently anticipated to occur in 2026.

There were no comments offered that related to either the Air Quality Conformity Analysis or the Environmental Justice Summary.

From: [Laurinda Alcorn](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Subject: feedback regarding transportation (RATS) improvement plans
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 5:50:38 PM

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

Hello,

Following an article published in the Reading Eagle today regarding your upcoming meetings to discuss the RATS planning study, I took a look at the draft Transportation Improvement Program document, at <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/planning-commission>.

It surprised me to not find any proposed work or engineering study of the two underpasses that allow traffic to pass beneath the Norfolk/Southern rail line that bisects the City of Reading. Specifically, I am referring to the “Subway” on Spring Street and the Hiesters Lane tunnel at the connection of Hiesters Lane and Richmond Street. I did not read the entire document word for word, but rather searched it using relevant keywords. Perhaps I missed something?

Both of the “Subway” and Hiesters Lane underpasses are a marvel from an historical perspective, but they are also significantly antiquated, and their potential collapse is an imminent hazard to the vehicle traffic passing below them (not to mention the trains above.) Importantly, the load they bear is far heavier than ordinary vehicle traffic.

I hope that these structures can be added to the list for engineering examination and planning. Their location, providing access from one half of the city to the other, make them critical transportation features for those completing their daily activities driving around the City of Reading.

Please provide me with the details for attending the April 8th meeting virtually.

Thank you,

Laurinda Alcorn


From: [Heather Goodman](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Subject: Levensgood Road Bridge Repair
Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 10:12:12 AM

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

Dear Commissioners:

I am extremely disappointed that the bridge on Levensgood Road is not scheduled for repair. The ugly orange and white barriers have already been in place for over a year, maybe more, and still we are not even on your schedule. The lovely older couple who lives in the mill next to the bridge have to look at those barriers every day-- and do so knowing that the bridge repair is not even scheduled yet. Please consider adding the Levensgood Road bridge to the list of upcoming repairs.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Heather Goodman

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning Department](#)
Subject: TIP public comments
Date: Monday, April 22, 2024 11:24:11 PM

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

Good Day,

1. Found out about meeting through municipality notification.
2. Yes, meeting informative.
3. Word is not getting out very well about meetings. Reading Eagle does not seem to be effective. It is difficult to find info on internet unless you know where to look. People associate these project with PENNDOT, not with the Berks County Planning Commission. Still haven't found the info on the Wednesday meeting concerning State Hill Road project. Where and when is it?
4. Very disappointed with your obsession with roundabouts. They are awful, and I avoid them like the plague. Please don't put them on State Hill Road.

Thank you,
Dan Tobias

Adrian Jadic
[REDACTED]

April 23, 2024

Alan Piper | Planner III - Transportation
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601

Subject: Support for State Hill Road Corridor Part 1 Project.

Dear Alan,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed roundabout project, known as *State Hill Road Corridor Part 1 (MPMS 105954)*, which was discussed at the TIP meetings from April 8th and April 11th, 2024. As a mechanical engineer with extensive experience in project management and a committed participant in our community's development initiatives, I believe this project is crucial for enhancing our local infrastructure and safety.

My professional background and active involvement in community planning provide me with a unique perspective on the importance of integrating proven safety measures into our road systems. I have followed the development of this project closely and have thoroughly reviewed the provided data and projections. Here are my reasons for supporting the *State Hill Road Corridor Part 1* project:

1. Safety and Operational Efficiency

The proposal to implement roundabouts at the Woodland Road and Greenwood Mall intersections will satisfy a critical need to enhance safety and improve traffic efficiency. Historical data from these intersections highlights a concerning trend, with crash rates approximately three times higher than the statewide average. Specifically, the Greenwood Mall intersection recorded 50 crashes over a five-year period, 20 of which involved injuries, while the Woodland Road intersection witnessed 28 crashes, with 9 resulting in injuries.

The introduction of roundabouts is projected to reduce overall crash rates by 68%, with even greater reductions in severe and injury-related crashes. This significant improvement is consistent with successful outcomes observed in other parts of Berks County, such as along the SR 222 corridor and at the SR 662 / 73 intersections.

Furthermore, global trends and expert analyses reinforce the effectiveness of roundabouts. The Federal Highway Administration highlights that roundabouts reduce the likelihood of serious injuries and fatalities by 78% compared to traditional traffic-light intersections. These statistics not only underscore the global consensus regarding the safety benefits of roundabouts but also emphasize their role in enhancing traffic flow.

By adopting roundabouts, we aim to address pressing safety concerns and align our infrastructure with proven global practices that enhance both safety and efficiency.

2. Long-term Savings and Infrastructure Reliability

One of the compelling advantages of introducing roundabouts in the State Hill Road Corridor is the significant reduction in maintenance and operational costs. Unlike traditional signalized intersections, roundabouts do not rely on electrical systems, which are prone to failures and expensive to repair. This inherent reliability ensures that traffic flow is maintained even during power outages or severe weather conditions, eliminating the need for emergency interventions.

The intersections at Woodland Road and Greenwood Mall are critical nodes that service numerous neighborhoods and the Berkshire Mall. Currently, any failure of traffic lights at these busy intersections necessitates the *dispatch of police officers* to manage traffic, a resource-intensive and costly measure. With roundabouts, this need is effectively eliminated, as their design allows for continuous and self-regulating traffic flow, even in the absence of power or during calamities.

Moreover, the simplicity of roundabout infrastructure means fewer parts to monitor, replace, or repair, leading to substantial savings in long-term operational costs. These savings can be redirected to other community needs, optimizing our budget and enhancing public services. This efficient use of resources is not only a testament to the project's engineering excellence but also to its alignment with principles of fiscal responsibility and sustainable urban planning.

3. Economic and Community Impact

The strategic placement of the roundabouts along the State Hill Road corridor, particularly near the Woodland Road and Berkshire Mall, is poised to catalyze significant local economic development. This corridor serves multiple municipalities, not just Wyomissing, and the Borough's view, as expressed in their recent opposition, appears narrowly focused and overlooks the broader community benefits. Improved access and aesthetic enhancements at these intersections are expected to revitalize the area, attracting more visitors and stimulating business activities, which are crucial for reversing the decline observed at the Berkshire Mall over the past decades.

The concerns raised by the Borough Council about immediate disruptions to development are understandable but are a typical short-term challenge in any significant infrastructure upgrade. These temporary inconveniences cannot be weighed against the substantial long-term benefits: increased traffic efficiency, safety improvements, and economic revitalization that will enhance the tax base and overall quality of life in Wyomissing and surrounding areas. Prioritizing the short-term interests of a few businesses over the long-term growth potential of the entire region is not only shortsighted but also detrimental to the community's future prosperity.

It is essential to look beyond immediate effects and recognize the transformative potential of this project for the entire region, ensuring a sustainable and thriving future for all residents and stakeholders involved.

4. Environmental Stewardship and Aesthetic Enhancement

Roundabouts offer not only a solution to traffic challenges but also a unique opportunity for community beautification. Unlike the utilitarian nature of signalized intersections, roundabouts provide a central space that can be transformed into a visually appealing green area. By planting low-maintenance vegetation such as junipers, which are both attractive and hardy, we can create a welcoming gateway that enhances the overall aesthetic of the area. This approach mirrors the success of Wyomissing's Centennial Circle, built in 2007 at the intersection of Wyomissing Boulevard and Reading Boulevard. Its green design has not only become a beloved staple of our community but also a testament to the value of integrating functional infrastructure with natural beauty.

Incorporating such green spaces into roundabouts does more than beautify—they also contribute to environmental health by improving air quality and reducing urban heat effects. This strategy aligns with our goals for sustainable development, ensuring that our infrastructure projects support broader environmental objectives without imposing significant maintenance burdens. By choosing species that require minimal upkeep, we can maintain these green spaces efficiently, ensuring they remain an asset rather than a chore for public works.

5. Conclusion

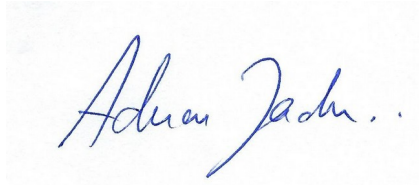
The *State Hill Road Corridor Part 1* project promises lasting benefits for our community, for which I express my full support. Beyond merely addressing traffic concerns, this project stands as a cornerstone for broader community development and sustainability. To ensure its success and garner community support, I propose the following enhancements:

Enhancing Project Transparency and Understanding

- **Visual Tools:** Employ advanced visualization tools like 3D renderings and fly-through animations to help residents visualize the future of their intersections. This will clarify the proposed changes and demonstrate their benefits, making them more tangible and accessible.
- **Community Engagement:** It is vital to maintain robust stakeholder engagement through regular updates, public forums, and interactive sessions, ensuring that community feedback is integrated into the project's evolution.
- **Traffic Management During Construction:** Develop a comprehensive traffic management plan to minimize disruptions during construction. This plan should address peak traffic times, ensure access for emergency services and local businesses, and be clearly communicated to the public to enhance cooperation and reduce inconvenience.

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide input and remain fully committed to assisting further as this project progresses towards fruition. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussions or any assistance I can provide.

Sincerely,



Adrian Jadic

