

Reading Area Transportation Study

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c/o Berks County Planning Commission

Berks County Services Center

633 Court Street, 14th Floor

Reading, PA 19601-4309

To: Reading Area Transportation Study Technical Committee

From: Michael D. Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler

Re: Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), *MPO Boundaries and Coordination of Transportation Planning and Programming*

Date: August 28, 2024

At the July 18th Coordinating Committee meeting, the Coordinating Committee executed updated *MPO Boundaries and Coordination of Transportation Planning and Programming* Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) with the Lebanon County MPO and the Lancaster County MPO. Recall that these MOU's are updated every ten (10) years after changes in Urban Area Boundaries after the Decennial Census. At that time the boards for the Lehigh Valley MPO (Lehigh Valley Transportation Study - LVTS) and Philadelphia MPO (Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission - DVRPC) had not yet acted on their respective MOU's

Since July we have received signed MOU's from both LVTS and DVRPC. Recall that the MOU between RATS and DVRPC will include an allocation of STU funding from DVRPC's annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) equal to 0.3564% or approximately \$1.34 million over the four years of the recently adopted FFY 2025-2028 TIP. MOU's with Lebanon, Lancaster, and Lehigh Valley do not contain such provisions.

At the September 5, 2024 Technical Committee meeting, staff will be asking for a recommendation to the Coordinating Committee to fully execute the MOU's with LVTS and DVRPC.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

MDG/

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundaries and Coordination of Transportation
Planning and Programming Between
the
Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS)
and the
Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)

Background and Purpose

- A. The Year 2020 Census defined Urban Area (UA) for Lehigh County (Allentown-Bethlehem, PA-NJ UA) extends into Berks County in portions of Greenwich and Maxatawny townships as shown on the attached map. By federal statute, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), or coverage by adjacent MPOs, are required where there is an UA.
- B. The Reading Area Transportation Study MPO serves Berks County and the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study MPO serves Lehigh County and Northampton County. All Counties are in Pennsylvania.
- C. By virtue of the UA populations, the Lehigh Valley and Berks County are separate and distinct Transportation Management Areas (TMA), each region having a population of more than 250,000 persons. With TMA status comes additional planning requirements and Surface Transportation Urban (STU) funding which is based on the UA population.
- D. The Berks and Lehigh Valley MPO boundaries have been coincident with the common boundary between Berks and Lehigh counties.
- E. The purpose of this MOU is to establish the MPO boundaries and transportation planning and programming responsibilities as they relate to that portion of the Allentown-Bethlehem, PA-NJ UA that extends into Berks County.

General

- A. We agree to carry out the transportation planning and programming processes in a cooperative and coordinated fashion, and in compliance with federal planning regulations.
- B. Staff from both MPOs will communicate regularly, share information, and meet as needed to achieve the needed level of cooperation and coordination.
- C. This agreement will be reviewed when either one of the entities identify the need for a review, but no later than December 31, 2033, or when the 2030 Decennial Census UAs are defined.

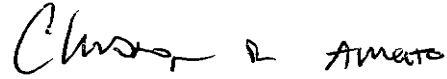
Specific

- A. The MPO boundary between RATS and LVTS will remain at the common county boundary between Berks and Lehigh counties.
- B. The RATS MPO will assume primary planning and programming responsibility for the portion of the Allentown-Bethlehem, PA-NJ UA in its county, including:
 - UPWP development and accomplishment
 - Update of the Long-Range Transportation Plan
 - Biennial update of the Transportation Improvement Program
 - Traffic and Highway Performance Modeling System data collection

- Travel demand modeling (RATS has a model; LVTS MPO uses their own model and/or the services of the Program Center at PennDOT)
 - Air quality conformity modeling
 - Special studies and corridor studies
 - Asset management
 - Congestion Management Processes (CMP) planning and implementation
 - Highway functional classification updates
- C. Long-Range Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs will continue to be developed by the Berks County Planning Commission for the Reading Area Transportation Study including and limited to Berks County, Pennsylvania; and, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, including and limited to Lehigh County, Pennsylvania and Northampton County, Pennsylvania.
- D. There will be no sharing of STU funds by the two MPOs at this time.
- E. This MOU supersedes and replaces any prior agreement for MPO boundaries and coordination of transportation planning and programming between RATS and the LVTS.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Agreed to this 18th day of July, 2024 by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission by action of its Executive Committee, upon recommendation by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study.



Dr. Chris Amato, Chair
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

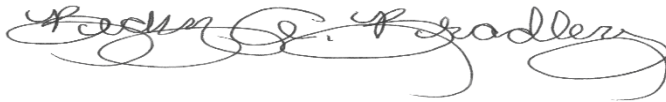


Christina Morgan, Vice Chair
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission



Armando Mortiz-Chapelliquen, Treasurer
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

ATTEST:



Becky A. Bradley, Executive Director
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and
Secretary, Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

Agreed to this _____ day of _____, 2024 by the Reading Area Transportation Study by action of its Coordinating Committee.

Chris Kufro, P.E., Chair
RATS Coordinating Committee

ATTEST:

Alan D. Piper, Secretary
Reading Area Transportation Study

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

MPO Boundaries and Coordination of Transportation Planning and Programming Between

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)

Background and Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries and transportation planning and programming responsibilities as they relate to a portion of the Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD Urban Area (UA) and the Pennsburg/Upper Hanover/East Greenville, PA UA that extends into Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD UA includes portions of twelve (12) counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland. The Pennsburg/Upper Hanover/East Greenville, PA UA includes portions of Montgomery and Berks Counties in Pennsylvania. DVRPC and RATS operate as independent MPOs within the Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD, and Pennsburg/Upper Hanover/East Greenville UAs. Each is responsible for a specific planning area.

- The DVRPC planning area consists of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania, together with Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer Counties in New Jersey.
- The RATS planning area consists of Berks County, Pennsylvania.
- The shared DVRPC and RATS MPO boundary is now and has been coincident with the common boundaries between Montgomery and Chester Counties, representing the DVRPC region; and Berks County representing the RATS region and is proposed to remain so.
- The Year 2020 Census-defined Urban Area (UA) for Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD, and Pennsburg/Upper Hanover/East Greenville, PA is delineated on the map entitled "*DVRPC and RATS 2020 Census Shared Urban Areas*" attached hereto and made a part of this MOU.

As required by Federal regulation pertaining to MPO boundaries, where part of an urban area served by one MPO extends into an adjacent Metropolitan Planning Area, the MPOs shall, at a minimum, establish written agreements that clearly identify areas of coordination and the division of transportation planning responsibilities among and between the MPOs

With a population exceeding 200,000 in each of these planning areas, the DVRPC and RATS counties are MPOs designated as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs). TMA status includes additional planning requirements and Surface Transportation Urban (STU) funding based on the UA population.

Responsibilities

- The MPO boundaries of DVRPC and RATS detailed above will remain unchanged.
- DVRPC will assume planning and programming responsibility for the portion of the Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD UA in Montgomery and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania, and the portion of the Pennsburg/Upper Hanover/East Greenville UA in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. RATS will assume planning and programming responsibility for the portion of the Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD and Pennsburg/Upper Hanover/East Greenville UAs in Berks County, Pennsylvania. These responsibilities include but are not limited to:
 1. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) development and action
 2. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) development and updates
 3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development and updates
 4. Traffic and Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data collection
 5. Travel demand modeling
 6. Air quality modeling and conformity determinations
 7. Special and corridor studies
 8. Congestion Management Process (CMP) planning and implementation
 9. Highway functional classification updates
 10. Transportation Performance Management target development and monitoring.
- DVRPC and RATS agree to abide by the methodologies and processes used to allocate federal funds that are not affected by this MOU.
- Beginning with the Fiscal Year 2025 funding in the DVRPC Pennsylvania Transportation Improvement Program, 0.3564 percent of the DVRPC MPO's Surface Transportation Urban (STU) funding will be transferred to the RATS MPO. This percentage is based upon the estimated proportion of the Pennsylvania portion of the Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD UA that extends into Berks County, as reported in the 2020 Census.

The Census population and percentage figures used for this calculation are as follows:

- Total 2020 Population in the Pennsylvania portion of the Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD UA: 3,999,608
- 2020 Population in the Pennsylvania portion of the Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD UA isolated in Berks County: 14,253
- Percentage of the 2020 Population in the Pennsylvania portion of the Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD UA isolated in Berks County: 0.3564%

Surface Transportation Urban (STU) funds will not be shared within the Pennsburg/Upper Hanover/East Greenville UA.

- Each agency agrees to carry out all MPO and TMA transportation planning and programming processes in a continuing, cooperative, and coordinated fashion. They agree to comply with federal planning regulations, including participating in quadrennial

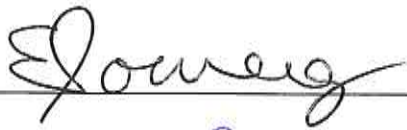
certification reviews conducted by by US DOT.

- Staff from the MPOs will communicate regularly, share information, and meet as needed to foster cooperation and coordination.

Future Review

This agreement will be reviewed when one of the entities identifies the need for a review, but no later than 2033 or following the definition of 2030 UAs resulting from the year 2030 Decennial Census.

Agreed to this 27 day of June, 2024 by:






~~Francis K. O'Connor~~
Chair, DVRPC Board

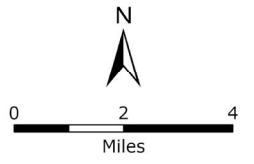
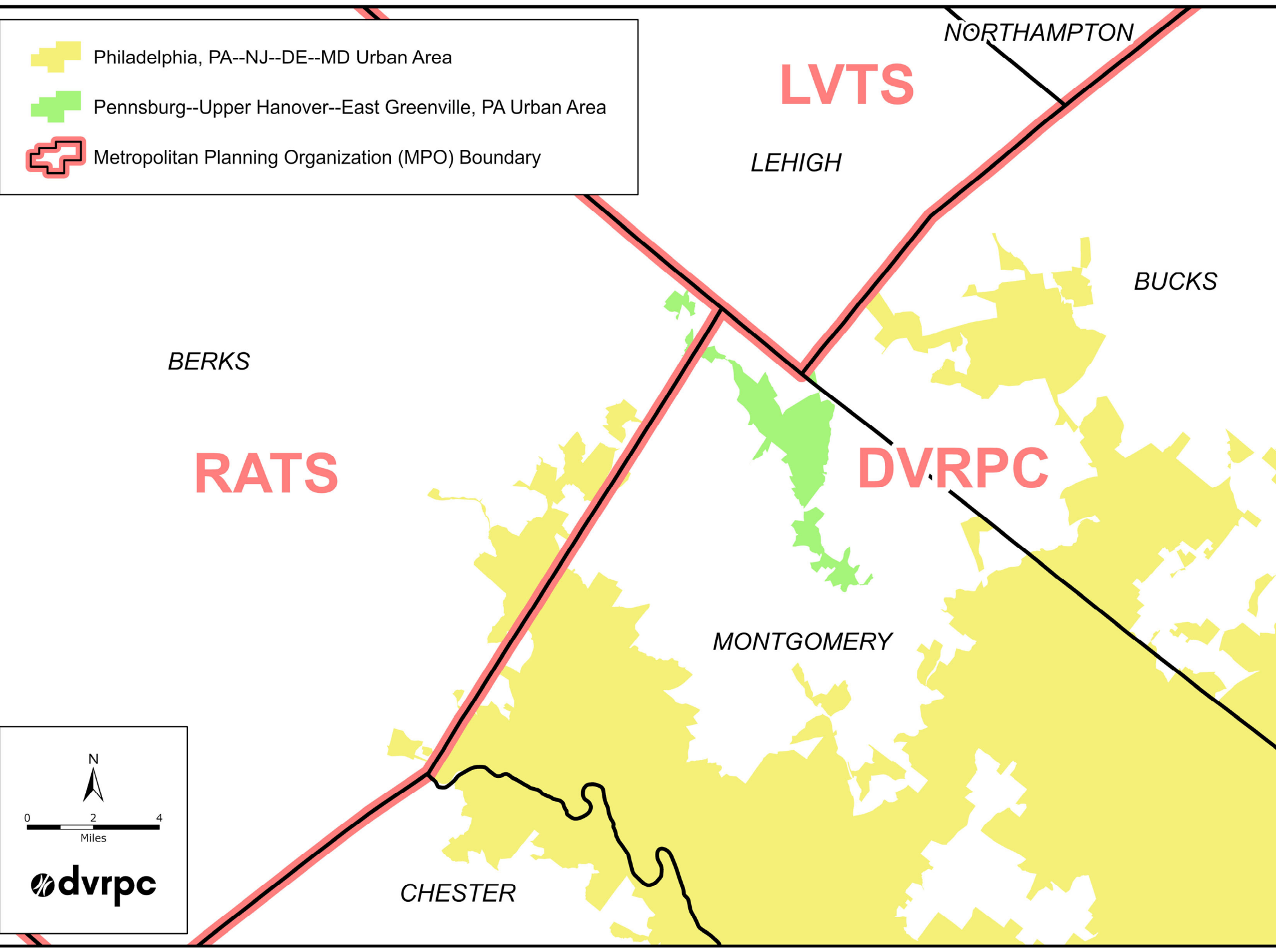
Eric Powers

Acting

Mr. Chris Kufro
Chair, RATS Coordinating Committee

DVRPC and RATS 2020 Census Shared Urban Areas

-  Philadelphia, PA--NJ--DE--MD Urban Area
-  Pennsburg--Upper Hanover--East Greenville, PA Urban Area
-  Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary



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