

FLASH



November 2024



Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority October Meeting

On Monday, October 28th, the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (SRPRA) hosted their board meeting in person at the Saucony Creek Franklin Street Station Brewpub. The meeting was followed by a catered reception organized by the Berks County Planning Commission in partnership with the City Of Reading and the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance. Members of the Authority Board came from their respective municipalities, including Berks, Chester, and Montgomery counties and Pottstown and Phoenixville Boroughs as well as the City of Reading. Over 100 stakeholders including elected officials and community leaders attended to hear updates on the plan to establish reliable passenger rail service connecting Reading, Pottstown, and Phoenixville with Philadelphia and beyond.

One highlight of the meeting was an update from the Federal Railroad Administration on the SRPRA's progress through the Corridor Identification and Development Program (CIDP). Key presentations were delivered by Barbara Moreno (Federal Railroad Administration), Joe Barr (Amtrak), Aaron Gantz (Greater Reading Chamber Alliance), and Jack Gombach (City of Reading), each offering insights into the rail project's next steps and anticipated impact.



Authority Executive Director Tom Frawley and SRPRA also recognized Brian O'Leary, Executive Director of the Chester County Planning Commission, for his dedicated service as a founding member of the SRPRA Board and to extend heartfelt congratulations on his well-deserved retirement.

For more information about the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority, please visit: goprpa.com



Route 422/West Shore Bypass Improvement Project

On November 7th, The Berks Alliance hosted their virtual community forum to share a presentation from PennDOT on the upcoming Route 422/West Shore Bypass Improvement Project. The project is proposed to be constructed in several phases with hopes that the first phase will start in late 2027/early 2028.

The first phase includes reconstruction of the Penn Street, Lancaster Ave. Interchanges as well as the Bingaman Street Bridge.

TO VIEW THE ENTIRE PRESENTATION, CLICK HERE

Subdivision and Land Development Reports





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Automated Vehicle News

PennDOT has remained active in national efforts to develop uniform standards and practices for Highly Automated Vehicles (HAVs) while simultaneously ensuring that public safety remains the paramount priority, as HAVs are tested on the roadways and steadily advance toward practical use.

In late October, PennDOT updated the [Automated Vehicle Guidelines for Driverless Operation](#). These guidelines allow the operation of HAVs on Pennsylvania roadways for the purpose of operations and testing.

The new guidelines allow certified users to operate autonomous vehicles on the road without a safety driver in the driver's seat of the vehicle, marking the first opportunity for certified driverless operations on roadways in Pennsylvania. Additionally, new language sets conditions for operations from a remote location. The guidelines were created in consultation with the AV industry and the [Highly Automated Vehicle Advisory Committee](#) and improved based on feedback from a public comment period.

This new guidance follows PennDOT's release of the [Automated Vehicle Guidebook for Municipalities](#) aimed to answer municipal officials' questions about, and provide guidance for, integration of Automated and Autonomous vehicles in municipal plans, programs, and infrastructure.

More information on automated vehicles, operations and testing, regulations and initiatives can be found on the [PennDOT Automated Vehicles Research and Testing page](#).



Important Information for ACT 247 Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance Amendments

Please forward VIA email all zoning and subdivision and land development ordinance amendments to the attention of **Taylor Lawrence**
Email: tlawrence@berkspa.gov

