

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

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

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

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

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

Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

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

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

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

3. Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Next

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

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

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

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

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

If you checked 'No' above,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

Yes No

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please return the survey to:

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

For more information about RATS and the transportation planning process, please visit our website at:

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

We strive to constantly maintain accurate, up-to-date contact lists. Though we try to communicate electronically, we understand that postal mail is still the best way for some residents to hear from us. If you wish to be on our mail lists to receive notices of meetings and document review opportunities, please provide ONE (1) method to be contacted, either email **OR** postal mail.

e-mail address

OR

Name

Address

City

Zip Code

Thank you for completing our survey. Your input will be used to create a Public Participation Process that ensures better communication between the public and decision makers.

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

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

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

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

Sí

No

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

Sí

No

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

Sí

No

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

Sí

No

Sig.

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

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

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

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

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

Si marcó “No” arriba,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¿Participa usted en reuniones virtuales(en línea)?

Sí **No**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Por favor, devuelva esta encuesta a:

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

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

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

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

correo electrónico _____

o

Nombre _____

Dirección _____

Ciudad _____

Código postal _____

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

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

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

Good afternoon, all!

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

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

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

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

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

BARTA Executive Offices

1700 North 11th Street

Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District

1002 Hamilton

Allentown, PA

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

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

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



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

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

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



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

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

County of Berks - Planning Commission


countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

Government Services Community How Do I Search...

Welcome to the Office of County Planning

Our Mission


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




News / Announcements

About Us
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 Calendar
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 Municipal Websites

Contact Information



David N. Hunter, AICP
Executive Director



RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan
 Public Comment Period Open

[View](#)

BCPC 2022 Annual Report
 See what the Planning Commission did in 2022

[View](#)

County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT P

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

Home About Us Select Language

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2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited English Proficiency Plan

Back to Plans and Programs
 Back to Transportation/Reading MPO

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

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

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

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

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

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

Quick Links

- County Buildings/Facilities
- County Park Locations

Resources

- Pennsylvania State Website

Looking for Information?
 If you are having trouble finding information Please contact *the Webmaster*.

County of Berks

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

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

CLASSIFIED@READINGEAGLE.COM

cla

C4

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

DICK HENRY
AUCTIONEER/REALTOR
610-858-3065

IT'S THE QUICK response
that keeps people coming back
to classifieds. Call today to
place your fast-action ad.

MERCHANDISE

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

MERCHANDISE

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

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

MERCHANDISE

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

ANIMALS

DOGS

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

PET SUPPLIES & SERVICES

Use Seal 'N Heal on dogs &
cats to seal wounds with
a bitter taste to prevent
gnawing, allow healing.
Weaver's Farm Supply
944-0593
(www.fleabeacon.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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 Berks County Planning Commission

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


(610) 478-6300

countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission


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 Berks County Planning Commission June 2 at 2:00 PM

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

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

2 1

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

Juneteenth Parade and Festival
 Join the celebration on Saturday, June 10th, 2023, at...
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Vice President & Provost
 Alvernia University appoints Dr. Leamor Kahanov as the new...
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Transportation Program to Medical Care for Local Patients
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Explore Playlists by Local Creators
 Upcoming Local Events

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

[View Calendar](#)



VISIONS Celebrates 10 Years with Ty Muse, President/CEO
 This May, Visions Federal Credit Union celebrated the 10th...
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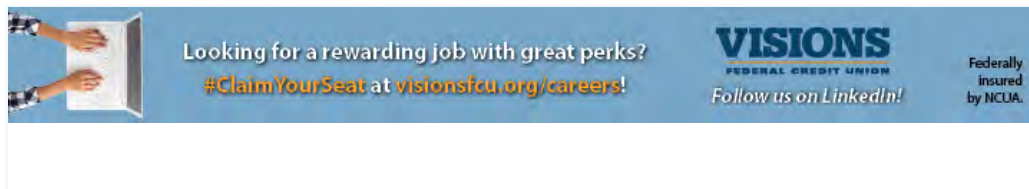
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Reading Area Transportation Study Draft Public Participation Plan

by The County of Berks

Jun 05, 2023



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

al 610-478-6300.

ALSO ON BCTV

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

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

Got it

0 Comments

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OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

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- [Houlahan Delivers 3rd Annual State of the Sixth Address at Historic Colonial Theatre](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP

EMAIL:

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

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

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

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

1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

6

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

7

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

8

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

9

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

10

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

11

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

12

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

13

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

16

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

18

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

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RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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

21

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

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

22

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

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

Good Friday afternoon!

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

Mike



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

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



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

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

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

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

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



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com



Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

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Thank you.

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

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Berks County Planning Commission 4d

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

COUNTYOFBERKS.COM
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 The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

1

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Berks County Planning Commission

Intro

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

Page - Public & Government Service

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Photos See all photos

Berks County Planning Commission 1d

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

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

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

Connect with Berks County Planning Commission on Facebook

Log In or Create new account

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

PUBLIC MEETING
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 27, 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP


EMAIL:

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

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

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


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



1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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



3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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



4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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



6

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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




7

7

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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




9

9

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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




11

11

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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




8

8

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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




10

10

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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




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12

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



13

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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




15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)


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



17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



16

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



18

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



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RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



21

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



23

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


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



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RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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




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RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

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



25

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

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

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

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

Participant avatars on the right side of the player include:

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

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

RATS Public Participation Plan Public Meeting

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

Add a description to explain what this video is about.

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

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

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

Mike

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

Mike

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

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

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

Comment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 9.2 Public Notice Requirements – too may returns between bullets

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

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

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

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

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

***Public Participation Plan
DRAFT 2023***

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

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

10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report

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

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

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

Mike

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

Mike

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

7/14/23

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

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

On page 1, Four Factor Self- Assessment

This self-assessment is designed to balance four factors:

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

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

On page 2, second full paragraph

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

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

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

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

All:

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

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

Mike



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

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

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



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

Good afternoon, Michael –

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

- **Title VI Notice**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

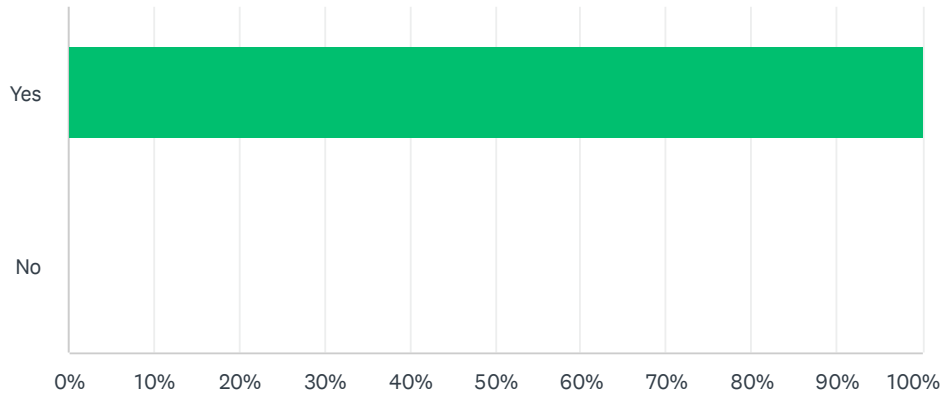
Thanks so much,
Vanessa

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

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

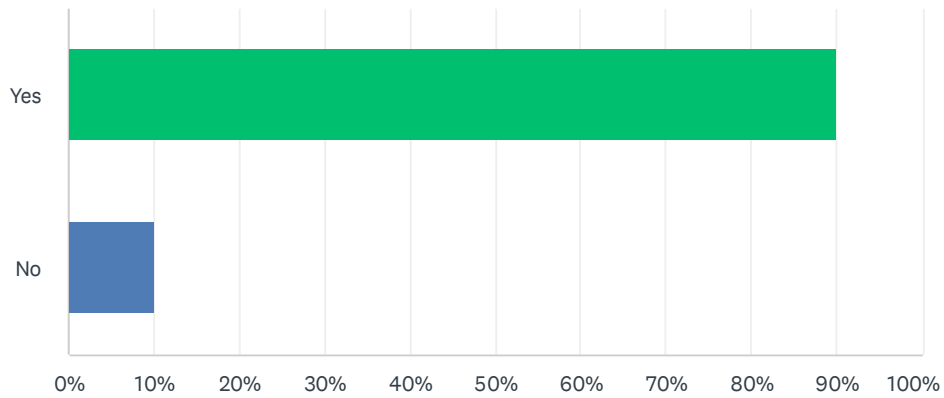
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



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

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

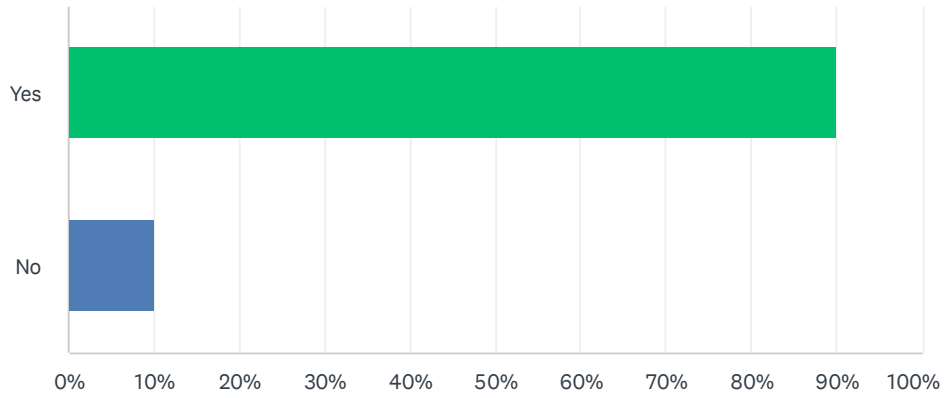
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



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

Q3 Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

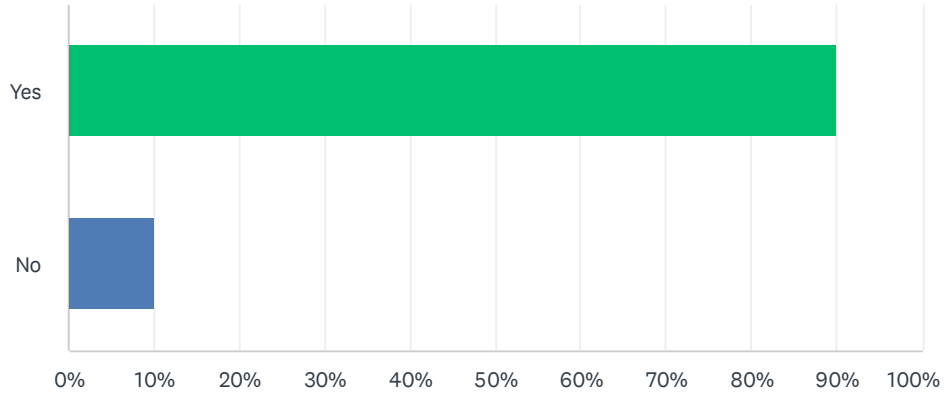
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



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

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

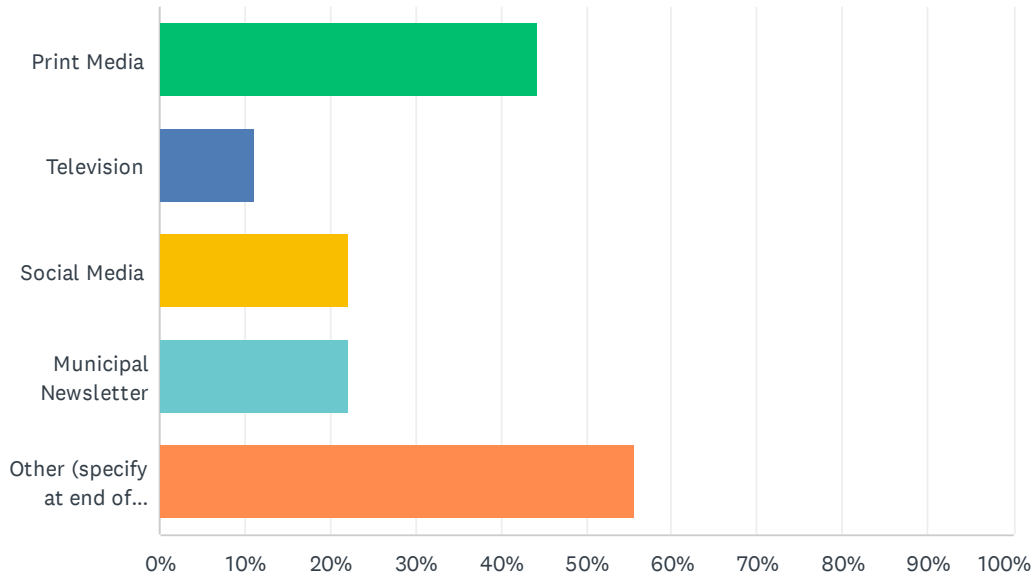
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



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

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

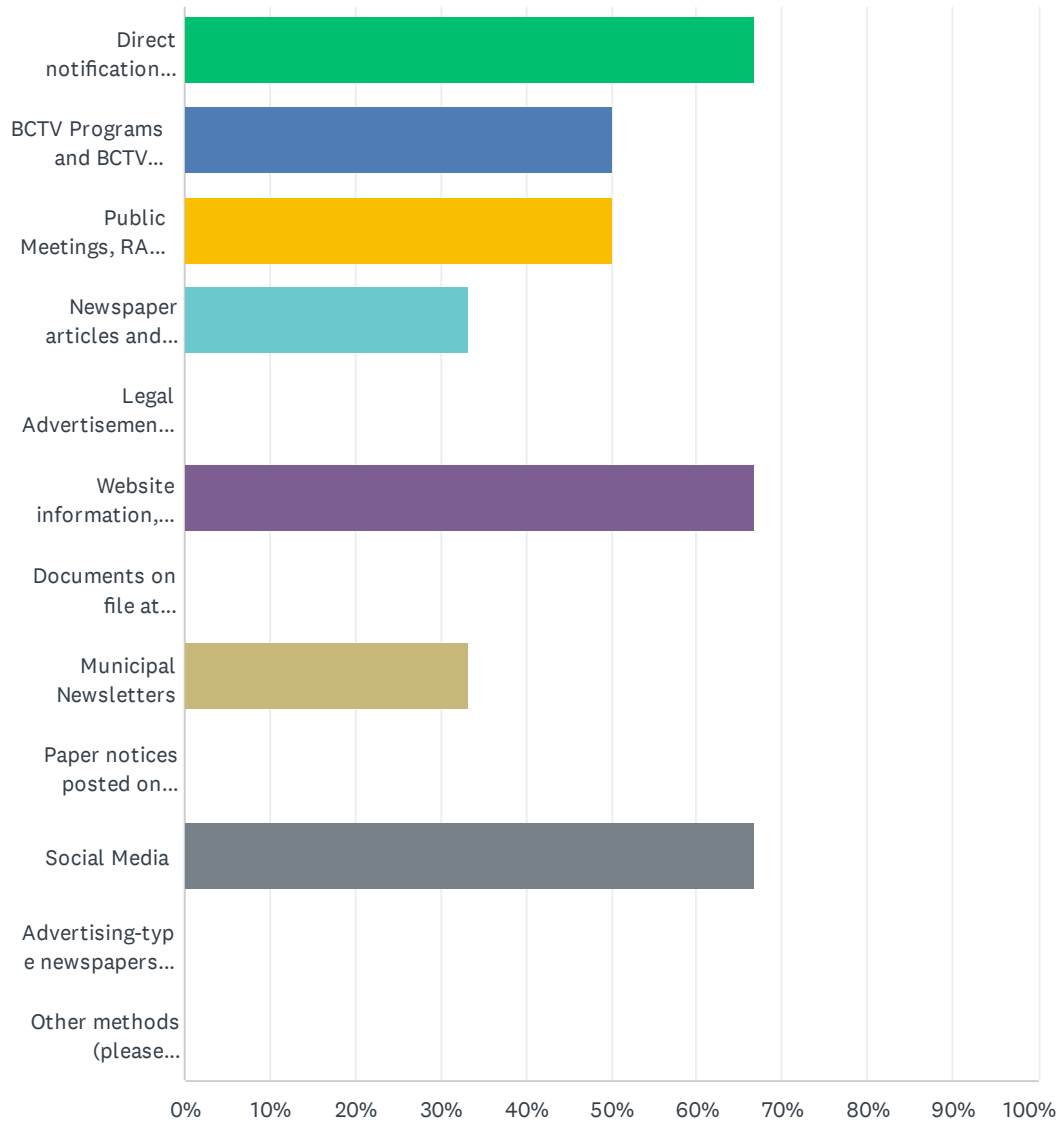
Answered: 9 Skipped: 1



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

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

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4

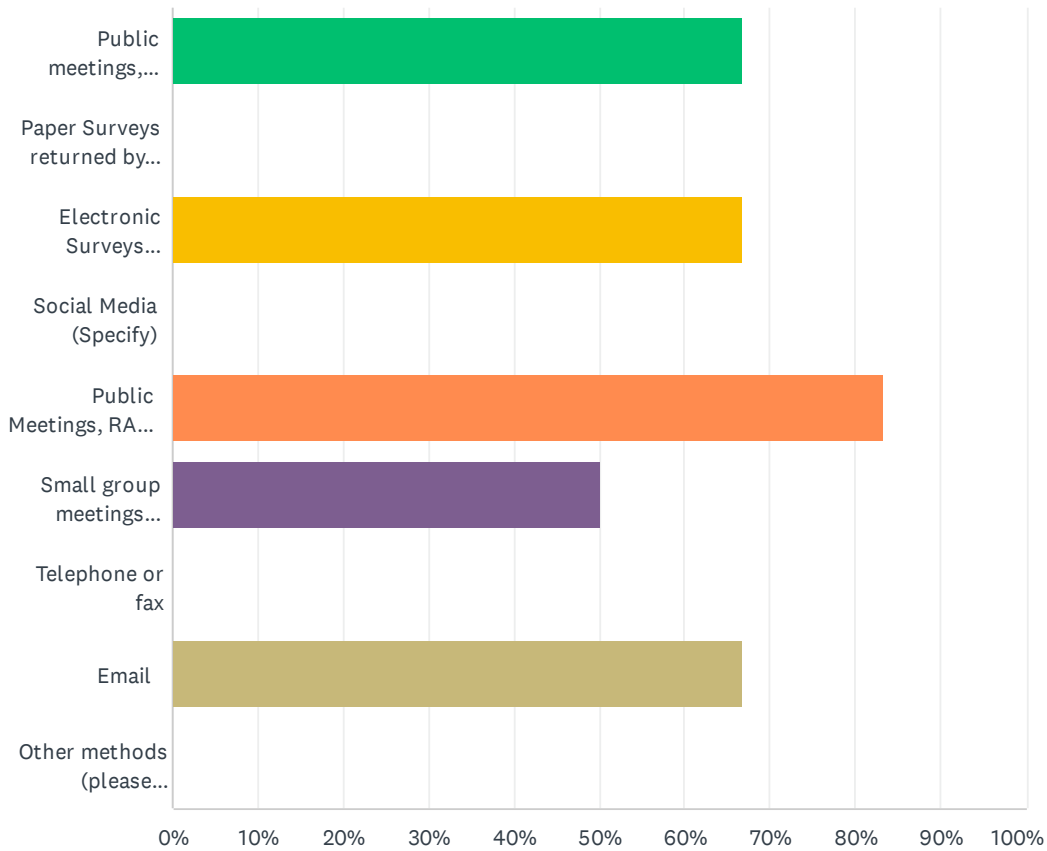


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

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

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

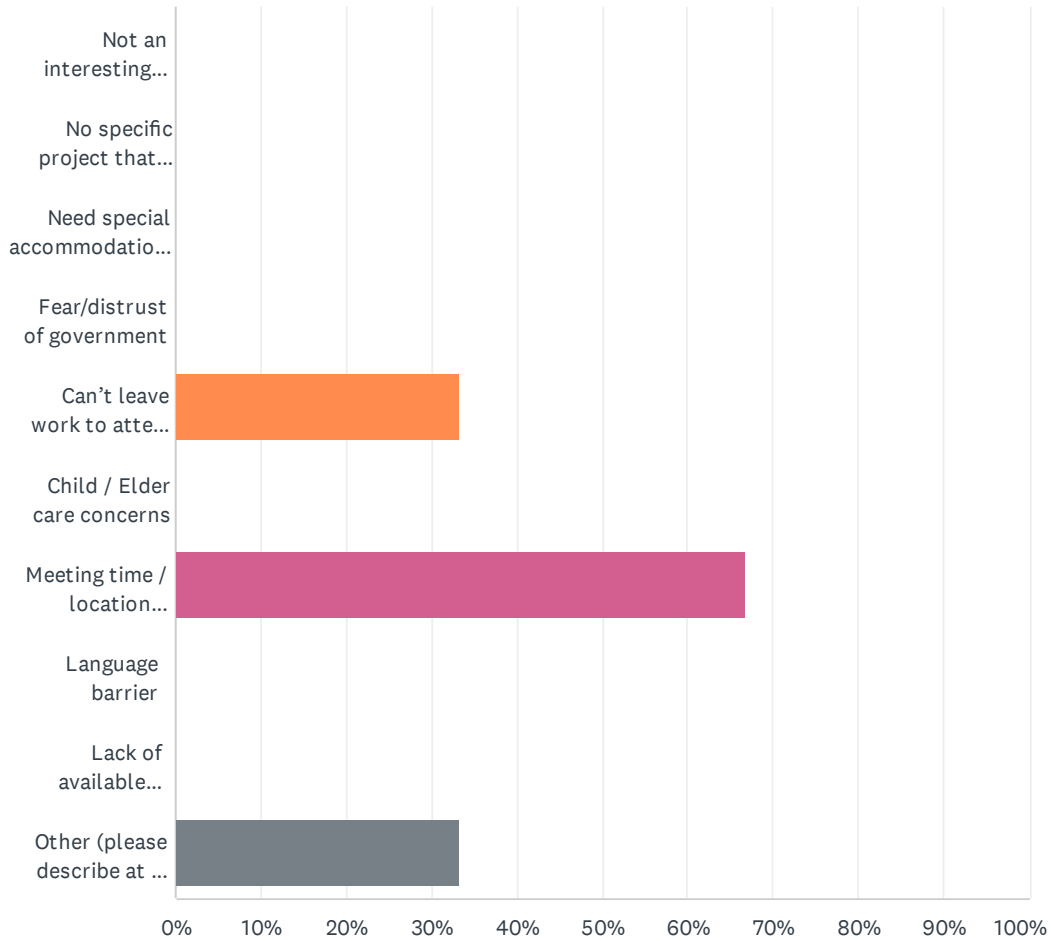
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



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

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

Answered: 3 Skipped: 7

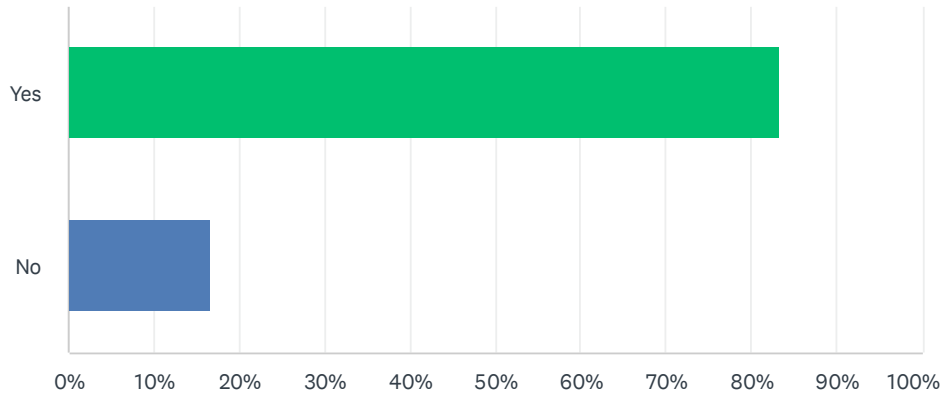


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

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

Q9 Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

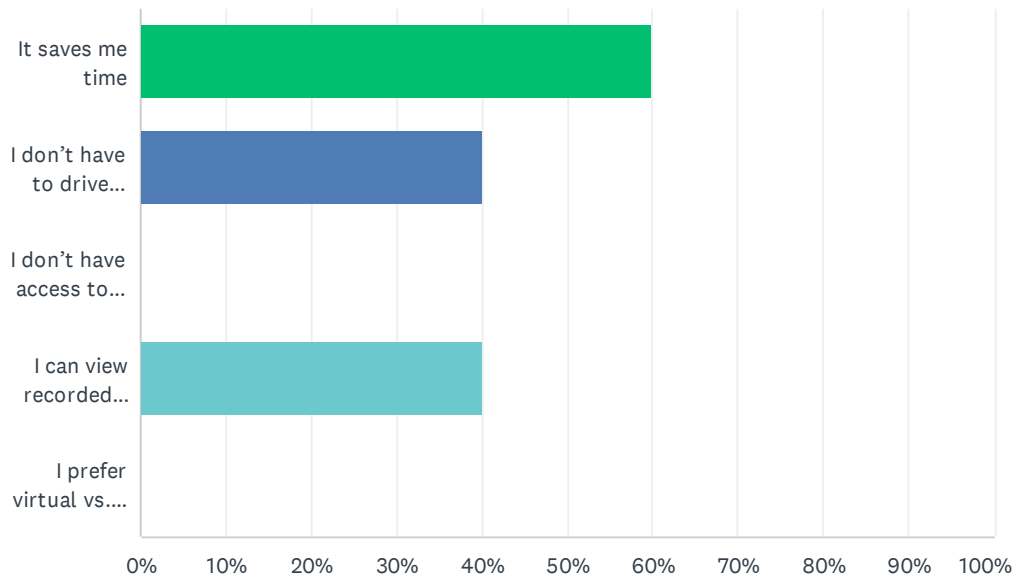
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



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

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

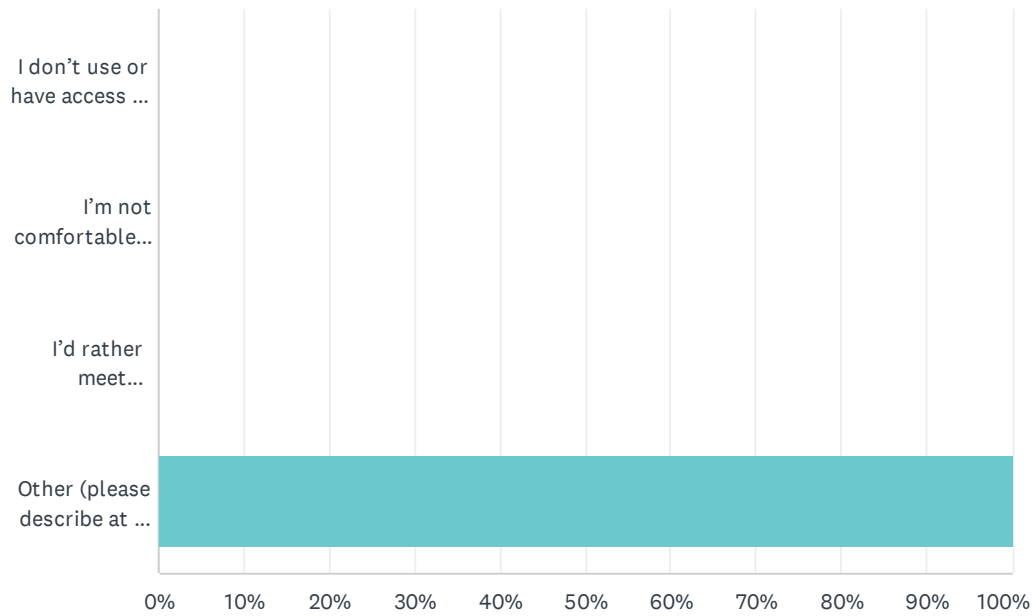
Answered: 5 Skipped: 5



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

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

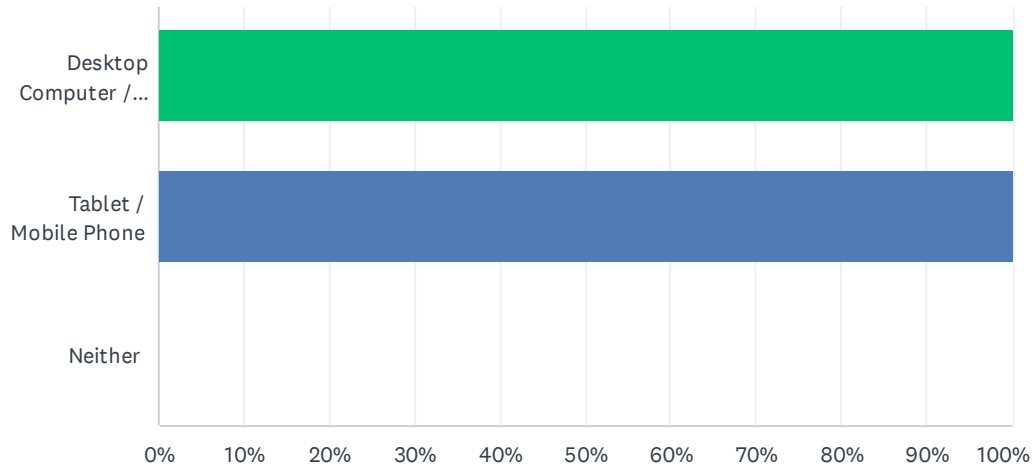
Answered: 1 Skipped: 9



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

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

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



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

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

Answered: 4 Skipped: 6

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

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

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