

Appendix E

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READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE

Adopted July 20, 2017

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

C/o

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

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. RATS' website, www.co.berks.pa.us/planning, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. RATS' public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven (7) days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven (7) days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by RATS under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with RATS's Title VI Compliance Officer and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on RATS' Title VI program, or to obtain copies of RATS' Title VI Policies, Complaint Procedures, or Complaint Form, please call (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our website at <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/RATSMetingSchedule.aspx>.

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

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

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction to the *Public Participation Plan*

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

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

1.2 Background

Public participation processes involve the timely notification of information to the public in order to provide input early in and throughout the planning and programming processes. RATS provides interested parties with opportunities to comment on those processes, including this *Public Participation Plan*. The *Public Participation Plan* ensures that the public involvement activities of RATS transportation planning processes comply with the proactive public involvement requirements of Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The requirements for public involvement are set forth primarily in 23 CFR Section 450.316(a)(1)(2)(3) and (b) which addresses elements of the metropolitan planning process. The requirements pertaining to the *Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP) (23 CFR 450.322) also include provisions addressing public outreach [450.322(f)(7), 450.322(g), 450.322(i), and 450.322(j)]. The process that addresses public involvement in the *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) (CFR 450.32) is described in Section 450.316(a). Additionally, regulations require an opportunity for at least one public meeting in air quality nonattainment Transportation Management Areas (TMA's) should be addressed through the PPP described in 450.316(a). A TMA is designated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as an urbanized area with a population greater than 200,000 as determined by the 2010 Decennial Census.

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

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

1.3 Federal Certification Review Recommendations

Pursuant to 23 United States Code (USC) Section 134(k) and 49 USC 5303(k), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must jointly certify the metropolitan transportation planning in Transportation Management Areas (TMA's) every four years. A TMA is an urbanized area, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, with a population of over 200,000. The latest Certification Review conducted for RATS occurred in October, 2016, with the final report of that Review released on March 3, 2017. The review made three (3) specific recommendations in order to better service the public:

1. The USDOT Review Team strongly recommends that the RATS staff consider developing executive summaries of its vital documents in Spanish and distributing those to organizations with relevant constituencies;
2. The USDOT Review Team strongly recommends that RATS revise its approach to engaging its several LEP language groups to ensure meaningful access to information. Specifically, the Review Team recommends that:
 - a. RATS review its vital documents to ensure the inclusion of the notice advising LEP language groups about translation services.
 - b. RATS provide a notice on its website about the availability of language assistive service.
3. FHWA is committed to providing technical assistance to the RATS MPO and PennDOT to support and advance Title VI, LEP, PPP, or any other area of the locally-administered MPO transportation planning and program.

1.4 RATS Contact Information

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

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Section 2: Public Participation Goals:

2.1 Overview

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

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

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

In order to comply with the various requirements, RATS sets forth these Public Participation Goals, including:

- Ensure that interested parties in Berks County have an active and ongoing role in the regional transportation planning process;
- Guarantee an established and dependable process with open meetings and public access to technical data and non-technical information;
- Increase the level of understanding of the transportation planning process in the region and identify how interested parties can become more involved;
- Provide interested parties with multiple opportunities for meaningful involvement in the regional transportation planning process;
- Identify, seek out and engage minority populations, low-income populations, Limited English Proficient populations, persons with disabilities, and all groups and organizations listed in Section 4.1 as Interested Parties;
- Employ effective techniques for outreach and communication;
- Serve as a guide to RATS / BCPC staff for outreach and participation activities and efforts for transportation and other planning activities;
- Document what we learn from interested parties in a format for consideration and use by the MPO Board ('the Board'), Berks County Planning Commission

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(BCPC), BCPC staff, and others to improve our outreach and participation efforts.

Section 3: Outreach Techniques and Strategies

3.1 Overview

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

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

3.2 Contact Lists

RATS staff continually develops and maintains databases of stakeholders, media and interested organizations and parties. These lists are updated regularly to reflect current information. Contact lists expand throughout the transportation planning process as people, organizations and agencies become involved and offer their opinions or just want more information. To establish new contacts, RATS uses a range of strategies, such as:

- Mailing list registration is available at all public meetings / hearings;

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

3.3 Visualization Techniques

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

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

Section 4: Consultation with Interested Parties

4.1 Overview

Federal guidance originally from SAFETEA-LU dictates that:

“The MPO shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of

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transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan planning process". [§ 450.316(a) Interested parties, participation and consultation]

4.2 Consultation in Developing this *Public Participation Plan*

The Reading Area Transportation Study develops all plans and programs in consultation with the interested parties defined above. To develop this *Public Participation Plan*, RATS first assembled a draft list of participation strategies and ideas based on a review of the existing Public Involvement Process Resolution, past experiences, and guidance from SAFETEA-LU (and subsequent federal transportation planning guidance).

From February through April, 2017, staff undertook a public survey in an effort to gauge how well the public gets their information on transportation planning efforts, and how to better direct our efforts. Over 150 online surveys were completed; paper copies are still coming in. The survey was advertised on our website, through emailed notices, and various print, radio and electronic news media. Respondents were asked about their knowledge of transportation planning in Berks County, as well as different methods of getting information about transportation plans and projects to them and from them. Details of the survey results are included in the appendix, but a synopsis of responses includes (to date):

- Direct notification (U.S. Mail and email) (83%) were effective ways to get information out;
- Berks Community Television (BCTV) and BCTV Community Calendar were not effective methods (73%);
- News articles and press releases (82%) were effective, but newspaper legal advertisements and block ads (63%) were not nearly so;
- Website information, including downloadable documents (89%), were useful; however
- File copies of documents at libraries and other community organizations were not as effective (80%);
- Municipal newsletters should be used as another method (69%), while
- Paper notices posted on community bulletin boards were not as effective (84%);
- Social Media cannot be overlooked (74%);
- Advertising-type local newspapers (the Merchandiser) were somewhat effective (41%).

Written comments focused on the need to expand the use of Social Media, local on-air media (television and radio) and direct email notifications.

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As for effective ways for the MPO to get feedback from the public, the following responses show:

- Paper surveys and questionnaires were not very effective (51%);
- Electronic surveys were preferred (93%);
- Social Media was also preferred (71%);
- Small group meetings with community organizations and agencies were useful (55%), depending on time of day and location;
- Public meetings, special presentations and workshops, just like small group meetings, were time and location dependent.

Section 5: Title VI and Environmental Justice

5.1 Overview

RATS *Public Participation Plan* contains specific and explicit procedures that RATS will use to identify, seek out and engage Title VI and Environmental Justice populations, including minorities and low-income populations. The foundation for these efforts is stated in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

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

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

“Each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” --Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 1994

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5.2 Target Outreach Areas

RATS uses its data collection and analysis capabilities to support participation efforts and help ensure meaningful access to its public participation opportunities. RATS carefully analyzes the relationship between the region's populations and its regional investments, plans and programs. Geographic analysis assists RATS to identify environmental justice communities and target outreach to these 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, and to identify, where they exist, organizations that target these communities and disseminate information to them to help reach these communities. Additionally, staff will work with PennDOT officials to help guide their public outreach efforts when project-specific meetings are being planned.

Section 6: Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

6.1 Overview

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

6.2 LEP Assessment

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

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

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

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throughout Berks County. That analysis is detailed in a separate Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan that accompanies this PPP.

6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals

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

- Provide on request, with reasonable advanced notice (based on document size and complexity), translated copies of materials in Spanish as well as other languages if requested. RATS, through the Berks County Planning Commission, has an active contract with a firm that provides translation services.
- Provide on request, with four (4) days advanced notice, oral interpretation services for public meetings. RATS, through the Berks County Planning Commission, has an active contract with a firm that provides interpretation services.
- In an effort to actively engage LEP persons, meeting announcements, press releases and public notices will be distributed to organizations that target these groups in appropriate languages.
- RATS will provide notices to local minority media outlets and community service organizations regarding the availability of language translation services.
- RATS' vital documents will include statements in Spanish, the most common non-English language identified by Census data, that translations are available free on request. RATS, through the Berks County Planning Commission, has an active contract with a firm that provides translation services.
- RATS' website will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, along with over 100 other languages. RATS will continually make efforts to develop points of contact with representatives of non-English speaking communities.
- RATS will make available vital documents and Executive Summaries, where appropriate, in Spanish;
- RATS will include notices on all documents and on the website that certain translated documents are available, and other translations are available on request
- BCPC staff will undergo annual training in products and procedures, provided through Berks County contracts, to be used to communicate with individuals needing language assistance.

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6.4 'Vital' Documents

Based on the recommendation in the Federal Certification Review, RATS staff has attempted to determine what constitutes a 'Vital' document. US DOT does not provide such guidance, so staff informally surveyed other MPO's throughout the nation (using an internet search) in an effort to determine what are considered 'Vital' documents. Based on that research, staff will provide the following documents in Spanish:

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

Additionally, the following documents will be condensed into 'Executive Summary' formats and will have those Executive summaries translated into Spanish:

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

These documents will be made available in print and online. Additionally, any request for translations of materials not listed above will be accommodated. It should be noted that current-month agendas for RATS Technical and Coordinating Committee meetings will be placed on the website in such a manner as to allow instant translation using the website's on-demand translator software.

Section 7: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

7.1 Overview

To ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), RATS' Public Meeting Notices and comment opportunities provide multiple input methods. Public meetings and hearings are always held at ADA-accessible locations on established public transportation routes.

7.2 Meaningful Access for Persons with Disabilities

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

- Provide on request, with advanced notice, copies of materials in 14-point or larger, sans-serif type;

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- Provide on request, with reasonable advanced notice (based on document size and complexity), Braille or raised-print notices and materials;
- Provide on request, with advance notice, sign language interpreters;
- Record materials to audio/visual media;
- Verbalize information provided through visual presentations or written materials;
- On request, structure seating to provide visibility for participants who lip-read or cannot adequately hear deliberations;
- When necessary, mount microphones at wheelchair height;
- When necessary, provide hand-held microphones to participants;
- Explore and contract with services that allow multi-person teleconferencing that can be used during public meetings.

7.3 Web Access for Persons with Disabilities

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

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

Based on a recent experience with a visually impaired individual who uses screen reader technology, RATS staff will be exploring document creation and publishing techniques that ensure web content is usable with screen readers. Additionally, the County’s latest software upgrades now allow for content to be more readily accessed through mobile devices, thus allowing those without computer access to navigate and use content easier.

7.4 Notifications and Services

Representatives of the disabled have been included on our mailing lists and were forwarded surveys (Section 4.2) in order to garner their input. At all meetings hosted by RATS, accommodations can and will be made for wheelchair access and, with four (4)

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days advanced notice, American Sign Language interpretation services. Documents in Braille or large print type and audio recordings can be made available with appropriate notice, depending on the size and complexity of the document. The availability of these services is detailed in Public Notices.

Section 8: Public Participation in Meetings

8.1 Overview

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

8.2 Public Comments at Board Meetings

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

Proceedings of meetings of the Boards are made available as meeting minutes or meeting summaries, which are posted on the Berks County Planning Commission's website at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning, and also for review at the Berks County Planning Commission's offices. Please call the BCPC at 610-478-6300 for more information.

8.3 RATS Committees

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

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Section 9: Public Notices

9.1 Overview

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

9.2 Public Notice Requirements

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

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

Public Notices for these events and participation opportunities will be:

- Advertised in the form of paid legal advertisements. One paid advertisement will be placed in a newspaper of general circulation in the region (Reading Eagle) and, if available, one in a newspaper with circulation targeted to minority communities;
- Public notices for special public meetings or major forums may also be advertised in the form of paid display advertisements;
- Distributed to other media outlets or organizations that serve targeted outreach groups identified in this document; and
- Posted on the agency's web pages at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning;
- Sent electronically through the BCPC's eFlash electronic mail system; and
- Posted on the BCPC's Facebook page.

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;
- 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;

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- 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

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

10.1 Overview

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

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

10.2 Public Comment and Review Period Requirements

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

Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be made available to stakeholders, other interested parties and the general public at locations throughout the County. These locations include BARTA offices, BCPC offices, PennDOT District 5-0 offices, and the BCPC website www.co.berks.pa.us/planning. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the Public Notice.

Prior to formal action by the Board on the adoption of a regional LRTP, TIP, *Air Quality Conformity Determination*, *Public Participation Plan*, or major amendment, at least one public meeting will be held for the purpose of providing information to and obtaining comment from the public. The public meeting may be held as part of a regular meeting

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of the Board or held as a separate public meeting. Public Notice for this meeting can be combined with the Public Notice issued for the related Public Comment Period described in Section 10.2.

10.3 Additional Public Review and Comment Periods

If the draft regional LRTP, TIP, *Air Quality Conformity Determination*, or major amendment changes appreciably during the review and comment period, an additional 30-day public review and comment period is provided prior to the Board taking formal action.

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

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

10.4 The Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

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

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

- Step 1: Public Participation Surveys, through the internet and targeted mailing, will be used to gather initial input (when update cycles correspond, this can occur in concert with the TIP update);
- Step 2: At the same time, Public Officials Surveys sent to local officials and the legislative delegation, will be used to gather governmental input;
- Step 3: Initial input will be compiled and used in the design of the next phase of outreach and participation, such as workshops and other public meetings;
- Step 4: Ongoing input will be used to develop draft regional plan materials in consultation with interested parties;
- Step 5: Draft regional plan materials will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 30-day public comment period. Draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning, at BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Information on where and how to access

***Public Participation Plan
Adopted July 20, 2017***

public comment documents will be included in the Public Notice. Vital draft regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*;

- Step 6: All comments received and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft regional plan materials;
- Step 7: The Board takes formal action on the regional plan;
- Step 8: A Public Participation Report for the regional plan will be developed. The Report will document all comments received and the response to comments, and will also document all public participation and outreach activities. This Report may take the form of a Chapter or Appendix in the LRTP;
- Step 9: The regional plan documents and any companion documents (*Air Quality Conformity Analysis* and *Public Participation Report*) will be produced and made available on the BCPC website www.co.berks.pa.us/planning, at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices, or by contacting the BCPC. Vital regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*.

10.5 The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The regional *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) identifies the region's highest priority transportation projects, develops a multi-year program of implementation, and identifies available federal and non-federal funding sources for the identified projects. The TIP covers a four-year period of investment and is updated every two years through a cooperative effort of local, state and federal agencies including participation by the general public and consultation with interested parties. Transportation projects included on the TIP are to be consistent with the regional LRTP. The entire range of projects included in the TIP must conform to federal air quality standards.

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

- Step 1: Public Participation Surveys, through the internet and targeted mailing, will be used to gather initial input (when update cycles correspond, this can occur in concert with the regional LRTP update);
- Step 2: At the same time, Public Officials Surveys sent to local officials and the legislative delegation, will be used to gather governmental input;
- Step 3: Initial input will be compiled and used in the design of the next phase of outreach and participation, such as workshops and other public meetings;

***Public Participation Plan
Adopted July 20, 2017***

- Step 4: Ongoing input will be used to develop draft TIP materials in consultation with interested parties;
- Step 5: Draft TIP materials will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 30-day public comment period. Draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning, at BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices,. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the Public Notice. Vital draft 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 contained in this *Public Participation Plan*;
- Step 6: All comments received and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft TIP materials;
- Step 7: The Board takes formal action on the TIP;
- Step 8: A Public Participation Report for the TIP will be developed. The Report will document all comments received and the response to comments, and will also document all public participation and outreach activities;
- Step 9: The TIP documents and any companion documents (*Air Quality Conformity Analysis, Benefits & Burdens Analysis, and Public Participation Report*) will be produced and made available on the BCPC website www.co.berks.pa.us/planning, 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.

10.6 Major Amendments to the Regional LRTP or TIP

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

The definition of a major amendment varies by the type and/or cost of program to be amended. Definitions and procedures for regional LRTP and TIP major amendments are included in the respective regional LRTP and TIP documents, and are available on the BCPC's website at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning.

**Public Participation Plan
Adopted July 20, 2017**

If a proposed revision to the TIP or regional LRTP adds a project, deletes a project, or impacts the schedule or scope of work to an air quality significant project, RATS will review the proposal and determine if a new *Air Quality Conformity Determination* is required prior to formal approval of the change. If the revision requires that a new *Air Quality Conformity Determination* is necessary, an amendment to the regional LRTP shall also be developed.

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

- Step 1: RATS will inform the public and interested parties of the comment period for the proposed major amendment using the Public Notice procedures described in Section 10.2, at least 30 days prior to the date scheduled for Board action on the proposed major amendment;
- Step 2: Proposed major amendment information will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 30-day Public Comment Period described in Section 10.2. Proposed major amendment information will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website, at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the public notice;
- Step 3: All comments received and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the proposed major amendment;
- Step 4: The Board takes action on the major amendment;
- Step 5: After federal and state approval of the requested changes, RATS will update the appropriate TIP or regional LRTP documents on the BCPC website. Updated documents will also be available at the BCPC offices, BARTA offices, and PennDOT District 5-0 offices.

10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report

The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is a companion document to the regional LRTP and to the TIP. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report documents the process used by RATS for making the transportation-related conformity determination for the regional LRTP and TIP for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The Conformity Determination is required by the federal Clean Air Act. RATS conformity finding is based on criteria and procedures in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93) and satisfies all applicable conformity requirements.

The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is developed as part of the regional LRTP or TIP update, in which case public participation and public comment procedures for the regional LRTP or TIP update will be followed as described in Sections 10.4 and 10.5, respectively. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is also updated as

Public Participation Plan
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required by certain amendments to the TIP or regional LRTP, in which case public participation and comment procedures for major amendments to the regional LRTP or TIP will be followed as described in Section 10.6.

10.8 The *Public Participation Plan*

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

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

- Step 1: Revisions to the *Public Participation Plan* are developed in consultation with interested parties before the draft document is submitted for the public review and comment process;
- Step 2: The draft *Public Participation Plan* will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 45-day Public Comment Period described in Section 10.2. The draft *Public Participation Plan* will be made available during the 45-day public comment period on the BCPC website at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning, at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices.. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the public notice. The draft *Public Participation Plan* will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*;
- Step 3: All comments received and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft *Public Participation Plan*;
- Step 4: The Board takes action on the draft *Public Participation Plan*;
- Step 5: A *Public Participation Plan* will be produced and made available on the BCPC website at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning, at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. The *Public Participation Plan* will be made available in and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*.

Public Participation Plan
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Section 11: Access to Information

11.1 Overview

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

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

11.2 Response to Special Request

In order to facilitate public involvement while also using limited staff resources efficiently, RATS will make information available to interested parties on a regular basis through the various processes and activities outlined in this *Public Participation Plan*. When RATS receives special requests to perform an analysis that is not considered as part of the planning process, or other special data or information, the agency will determine the reasonableness of the request. Parameters for determining the reasonableness (as used in this document) will evolve around the preparation time and costs to respond, as well as the relevancy to the transportation planning process and the agency mission. RATS will determine reasonableness of and respond to all requests on an individual basis.

Section 12: Evaluation of *Public Participation Plan* and Public Meetings

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

Public Participation Plan
Adopted July 20, 2017

Section 13: Applicability

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

Section 14: Future Efforts

14.1 Overview

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

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

READING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TITLE VI NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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

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

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

Overall responsibility for this policy is assigned to:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

C/O BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

MICHAEL D GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER

633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR

READING PA 19601

PHONE: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304

FAX: 610-478-6316

EMAIL: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE EN EL ÁREA DE READING
A TRAVÉS DE LA COMISIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN DEL CONDADO DE BERKS
MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR
READING PA 19601
TELÉFONO: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

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

Environmental Justice Summary

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

The basic principles addressed are:

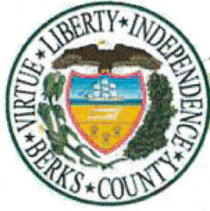
- Avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations
- Ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making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

In support of that, a separate document, the ***FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary***, was prepared. It identifies concentrations of minority and low-income populations throughout Berks County. It then identifies locations of Bicycle Crashes Involving a Motor Vehicle, Pedestrian Crashes, Total Reportable Crashes, Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes, Crash Suspected Serious Injuries and Crash Fatalities, Bridge and Federal Aid Segment Mile Conditions, Transit Service and Types of Projects and Distribution included in the FFY 2023- 2026 Transportation Improvement Program and evaluates those criteria against locations of minority and low-income populations.

The report found no disproportionately high or adverse effects but did recommend careful consideration of these issues in future program updates. A copy of the ***FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary*** can be found on the Berks County Planning Commission website at: <https://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/Plans%20and%20Programs.aspx>.

Public Participation Documentation

From: Notifications
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 3:55 PM
Subject: To: All County Employees and Berks Heim Admin Re: PennDOT and the State Transportation Commission Public Comment
Attachments: 12 Year Program Survey factsheet.pdf; 12-yearoutreachfactsheet22521spanishusfinal.pdf



Notification

To all County Employees:

Don't Miss This Opportunity to Provide Input!

The Berks County Planning Commission would appreciate a few minutes of your time to provide input to PennDOT and the State Transportation Commission regarding transportation issues impacting our County and State.

The State Transportation Commission (STC) and PennDOT have announced the public comment period for the 2023 12-Year Program Update is now open through April 14, 2021. Please take a few minutes to take the survey and share your responses with PennDOT to improve transportation in our County. Completion of the survey is important in that the results are shared with your local planning agencies (in Berks County this is the Reading Area Transportation Study) for incorporation into local plans!

(survey.talkpatransportation.com)

For those with more interest in this topic, an Online Public Forum will be held on March 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM (talkpatransportation.com/opf-registration).

Additional details can also be found in the attached factsheets in both English and Spanish.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone that may be interested in this topic.

Thank you for your time and interest.

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

Phone: (610)-478-6300 Ext. 6313
 Fax: (610)-478-6316
 e-mail: apiper@countyofberks.com

Explore Berks County's Future at
<http://www.countyofberks.com/planning>



State Transportation Commission

2023 12-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
SURVEY SUMMARY

READING AREA
TRANSPORTATION
STUDY (RATS)

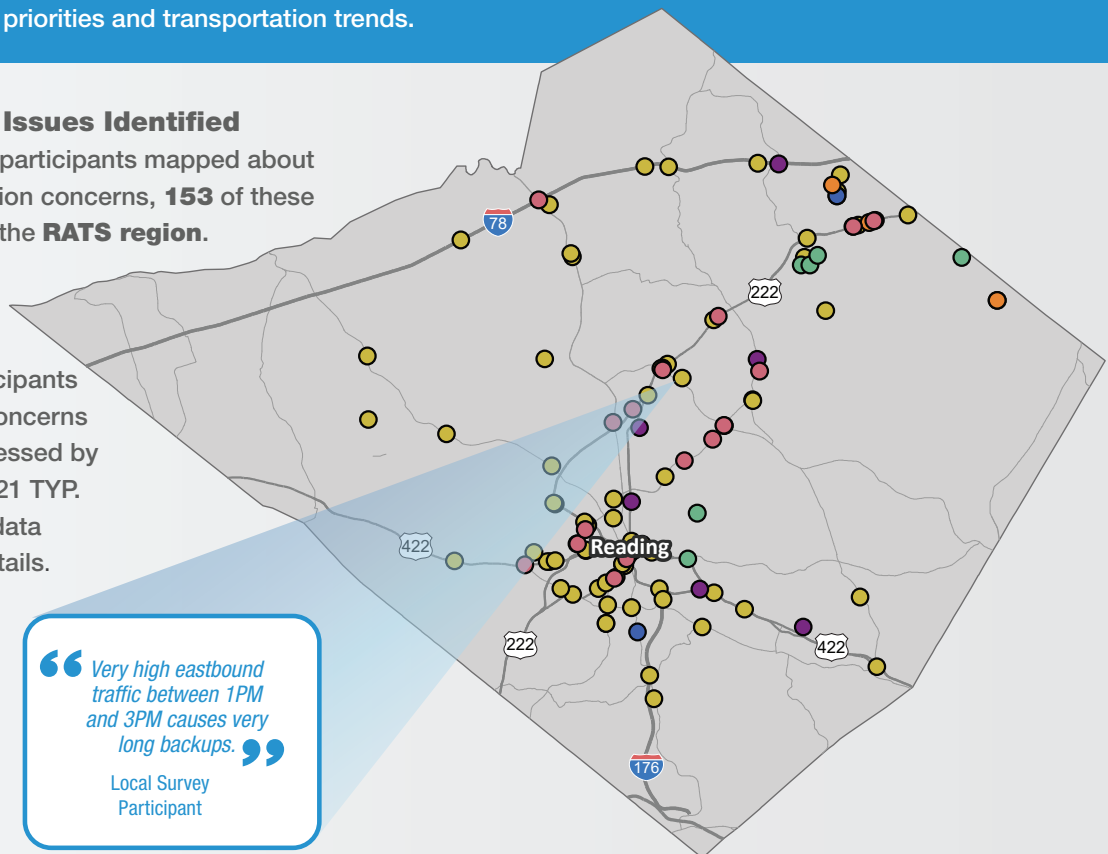
A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR REGION

The State Transportation Commission held its 45-day Public Comment Period for the 2023 12-Year Program (TYP) Update March 1 through April 14, 2021. The public had the opportunity to take the Transportation Survey and participate in an Online Public Forum on either a webinar platform or Facebook Live. In accordance with Governor Tom Wolf’s COVID-19 mitigation efforts, the Public Forum was held online only with a call-in option available. The public could request assistance to participate in the survey or Public Forum by contacting PennDOT’s Program Center by email or phone. All public feedback received was analyzed to better understand public priorities and transportation trends.

Transportation Issues Identified

Statewide, survey participants mapped about **2,500** transportation concerns, **153** of these are located within the **RATS region**.







During the mapping exercise, some survey participants discovered their concerns were already addressed by projects on the 2021 TYP. See the map and data below for more details.



“Very high eastbound traffic between 1PM and 3PM causes very long backups.”
Local Survey Participant

Number of Issues Identified

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

- 
72
 ROADWAY
- 
6
 BRIDGE
- 
6
 BIKING/
 WALKING
- 
3
 TRANSIT
- 
4
 FREIGHT
- 
62
 CONCERN(S)
 ALREADY
 ADDRESSED

Examples of 2021 TYP Projects that Addressed Public Concerns

SR 222 ROADWAY WIDENING

VARIOUS BRIDGE PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

SR 422 IN SINKING SPRING INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT



State Transportation Commission

2023 12-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SURVEY SUMMARY

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (RATS)

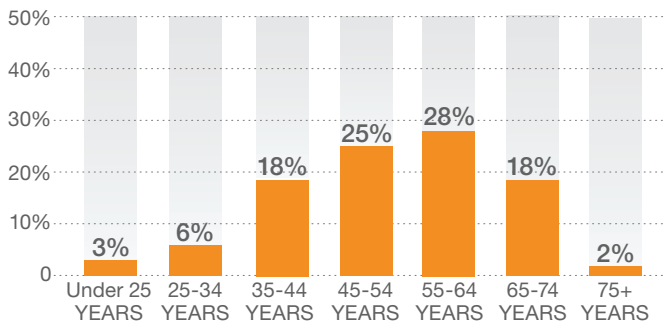
ABOUT THE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR REGION

Over 7,000 individuals participated in the survey statewide, and **313** of the survey participants identified with the **RATS region** through feedback provided. Learn more about the participants from this region.

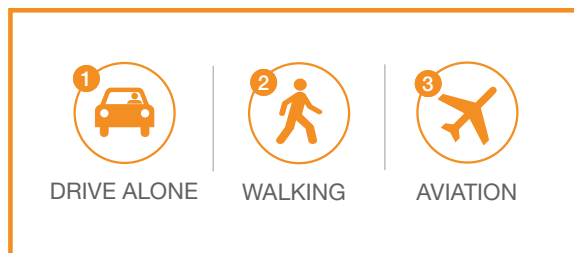
Male	162	53%
Female	139	45%
Third gender/nonconforming	0	0%
I prefer to self-describe	0	0%
I prefer not to answer	6	2%

Responses to demographic questions were optional.

Age



Top Transportation Modes



Transportation Priorities Ranking

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



TalkPATransportation.com
717.783.2262
RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov

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



State Transportation Commission

2023 12-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE
2019 AND 2021 REGIONAL
SURVEY RESULTS COMPARISON

June 2021

READING AREA
TRANSPORTATION
STUDY (RATS)

2021

313 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

153 MAPPED ISSUES
62 RESOLVED

2019

453 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

213 MAPPED ISSUES
77 RESOLVED

About the Survey Participants

2021

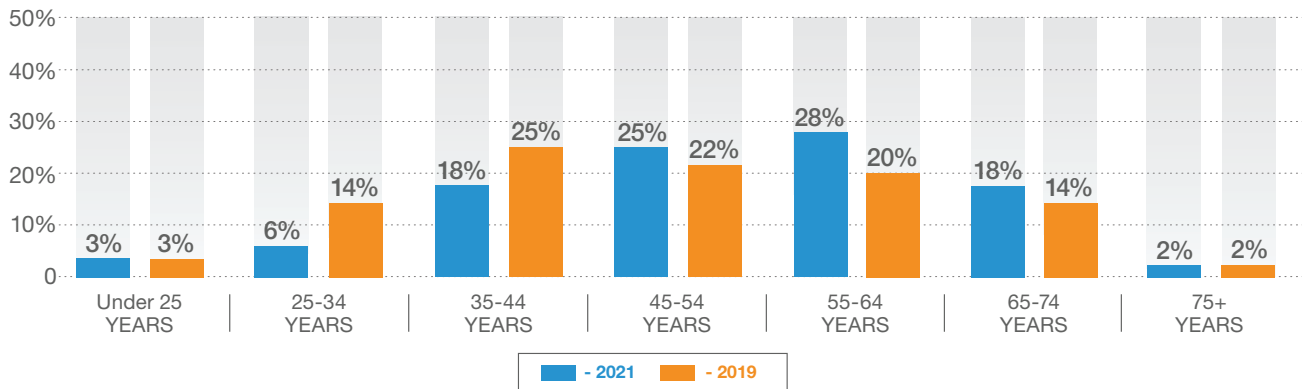
Male	53%
Female	45%
Third gender/Nonconforming	0%
I prefer to self-describe	0%
I prefer not to answer	2%

2019

Male	51%
Female	47%
Third gender/Nonconforming	0%
I prefer to self-describe	0%
I prefer not to answer	2%

Responses to demographic questions were optional.

Age



Top Transportation Modes

2021

- 1 DRIVE ALONE
- 2 WALKING
- 3 AVIATION

2019

- 1 DRIVE ALONE
- 2 WALKING
- 3 AVIATION

Highest Ranked Priorities

2021

- 1 ROAD PAVEMENT
- 2 TRAFFIC FLOW
- 3 BRIDGES

2019

- 1 ROAD PAVEMENT
- 2 TRAFFIC FLOW
- 3 BRIDGES



TalkPATransportation.com
717.783.2262
RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov

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

Reading Area Transportation Study

(610) 478-6300

FAX: (610) 478-6316

c/o Berks County Planning Commission

Berks County Services Center

633 Court Street, 14th Floor

Reading, PA 19601-4309

To: Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee

From: Devon B. Hain, Transportation Planner II

Re: STC Public Survey Results

Date: July 8, 2021

In the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission's (STC's) effort to gain public input for the 2023 Twelve Year Program, they opened a six week public comment period in spring of 2021. This public outreach allowed over 2,500 transportation issues to be identified statewide, with 153 of these located within Berks County. We separated these results by responses focused on highways and bridges and to those focused on bicycle/pedestrian and public transportation. The STC system flagged comments that they feel are addressed by 2021 TYP projects, these are highlighted in the document as blue text. Examining the data from the 153 valid responses has provided us with the following information.

A majority of the highway and bridge comments showed public concern with congestion and safety along the Allentown Pike and Kutztown Road portions of S.R. 0222 through Maiden creek, Richmond, and Maxatawny Townships. Intersections along this portion of S.R. 0222 that showed the most concern were located at Main Street (S.R. 0073), Genesis Drive, Richmond Road and Long Lane. Other congested areas include 3 major intersections along Pricetown Road (S.R. 0012), located at Elizabeth Avenue, Skyline Road, and Blandon Road (S.R. 0073). These locations along S.R. 0222 and S.R. 0012 are all covered under TYP projects. Multiple intersections along Penn Avenue in Wernersville Borough with North and South Church Roads, its intersection with State Hill Road in Wyomissing Borough, its intersection with Mull Road and (S.R.0724) Shillington Road in Sinking Spring, as well as West Wyomissing Boulevard in Spring Township continue to provide concerns with congestion and safety.

The West Shore Bypass (S.R. 0422) was identified as having entrance and exit issues adding to congestion and safety concerns. These problem areas were identified at the Lancaster Avenue and Interstate 176 interchanges, which will be addressed through TIP projects. The interchange area in Wyomissing Borough where S.R. 0222, S.R. 0422, and S.R. 0012 come together received comments concerned with safety due to high congestion and design.

The only bicycle comment requested wider shoulders to allow bicycle access on Kennedy Avenue in Longswamp Township. Pedestrian concerns were focused on missing links of sidewalk in Kutztown Borough. The other 3 pedestrian comments looked at the safety of the railroad underpass on Heisters Lane in Reading, the safety of users of Antietam Lake Park, and along S.R. 422 in St. Lawrence. Public Transportation comments consisted of 1 request for passenger rail and the addition of a BARTA bus stop in the area of Flying Hills.

DBH

STC Survey Highway and Bridge Results

Alsace:

- 5 comments were concerned with congestion and safety on SR 12 (Pricetown Road) and its intersections with Elizabeth Ave and Skyline Dr. These intersections and the related congestion will be addressed through the implementation of Project 79467 with an estimated bid date of 09/26/2024.
- 5 comments were concerned with congestion and safety on SR 12 (Pricetown Road) and its intersections with Antietam Rd, Woodside Ave, and Mount Laurel Ave. These intersections and the related congestion will be addressed through the implementation of Project 110318 with an estimated bid date of 04/01/2025.

Amity:

- 1 comment expressed a need for intersection improvements at SR 662 (Old Swede Rd) and Old Airport Rd due to poor alignment and bad visibility causing safety concerns.
- 1 comment was concerned with the condition of the bridge on Monocacy Hill Rd between Valley Rd and 422/Benjamin Franklin Hwy.
- 1 comment addressed signal timing issues at River Bridge Rd and 422. When on River Bridge Rd, the signal at WB 422 turns green before the light at EB 422, causing those travelling NB on River Bridge Rd to think they have the green when the light is red.
- 1 comment was concerned with the intersection and bridge at the intersection of Weavertown Rd and Boone Rd/Meetinghouse Rd. This should be addressed through the bridge rehabilitation/replacement under project 10753.

Bern:

- 1 comment focused on the safety of SR 183 NB between 222 and West Leesport Rd. It was suggested that another NB lane be added through this entire section rather than a narrowing from 2 lanes to 1 lane and then widening back to 2 lanes.

Centre:

- 1 comment noted that snow removal needs to be increased on Bellemans Church Rd between Centerport and Gin Mill Roads as they generally go up to 12 hours before a snowplow comes through to clear Bellemans Church Rd.

Cumru:

- 1 comment showed concern over safety and congestion on the entrance and exit ramps at the SR 724 (Philadelphia Ave) and I-176 Interchange.
- 1 comment noted safety concerns when merging onto SR 422 from the I-176 Interchange, which should be addressed by interchange reconstruction included in project 72814.
- 2 comments addressed safety issues at the intersection of SR 625 (New Holland Rd) and Church Rd. Accidents have been noted when heading north on SR 625 and turning left onto Church Rd. Commenter suggests adding a left turn lane for traffic turning left from SR 625 onto Church Rd.
- 1 comment suggested widening the right shoulder or adding a longer right hand turn lane when traveling east on SR 724/Philadelphia Ave approaching the intersection with SR 10 Morgantown Rd since traffic backs up and those turning right will drive on the shoulder to get into the right hand turn lane.

Exeter:

- 1 comment noted serious congestion issues on 422/Perkiomen Ave in both directions between W 47th St/ Demoss Rd and Gibraltar Rd.

Fleetwood:

- 1 comment noted the change of South Franklin Street to a 2 way road and expressed displeasure with the removal of parking in these two blocks between Main and Locust Streets.

Greenwich:

- 1 comment expressed that there is a very small turning radius for eastbound trucks exiting I-78 at Exit 35/SR 143 to turn south on SR 143.

Hamburg:

- 1 comment expressed desire to know when the comprehensive transportation study throughout the borough would reach completion. This study should be completed this summer and is part of project 113325.

Jefferson:

- 1 comment noted that the SR 183 is subsiding into Little Northkill Creek on the eastern side of the road.

Longswamp:

- 2 comments were focused on the road condition and safety issues on Mountain Rd. Due to increased truck traffic the road continually wears down and speeding distracted drivers make it unsafe for vehicles accessing Mountain Rd from their personal driveways.

Kenhorst:

- 1 comment focused on the safety and congestion issues caused by the lack of a left turn arrow on the northern side of the SR 724/Philadelphia Ave and SR 625/New Holland Rd intersection. It was stated that when traveling south on SR 625/New Holland Rd and wanting to turn left onto SR 724/Philadelphia Ave, a vehicle will sit here through lights as there is too much traffic traveling north to safely make the turn.

Kutztown:

- 1 comment noted that the line of sight when travelling northeast on Sander Alley and crossing over Noble St is very poor.
- 1 comment identified the condition of the Peach Street Bridge on Normal Ave over Sacony Creek. This comment will be addressed through the replacement of the bridge, which falls under project 102959.

Lyons:

- 1 comment showed concern of the safety of bicyclists and motorcyclists using Kemp and Penn Streets as there is excessive amounts of gravel at the ends of these streets.

Maidencreek:

- 6 comments addressed the congestion on US 222 at the intersections of SR 73, Genesis Dr, and Schaeffer Rd which will be addressed by intersection improvements at SR 73 and the addition of roundabouts at Genesis Dr and Schaeffer Rd through project 92414. 1 of these 6 comments discouraged the addition of roundabouts in Maidencreek.
- 1 comment noted that congestion on Park Rd is so heavy at peak travel hours that it can back up nearly a mile to the east to Sofia Blvd (mornings) and nearly ¾ mile to the west past Excelsior Dr and Blandon Ave (evenings).
- 1 comment noted congestion traveling southwest on Park Rd when reaching the intersection with 222 Business/ Allentown Pike.

Maxatawny:

- 2 comments addressed Long Lane and Eagle Point Rd, stating that these roads are not designed to handle large truck traffic due to sharp turns and trucks getting stuck at the top of the intersection blocking traffic in all directions. It was suggested that these roads be made restricted to trucks making local deliveries only.
- 3 comments noted the increase of truck traffic on Long Lane and suggested signing to keep large trucks off the road to stop them from using the road as it is felt the bridge at the end of the road is too old and not designed for large trucks. The suggestion was also made that a 4 way stop sign be placed at the intersection of Long Ln, Mill Creek Rd, and Siegfriedale Rd.
- 1 comment focused on the intersection of 222 with Kunkel, Christman, and Topton Roads. There is an embankment at this intersection and the commenter noted fatal accidents occurring due to poor line of sight and cars running stop signs.
- 1 comment requested that 222 through the village of Maxatawny be widened to 4 lanes.
- 1 comment noted that during the winter when rain or ice falls Mill Creek Rd stays icy between Fenstermacher and Moyer Roads due to excessive shade.
- 18 comments addressed safety concerns and congestion along 222 around the intersection with Long Lane. These comments will be addressed by project 90569 which consists of intersection improvements and the construction of a roundabout in this location.

Muhlenberg:

- 1 comment noted flooding near the bridge on Mount Laurel Rd between Furnace Rd and Commerce St. It is suggested to check and clear the underneath of this bridge over Laurel Run as debris collects and builds up at this point.

Multiple Municipalities: 6 comments were received that addressed congestion, safety, and surface issues along 222, 422, and 78 through multiple municipalities rather than identifying a specific section within a single municipality.

- 1 comment noted that I-78 has a problem with drivers speeding in excess of 30 MPH over the speed limit and requests more enforcement on this Interstate throughout the county.
- 10 comments addressed congestion issues on 422 which will be addressed by the reconstruction and widening of US 422/West Shore Bypass which is part of project 72814.
- 4 comments addressed the congestion on US 222 through Maiden creek and Richmond which will be addressed by the widening of US 222 to 4 lanes and the addition of roundabouts through project 61972.
- 1 comment addressed the need to upgrade the bridges and interchanges on SR 12 between 183 and 222 Business/5th Street Highway. Some of the interchange issues within Reading along SR 12 will be addressed by project 89215.
- 3 comments suggested making US 222 from Maiden creek Township to the Lehigh County line limited access within 10 years. This commenter feels that traffic circles and widening will provide only a temporary relief of traffic congestion.
- 1 comment addressed the widening of 222 and suggested it be widened the entire distance from Reading to Allentown.
- 1 comment noted that the condition of 222/Kutztown Bypass is extremely rough in the northbound and southbound right hand lanes between 737 and Kutztown Rd in the Borough of Kutztown and Maxatawny Township.
- 1 comment focused on congestion caused on Christmas Village Rd from SR 183 to Christmas Village near Grandview Rd. This comment states that traffic is extremely heavy and visitors do not always use main roads to get there causing additional traffic on local roads.

Ontelaunee:

- 2 comments focused on the ramps in the area of 222 and Business 222/Allentown Pike. It noted that the curve/exit to stay on 222NB and the curve/entrance onto 222SB from Allentown Pike are tight and dangerous.

Penn:

- 1 comment suggested a left turn lane from SR 183 NB onto Old Church Rd due to safety and congestion issues.

Perry:

- 2 comments noted that many vehicles are running the red light at the intersection of SR 61/Pottsville Pike and Logistics Dr while traveling on SR 61/Pottsville Pike. It was suggested that the addition of Signal Ahead signs placed prior to the intersection could help solve this problem.

Reading:

- 6 comments concentrated on safety concerns at the 422 interchange with Lancaster Avenue. These concerns are safety and congestion driven. Comments focus on the safety and congestion caused by exit and entrance ramps being at the left lane. These issues will be addressed by MPMS 72814 (PE phase and Final Design) and MPMS 114439 (redesign and reconstruction).
- 1 comment focused on narrowness of Clymer St and congestion at the intersection of Clymer St and Mineral Springs Rd.
- 1 comment noted the congestion and blocked RR Crossings caused by long trains that are limited to travel at 10 MPH along 7th Street.
- 3 comments focused on rough and uneven utility patches that are not level with street surfaces on Washington, Mulberry, South 5th, and 6th Streets.
- 1 comment noted safety issues at the intersection of Lancaster Ave and SR 625/New Holland Ave. When vehicles traveling west on Lancaster Ave turn left onto SR 625, safety issues arise as other drivers behind the vehicle that is waiting to turn left merge blindly into the right lane to avoid waiting for the driver ahead to turn left. It was suggested that a turning lane and/or traffic light be added at this intersection to make it safer.
- 2 comments noted the safety issue of lines and arrows that need to be painted at the intersection of Business 222/Lancaster Ave and Kenhorst Boulevard on the south side of this intersection.

Robeson:

- 2 comments suggested the addition of a traffic light at the exit and entrance ramps for I-176 on Route 10 between Kurtz Mill Rd and Seton Rd, as well as longer ramps due to safety concerns.
- 1 comment suggested intersection improvements consisting of turn lanes/arrows on SR 724 (Main St) onto Gibraltar Rd to improve safety and congestion issues.

Ruscombmanor:

- 2 comment of concern in this township is that of SR 12 (Pricetown Rd) and SR 662 (Memorial Hwy), which lacks left turning lanes/signals creating congestion not only at AM and PM peaks, but throughout the day as these two state routes are major commuting corridors for employees of East Penn Manufacturing (DEKA), one of the top employers of the county which has staggered start times for its first, second, and third shifts.
- 6 comments were concerned with safety and congestion at the intersection of SR 73 (Blandon Rd) and SR 12 (Pricetown Rd), which will be addressed by Project 88781 which will reduce congestion through the redesign of this intersection by adding left turn lanes on all four approaches.

Sinking Spring:

- 6 comments addressed the misalignment and congestion at the intersection of Penn Avenue, Mull Road, and SR 724 (Shillington Rd) which will be addressed by the intersection improvement project 87688.

Spring:

- 1 comment suggested a left hand turn lane on for southbound traffic on Van Reed Rd at its intersection with Dwight St as this backs up and causes heavy congestion for southbound traffic on Van Reed Rd.
- 1 comment noted that there is congestion issues along SR 724 around the intersections of Jefferson and Harvard Boulevards.
- 3 comments focused on the excessive traffic and congestion caused by the light at 422 (Penn Ave) and West Wyomissing Blvd which extends west to Riegel Ave and east to Perkasie Ave.
- 1 comment focused on the safety and congestion issues when taking the Spring Ridge Exit from 222 NB, traffic backs up as it is hard to take a left at the top of the exit due to lack of stopping from opposing traffic heading east on Spring Ridge Drive, the angle and grade of the roadway add to safety issues. To ease a bit of the congestion it is suggested that a turn lane be added through the exit for vehicles turning left.
- 1 comment focused on safety issues where merging onto NB 222 from Spring Ridge Dr. This entrance ramp is too short and at a curve, making it hard to merge with highway speed traffic.

Tilden:

- 1 comment identified congestion on SR 61/Pottsville Pike near the Interstate 78 Interchange. This should be addressed by the interchange reconfiguration that will be completed under project 93494.

Wernersville:

- 1 comment identified congestion issues at the intersection of 422/Penn Ave and North and South Church Roads. The commenter suggested realignment of the intersection.

Wyomissing:

- 4 comments were made about the congestion and safety issues in the area of the ramp to continue on 222 SB and the ramp to stay on 422 WB prior to the Papermill Rd exit. This issue will be addressed through the addition of an auxiliary lane along 222 SB between the 222/422 Interchange and the Papermill Rd exit as a part of project 110008.
- 1 comment pointed out that improvements should be made at the intersection of Lancaster Pike and Museum Road as this area often floods during major rain events causing the road to close.
- 3 comments were made about safety and congestion in the area where 12, 222, and 422 converge. Suggestions include adding lanes and reconfiguration.
- 1 comment identified the intersection of Penn Ave and Wyomissing Blvd/State Hill Rd as having major issues with congestion. The commenter suggested considering a roundabout to lessen the congestion at this intersection.
- 1 comment highlighted the need for line paint or signs on State Hill Rd travelling south prior to the intersection with Penn Ave. The purpose for these signs or extended line paint would be to clarify which south bound lane should be used for right turns, continuing straight or turning left as traffic is often heavy or even backed up past the existing 3 painted lanes causing confusion as drivers determine which of the two lanes to be in while approaching this intersection that has 3 lanes.
- 1 comment identified congestion when traveling eastbound on State Hill Rd between Cheltenham Dr and Woodland Rd.

STC Survey Bicycle/Pedestrian and Public Transportation Results

Bicycle/Pedestrian Comments:

- 1 comment was a request for widened shoulders and brush clearing for the bicyclists already using Kennedy Ave in Longswamp Township.
- 1 comment focused on the lack of sidewalks along Business 422/Perkiomen Ave in St. Lawrence Borough and Exeter Township between SR 562/St. Lawrence Ave and Neversink Rd. The commenter noted that many pedestrians walk along this section, and the terrain coupled with the curve of the road makes pedestrians hard to see.
- 1 comment emphasized the safety concerns on Heisters Lane in the City of Reading when crossing under the railroad bridge as this is a narrow underpass with no pedestrian/bicyclist access.
- 1 comment focused on Angora Rd around Antietam Lake Park in Lower Alsace. It was noted that this section of Angora Rd is narrow and winding, but still many pedestrians and bicyclists use it when heading to and from the park, a suggestion of widening shoulders was provided.
- 1 comment addressed the need for sidewalks along Kohler Rd and S Laurel St to connect the existing sidewalks on Kohler Rd. The addition of these sidewalks would connect Kutztown Elementary School to the Kutztown Park in the Borough of Kutztown.
- 1 comment noted the missing section of sidewalk along Trexler Ave between Lenni St and Bieber Alley in the Borough of Kutztown.
- 1 comment noted the missing sidewalk along Normal Ave between Miller Alley and S Baldy St on the north side of the road and between the Kemp Building and S Baldy St on the south side of the road in the Borough of Kutztown.

Public Transit Comments:

- 1 request was made for passenger rail service from Reading to Philadelphia to return to the Franklin St. Station.
- 1 request was made for a bus stop to be created at the intersection of Flying Hills Dr and Olympic Dr, providing access to RACC, Exeter Walmart, Berkshire Mall, and Temple Walmart.

Piper, Alan

From: Piper, Alan
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Piper, Alan
Subject: Berks County - Transportation Project Solicitation - Municipalities
Attachments: Municipality Project Solicitation.docx

Dear Municipal Official,

The Berks County Planning Commission, acting in its capacity as staff to the Reading Area Transportation Study, has begun the process of updating the FFY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the FFY 2023-2041 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for Berks County. As part of this process, we are requesting municipal input on potential highway and bridge and transit projects that are recommended for consideration to be included in these plans. The attached memorandum describes the eligibility requirements and the process to be followed to submit recommendations.

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

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

Recommendations are due by October 29, 2021.

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

Thank you in advance for your participation in this effort.

Link to Web Page:

(http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/Municipal_Request_Opportunity)

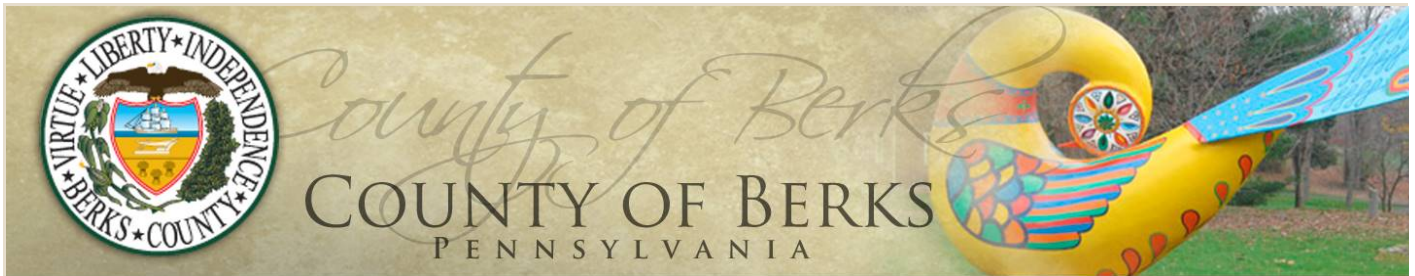
Alan D. Piper
 Transportation Planner III
 Berks County Planning Commission
 633 Court Street, 14th Floor
 Reading, PA 19601

Phone: (610)-478-6300 Ext. 6313
 Fax: (610)-478-6316
 e-mail: apiper@countyofberks.com

Explore Berks County's Future at
<http://www.countyofberks.com/planning>

8/30/2021

Transportation Projects Municipal Request Opportunity



(1)

You are here: Berks County (/Pages/default.aspx) > County Departments (/Dept/Pages/default.aspx) > Planning Commission (/Dept/Planning/Pages/default.aspx) > Transportation Municipal Request Opportunity (/Dept/Planning/Pages/Municipal_Request_Opportunity.aspx)

Transportation Projects Municipal Request Opportunity

The Berks County Planning Commission, as staff to the Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee (F begun the process of updating the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FFY 2022 – 2045 L Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Berks County region. As part of this process, we are requesting municipality input o highway and bridge and transit projects that are recommended for consideration to be included in these plans.

You may submit as many requests as you feel are necessary. Project requests for inclusion in these plans should be li

- 1) Major capital improvements (not routine maintenance).
- 2) Any state-owned highway or bridge.
- 3) Highway improvements to municipally-owned roadways if they are part of the approved Federal-Aid Highway (Yellow or higher on the attached map).
- 4) Municipal bridges that are greater than 20 feet in length.
- 5) Safety funding to address high crash locations on any roadway.

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

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

Please submit the Berks County Transportation Project Request Form no later than October 29, 2021 to:

E-Mail: planning@countyofberks.com (mailto:planning@countyofberks.com)

OR

Fax: (610) 478-6316

OR

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

Links

Berks County Transportation Project Request Form
(/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/2021%20Munic%20Project%20Req%20Form%2 (Please remember to "Save As..." when completed)

8/30/2021

Transportation Projects Municipal Request Opportunity

List of projects on FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program

(/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/HighwayBridgeTransit_Project_Narratives.pdf)

- County Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/01%20TIP2021to2024-County%20No%20Inset%20Box%2011X17.pdf)
- Hawk Mountain Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/04%20TIP2021to2024-Hawk%20Mountain%2011X17.pdf)
- Oley Hills Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/05%20TIP2021to2024-Oley%20Hills%2011X17.pdf)
- Southern Highlands Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/06%20TIP2021to2024-Southern%20Highlands%2011X17.pdf)
- Metro Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/02%20TIP2021to2024-Metro%2011X17.pdf)
- Tulpehocken Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/03%20TIP2021to2024-Tulpehocken%2011X17.pdf)

List of projects on FFY 2017-2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

(/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/LRTP_Project_Narratives.pdf) (2018 Update)

- County Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/46%20LRTP%202019%20to%202040-%20County%2011x17.pdf)
- Inset Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/47%20LRTP%202019%20to%202040-%20Inset%2011x17.pdf)
- Hawk Mountain Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/48%20LRTP%202019%20to%202040-%20Hawk%20Mountain%2011x17.pdf)
- Oley Hills Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/49%20LRTP%202019%20to%202040-%20Oley%20Hills%2011x17.pdf)
- Southern Highlands Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/50%20LRTP%202019%20to%202040-%20Southern%20Highlands%2011x17.pdf)
- Metro Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/51%20LRTP%202019%20to%202040-%20Metro%2011x17.pdf)
- Tulpehocken Region Map (/Dept/Planning/Documents/Transportation/2021_Project_Solicitation/52%20LRTP%202019%20to%202040-%20Tulpehocken%2011x17.pdf)

County of Berks

633 Court Street
 Reading, PA 19601
 Hours: 8 AM to 5 PM
Closed on Holidays (/dept/hr)

Department Hours may vary
 Refer to Department Site

Resources

- Home (/)
- PA State Government (<https://www.pa.gov/>)
- Website Login (../_layouts/authenticate.aspx?Source=?)
- Forgot My Password (/SiteReg/Pages/Password-Reset.aspx)
- Subscribe/Register (/SiteReg/Pages/User-Registration.aspx)

Reading Area Transportation Study

(610) 478-6300

FAX: (610) 478-6316

c/o Berks County Planning Commission

Berks County Services Center

633 Court Street, 14th Floor

Reading, PA 19601-4309

ACTION REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 29, 2021

MUNICIPAL REQUEST OPPORTUNITY

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

August 30, 2021

Dear Municipal Official:

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

The Berks County Planning Commission, as staff to the Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee (RATS), has begun the process of updating the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FFY 2022 – 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Berks County region. As part of this process, we are requesting municipality input on potential highway and bridge and transit projects that are recommended for consideration to be included in these plans.

You may submit as many requests as you feel are necessary. Project requests for inclusion in these plans should be limited to:

- 1) Major capital improvements (not routine maintenance).
- 2) Any state-owned highway or bridge.
- 3) Highway improvements to municipally-owned roadways if they are part of the approved Federal-Aid Highway System (Yellow or higher on the attached map).
- 4) Municipal bridges that are greater than 20 feet in length.
- 5) Safety funding to address high crash locations on any roadway.

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

Please visit (http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/Municipal_Request_Opportunity) to access a fillable PDF form for each new project you are recommending for consideration. **Please remember to “Save As...” when completed.**

Also on the website is documentation for current projects that have already been programmed. **Projects identified in the following documents do not need to be resubmitted.**

- The current list and mapping of programmed projects on the FFY 2021-2024 TIP.
- The current list and mapping of programmed projects on the FFY 2017-2040 LRTP.

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

Please submit the Berks County Transportation Project Request Form no later than October 29, 2021 to:

E-Mail: planning@countyofberks.com

OR

Fax: (610) 478-6316

OR

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

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

Thank you for your participation in this effort.

BERKS COUNTY

TRANSPORTATION PROJECT REQUEST FORM

2021

1.0 PROJECT ADVOCATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Local Advocate Type: Municipality ___ Individual ___ Agency / Organization

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

1.1 Problem Location

County: Berks

Municipality: _____

MPO: Reading MPO

PennDOT District: 5-0

Problem Type: Highway Bridge Transit

Primary Road Name / Route: _____

Intersecting Road Name / Route: _____

Stream Crossed: _____

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

1.2 Problem Description / Justification

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

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

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

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

LAND USE / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

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

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

Four horizontal lines for text input.

FUNDING

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

Three horizontal lines for text input.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITY: _____

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

ATTACHMENTS:

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

<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRAFT FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, DRAFT 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS, AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY</p> <p>The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee announces the availability for citizens, local governments and interested organizations to review and comment on the following documents: the <i>Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program</i>, <i>Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan</i>, <i>Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis</i>, and the <i>Draft Environmental Justice Summary</i> for Berks County. These are planning documents that list various roadway, public transit, and off-road transportation projects and planning efforts in Berks County proposed over the next 4 and 23 years, respectively. Comments will be accepted beginning Wednesday, June 1, 2022 through the close of business on Friday, July 1, 2022.</p> <p>Copies of the <i>Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program</i>, <i>Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan</i>, <i>Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis</i>, and <i>Draft Environmental Justice Summary</i> are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning and in print at the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601.</p> <p>The required Public Meeting to review the <i>Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program</i>, <i>Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan</i>, <i>Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis</i>, and <i>Draft Environmental Justice Summary</i> will be held virtually. This meeting will be conducted live on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 beginning at 1:00 p.m. using Microsoft Teams. Instructions for connecting to this meeting are available at the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning. A link to the meeting presentation will be posted at the conclusion of the meeting and will be available until the close of Public Comment Period on Friday, July 1, 2022.</p> <p>The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible. The Planning Commission offices are served by BARTA routes. Spanish language interpretation services will be provided with a minimum of ninety-six (96) hours prior notice. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610-478-6300.</p> <p>Please submit written comments to: TIP Comments Berks County Planning Commission 633 Court St. - 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601</p> <p>Comments may also be faxed to 610-478-6316 or emailed to planning@countyofberks.com.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AVISO PÚBLICO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE EN EL ÁREA DE READING OPORTUNIDAD DE REVISIÓN Y COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROYECTO DEL PROGRAMA DE MEJORA DEL TRANSPORTE PARA EL AÑO FISCAL 2023-2026, PROYECTO DE TRANSPORTE DE LARGO ALCANCE 2045, PROYECTO DEL ANÁLISIS DE CONFORMIDAD DE LA CALIDAD DEL AIRE Y PROYECTO DEL RESUMEN DE JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL</p> <p>El Comité Coordinador del Estudio de Transporte en el Área de Reading anuncia la disponibilidad para que los ciudadanos, los gobiernos locales y las organizaciones interesadas revisen y comenten los siguientes documentos: el <i>Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program</i> (Proyecto del Programa de Mejoramiento del Transporte para el año fiscal 2023-2026), el <i>Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan</i> (Proyecto de Transporte de Largo Alcance 2045), el <i>Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis</i> (Proyecto del Análisis de Conformidad de la Calidad del Aire) y el <i>Draft Environmental Justice Summary</i> (Proyecto del Resumen de Justicia Ambiental) para el condado de Berks. Estos son documentos de planificación que enumeran diversos proyectos de carreteras, transporte público y transporte todoterreno, y las iniciativas de planificación en el condado de Berks propuestas para los próximos cuatro a veintitrés años, respectivamente. Se aceptarán comentarios a partir del miércoles 1^o de junio de 2022 hasta el cierre del horario de atención del viernes 1 de julio de 2022.</p> <p>Las copias del <i>Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program</i>, el <i>Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan</i>, el <i>Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis</i>, y el <i>Draft Environmental Justice Summary</i> están disponibles para revisión pública en inglés en la página web de la Berks County Planning Commission (Comisión de Planificación del condado de Berks) en www.co.berks.pa.us/planning y en versión impresa con cita previa en la Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601.</p> <p>La reunión pública requerida para revisar los Proyectos del Programa de Mejora del Transporte para el año fiscal 2023-2026, el proyecto de Transporte de Largo Alcance 2045, el proyecto Análisis de Conformidad de la Calidad del Aire y del proyecto Resumen de Justicia Ambiental se llevará a cabo de forma virtual. Esta reunión se llevará a cabo en vivo el martes 14 de junio de 2022, a partir de las 1:00 p.m., mediante Microsoft Teams. Las instrucciones para conectarse a esta reunión están disponibles en la página web para la Berks County Planning Commission en www.co.berks.pa.us/planning. La presentación se publicará en un enlace en la página web para que la puedan mirar y enviar sus comentarios en cualquier momento hasta el cierre del período de comentarios públicos el viernes 1 de julio de 2022.</p> <p>Las oficinas de la Berks County Planning Commission tienen acceso para discapacitados, pero se requiere una cita para visitas. El servicio de autobuses de BARTA está al servicio de las oficinas de la Planning Commission. Los servicios de interpretación en español se proporcionarán con un mínimo de noventa y seis (96) horas de antelación. Estos documentos estarán disponibles en idiomas o formatos alternativos si los solicita. Las personas que necesiten más adaptaciones, o aquellas que tengan preguntas, deben llamar al 610-478-6300.</p> <p>Envíe sus comentarios por escrito a: TIP Comments Berks County Planning Commission 633 Court St. - 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601</p> <p>Los comentarios también se podrán enviar por fax al 610-478-6316 o por correo electrónico a planning@countyofberks.com.</p>
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READING EAGLE SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022 PAGE A-5 BOTTOM

Piper, Alan

From: Piper, Alan
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 12:07 PM
To: Piper, Alan
Subject: Opportunity for Public Comment - Reading Area Transportation Study Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program

PUBLIC NOTICE

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITY
 DRAFT FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM,
 DRAFT 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
 DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS,
 AND
 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY**

The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee announces the availability for citizens, local governments and interested organizations to review and comment on the following documents: the *Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program*, *Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan*, *Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis*, and the *Draft Environmental Justice Summary* for Berks County. These are planning documents that list various roadway, public transit, and off-road transportation projects and planning efforts in Berks County proposed over the next 4 and 23 years, respectively. Comments will be accepted beginning Wednesday, June 1, 2022 through the close of business on Friday, July 1, 2022.

Copies of the *Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program*, *Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan*, *Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis*, and *Draft Environmental Justice Summary* are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning and in print at the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601.

The required Public Meeting to review the *Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program*, *Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan*, *Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis* and *Draft Environmental Justice Summary* will be held virtually. This meeting will be conducted live on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 beginning at 1:00 p.m. using Microsoft Teams. Instructions for connecting to this meeting are available at the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning. A link to the meeting presentation will be posted at the conclusion of the meeting and will be available until the close of Public Comment Period on Friday, July 1, 2022

The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible. The Planning Commission offices are served by BARTA routes. Spanish language interpretation services will be provided with a minimum of ninety-six (96) hours prior notice. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610-478-6300.

Please submit written comments to:
 TIP Comments

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

Comments may also be faxed to 610-478-6316 or emailed to planning@countyofberks.com.



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

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



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

This notice was sent 5/27/2022 to the following parties:

All Berks County Municipalities

RATS Mail list

All Berks County State and Federal Legislators

Berks County Commissioners

Berks County Planning Commission

RATS Coordinating Committee, Technical Committee, and staff

Follow-up reminders were sent to the same parties on 6/13/2022 prior to the Public Meeting and on 6/27/2022 prior to the close of the comment period.

From: Golembiewski, Michael
To: gjwallace@estoo.net
Subject: Public Comment Opportunity, Reading (PA) Area Transportation Study Draft FFY 2023-2026 TIP and 2045 LRTP
Date: Friday, May 27, 2022 11:40:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

May 27, 2022

Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
 Glenna Wallace, Chief
 PO Box 350
 Seneca MO 64865
gjwallace@estoo.net

Re: Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
 Draft Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 and Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP),
 30-day Public Comment Period – June 1, 2022 through July 1, 2022

Dear Chief Wallace:

Greetings to you. With respect to the special status of Federally Recognized Tribes and Nations, the purpose of this letter is to provide you with notice of the 30-Day Public Comment Period for the draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and the draft Environmental Justice Summary, per the Federal Highway Administration's regulations, 23 CFR §450.316. With this letter, the Reading MPO would like to formally extend to the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma an invitation to contribute comments from June 1, 2022 through July 1, 2022. In addition, a public meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 beginning at 1:00 p.m. This public meeting will be held virtually, conducted live using Microsoft Teams. Instructions for connecting to this meeting will be available at the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning. A link to the meeting presentation will be posted at the conclusion of the meeting and will be available until the close of Public Comment Period on Friday, July 1, 2022. Other interested parties, including governmental agencies and the public, are also concurrently receiving this notice.

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

The draft 2045 LRTP includes potential transportation projects slated to be considered between 2023 and 2045. The draft 2045 LRTP also includes background information on the natural, cultural, historical and environmental features in the region.

The documents are provided for public comment. Due to their large file sizes, we

cannot attach them directly to this email. However, the links provided below include:

- [Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)
- [Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan \(LRTP\)](#)
- [Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#)
- [Draft Environmental Justice Summary](#)

These documents can also be accessed electronically at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning.

If you wish to provide comments on the draft FFY 2023-2026 Reading MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), please provide comments to:

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

A copy of the [Public Comment Period and Meeting Notice](#) for the draft FFY 2023-2026 Reading MPO TIP and draft 2045 LRTP is also enclosed for your information. Following the TIP Public Comment Period, all comments and questions will be taken into consideration. A full summary of the process, comments and responses will be made available upon request.

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

Sincerely,

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



*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

Also sent via e-mail on 5/27/22 to:

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

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Devon Frazier, THPO
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
106NAGPRA@astribe.com

Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
Katelyn Lucas, Historic Preservation Assistant
PO Box 825
31064 State Highway 281, Bldg 100
Anadarko, OK 73005
klucas@delawarenation-nsn.gov

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

Delaware Tribe of Indians
Brad KillsCrow, Chief
5100 Tuxedo Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
bkillscrow@delawaretribe.org

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

Shawnee Tribe
Cassie Harper, Tribal Administrator
PO Box 189
29 S Highway 69A
Miami OK 74355
cassie@shawnee-tribe.com



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

*Jodi L. Gauker, Chairwoman | James A. Adams, Vice-Chair | Christopher J. Spohn, Secretary
Glenn R. Knoblauch | James C. McCarthy, P.E. | Thomas C. McKeon, AICP, CEcD, |
Lee C. Olsen, AIA, NCARB | David H. Turner | Lisa Weaver
David N. Hunter, Sr., AICP, Executive Director | David N. Peris, Assistant County Solicitor*

May 26, 2022

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

Re: Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Draft Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program
(TIP) and Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP),
30-day Public Comment Period – June 1, 2022 through July 1, 2022

Dear Chief Hill:

Greetings to you. With respect to the special status of Federally Recognized Tribes and Nations, the purpose of this letter is to provide you with notice of the 30-Day Public Comment Period for the draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), per the Federal Highway Administration's regulations, 23 CFR §450.316. With this letter, the Reading MPO would like to formally extend to the Onondaga Nation an invitation to contribute comments from June 1, 2022 through July 1, 2022. In addition, a public meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 beginning at 1:00 p.m. This public meeting will be held virtually, conducted live using Microsoft Teams. Instructions for connecting to this meeting are available at the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning. A link to the meeting presentation will be posted at the conclusion of the meeting and will be available until the close of Public Comment Period on Friday, July 1, 2022. Other interested parties, including governmental agencies and the public, are also concurrently receiving this notice.

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

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specific outreach during Section 106 and NEPA consultation will occur regardless of your participation in the TIP Public Comment Period.

The draft 2045 LRTP-Chapter 4 includes potential transportation and public transit projects slated to be considered between 2023 and 2045.

The documents provided for public comment are attached and include:

- Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Chapter 4
- Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis
- Draft Environmental Justice Summary

These documents can also be accessed electronically at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning.

If you wish to provide comments on the draft FFY 2023-2026 Reading MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or the draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), please provide comments to:

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

A copy of the Public Comment Period and Meeting Notice for the draft FFY 2023-2026 Reading MPO TIP and draft 2045 LRTP is also enclosed for your information. Following the TIP Public Comment Period, all comments and questions will be taken into consideration. A full summary of the process, comments and responses will be made available upon request.

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

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures:

- Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Chapter 4
- Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis
- Draft Environmental Justice Summary

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Date Produced: 06/06/2022

COUNTY OF BERKS:

The following is the delivery information for Certified Mail™/RRE item number 9214 8969 0099 9790 1019 9896 28. Our records indicate that this item was delivered on 05/31/2022 at 02:05 p.m. in NEDROW, NY 13120. The scanned image of the recipient information is provided below.

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Address of Recipient :

4045 Rt 11

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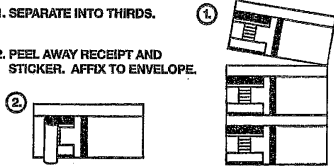
Sincerely,
United States Postal Service

The customer reference number shown below is not validated or endorsed by the United States Postal Service. It is solely for customer use.

Customer Reference Number: PLANNING

1. SEPARATE INTO THIRDS.

2. PEEL AWAY RECEIPT AND STICKER. AFFIX TO ENVELOPE.



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 U.S. Patent No.'s 6,905,747
 And Other Patents Pending

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 4040 ROUTE 11
 NEDROW, NY 13120

Batch #: 9
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 Date/Time: 5/26/2022 8:31:43 AM
 Code: PLANNING

Internal File #:
 Internal Code:

The screenshot shows the Berks County Planning Commission website. The header includes the Pennsylvania state logo and navigation links: Elected Officials, Departments, Municipalities, Police Departments, Fire Companies, EMS, and How Do I... Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads: You are here: Berks County > County Departments > Planning Commission > RATS DRAFT FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program and Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. The main content area is titled "RATS DRAFT FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program And Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan" and features a "PUBLIC NOTICE" section. The notice is for a "READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITY" regarding the "DRAFT FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, DRAFT 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN, DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS, AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY". It states that the Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee is announcing the availability of these documents for public review and comment. The notice provides details on where to find copies of the documents, the date and time of a public meeting (Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams), and contact information for submitting written comments to the Berks County Planning Commission. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links such as "About", "Berks County Comprehensive Plan", "Calendar", "GIS/Mapping", "Links", "Municipal Contact Information", "Partnerships", "Planning Topics", and "Transportation/Reading MPO".

RATS DRAFT FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program And Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITY
DRAFT FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM,
DRAFT 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS,
AND
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMARY**

The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee announces the availability for citizens, local governments and interested organizations to review and comment on the following documents: the [Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program](#), [Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan](#), [Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#), and the [Draft Environmental Justice Summary](#) for Berks County. These are planning documents that list various roadway, public transit, and off-road transportation projects and planning efforts in Berks County proposed over the next 4 and 23 years, respectively. Comments will be accepted beginning Wednesday, June 1, 2022 through the close of business on Friday, July 1, 2022.

Copies of the [Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program](#), [Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan](#), [Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#), and [Draft Environmental Justice Summary](#) are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning and in print at the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601.

The required Public Meeting to review the [Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program](#), [Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan](#), [Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#) and [Draft Environmental Justice Summary](#) will be held virtually. This meeting will be conducted live on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 beginning at 1:00 p.m. using Microsoft Teams. Instructions for connecting to this meeting are available at the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning. A link to the meeting presentation can be found [here](#) until the close of Public Comment Period on Friday, July 1, 2022.

The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible. The Planning Commission offices are served by BARTA routes. Spanish language interpretation services will be provided with a minimum of ninety-six (96) hours prior notice. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610-478-6300.

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

Comments may also be faxed to 610-478-6316 or emailed to planning@countyofberks.com.

← Berks County Planning Commission's post ...

<https://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/2045%20Long%20Range%20Transportation%20Plan.aspx>

The Berks County's Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan is now available. This report addresses how we can meet the expectations for the Berks County transportation system over the next 20+ years. Please follow the link above to view it.



Comment as Berks County... GIF 😊

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<https://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/default.aspx?PageVersion=211968>



**Opportunity to Provide Input! Reading Area Transportation Study
Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program
Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan
Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis
Draft Environmental Justice Summary**

The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee announces the availability for citizens, local governments and interested organizations to review and comment on the Draft FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Draft 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and Draft Environmental Justice (EJ) Summary. These are planning documents that list various roadway, public transit, and off-road transportation projects and planning efforts in Berks County proposed over the next 4 and 23 years, respectively.

Comments will be accepted beginning Wednesday, June 1, 2022 through the close of business on Friday, July 1, 2022.

A virtual public meeting was held on June 14, 2022. A link to the meeting presentation can be found [here](#) until the close of the public comment period on July 1, 2022.

To review the draft documents, instructions for providing comments, and information regarding the live virtual public meeting, please click [here](#).

**Opportunity to Provide Input! PennDOT Virtual Plans Display for U.S. 222
Widening Project in Berks County**

PennDOT announced and invites the public to participate in a public plans display for a project to widen U.S. 222 in Maiden creek and Richmond Townships in Berks County. The plans display will show corridor modifications, environmental features, and the anticipated construction schedule. Proposed improvements consist of widening U.S. 222 from Schaeffer Road in Maiden creek Township to the Kutztown Bypass in Richmond Township. For more information and to comment on the plans display, please visit PennDOT's website by clicking [here](#).

Berks County Greenway Planning Progress 4-19-22

The Planning Commission's Assistant Director, Ashley Showers recently visited bctv.org to

LATEST HEADLINES

Berks transportation plans to be reviewed in virtual meeting

The meeting to review documents listing proposed projects in Berks will be held online Tuesday at 1 p.m.



MediaNews Group File Photo

Berks transportation plans to be reviewed in virtual meeting

By **KEITH DMOCHOWSKI** | kdmochowski@readingeagle.com | Reading Eagle
 PUBLISHED: June 13, 2022 at 1:58 p.m. | UPDATED: June 13, 2022 at 1:59 p.m.

The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee is holding a virtual public meeting Tuesday to review documents listing proposed road, public transit and off-road transportation projects and planning efforts in Berks County.

The meeting begins at 1 p.m. Instructions for joining the meeting are available at the county planning commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning.

A link to the meeting presentation will be posted at the end of the meeting and will be available until the close of public comment period on July 1.

Draft copies of the 2023-26 Transportation Improvement Program, 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and



The planning commission offices are handicapped accessible and can be reached via BARTA route. Spanish-language interpretation services will be provided with at least 96 hours prior notice.

The documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Anyone with questions or requiring additional accommodations should call 610-478-6300.

Comments on the documents can be mailed to the planning commission's office, faxed to 610-478-6316 or emailed to planning@countyofberks.com.



Keith Dmochowski | Reporter

Keith Dmochowski started at the Reading Eagle in 2017 as a freelancer covering local government. He became a general assignment reporter in February 2022.

kdmochowski@readingeagle.com



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ACDelco Batteries Provide Starting Power to These Vehicles

By GM Genuine Parts and ACDelco



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READING EAGLE 6/14/22

TRANSPORTATION

Berks plans to be reviewed in virtual meeting

By Keith Dmochowski
 kdmochowski@readingeagle.com

The Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee is holding a virtual public meeting Tuesday to review documents listing proposed road, public transit and off-road transportation projects and planning efforts in Berks County.

The meeting begins at 1

p.m. Instructions for joining the meeting are available at the county planning commission's web page at www.co.berks.pa.us/planning.

A link to the meeting presentation will be posted at the end of the meeting and will be available until the close of public comment period on July 1.

Draft copies of the 2023-26 Transportation Improvement Program, 2045

Long Range Transportation Plan, Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and Environmental Justice Summary are available for public review on the planning commission's website, or in print at the commission's office, 633 Court St.

The planning commission offices are handicapped accessible and can be reached via BARTA route. Spanish-language interpretation services will

be provided with at least 96 hours prior notice.

The documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Anyone with questions or requiring additional accommodations should call 610-478-6300.

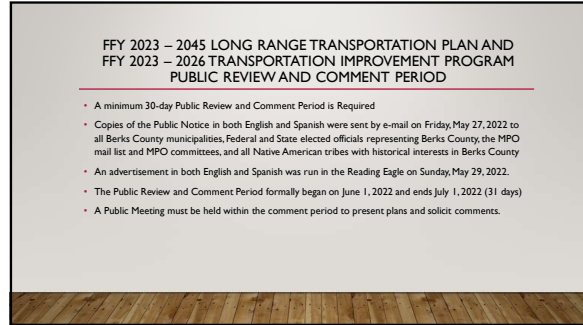
Comments on the documents can be mailed to the planning commission's office, faxed to 610-478-6316 or emailed to planning@countyofberks.com.

RATS Virtual Public Meeting Attendees**6/14/2022**

1. Amanda Timochenko, Berks County Planning Commission
2. Kevin Barnhardt, Berks County Commissioner
3. Michael Golembiewski, Berks County Planning Commission
4. David Hunter, Berks County Planning Commission Executive Director
5. IS Production, Berks County
6. Matthew McGough, Berks County Planning Commission
7. Alan Piper (Presenter), Berks County Planning Commission
8. Ashley Showers, Berks County Planning Commission Assistant Director
9. Timothy Smith, Berks County Information Systems
10. Malcom Townes, Berks County Information Systems
11. 69 News
12. Anne Franke, Maxatawny Township Citizen
13. Bill Litvin, Citizen
14. Brad Stewart, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
15. John Castleman, Office of U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan
16. Michael Donchez, PennDOT
17. Donna Reed, Reading City County and RATS Coordinating Committee
18. Crystal Heshmat, PennDOT
19. Ju Leigh Serpa, Citizen
20. Troy Bingaman, Amity Township
21. Scott Vottero, PennDOT
22. Harrison Jumper, Office of U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan



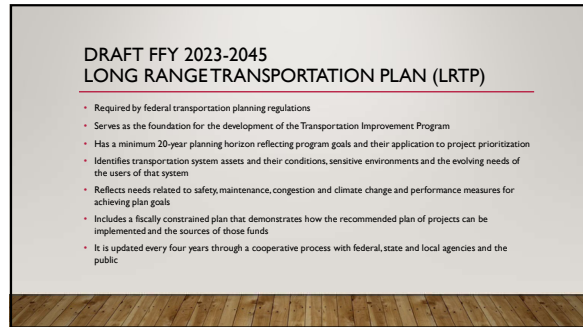
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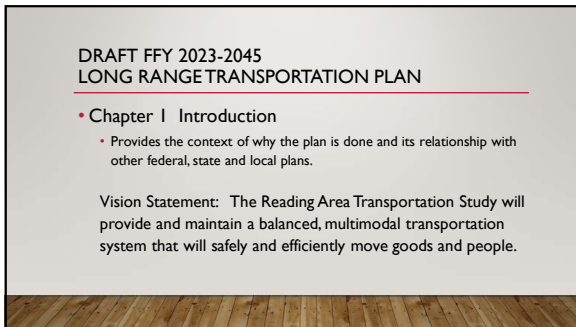
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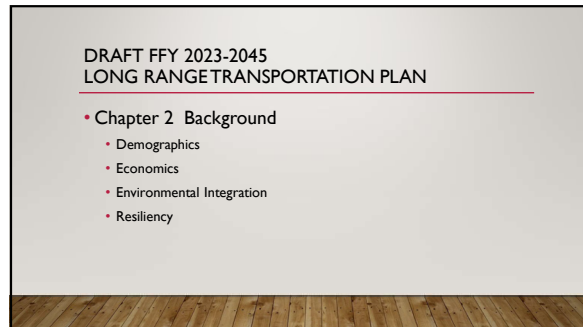
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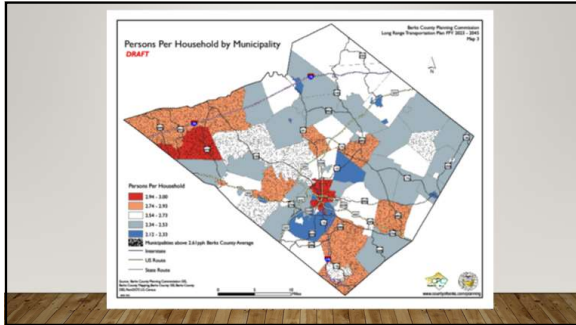


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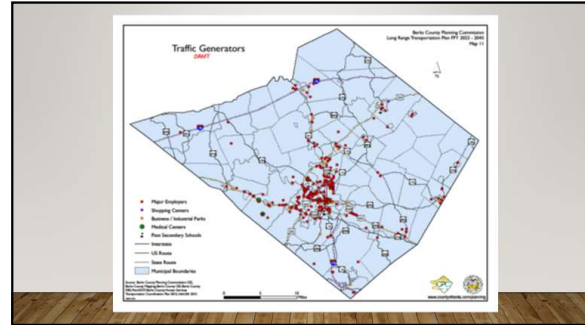


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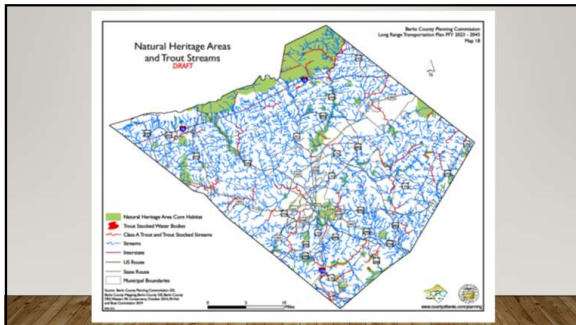
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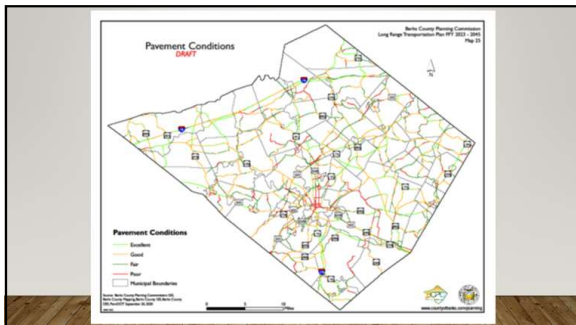


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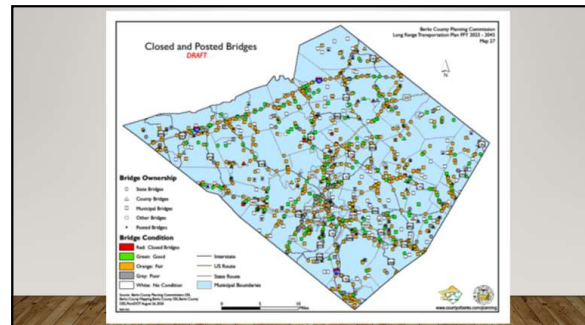
**DRAFT FFY 2023-2045
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- Chapter 3 - State of the System
 - Provides an overview of the components of the current transportation system

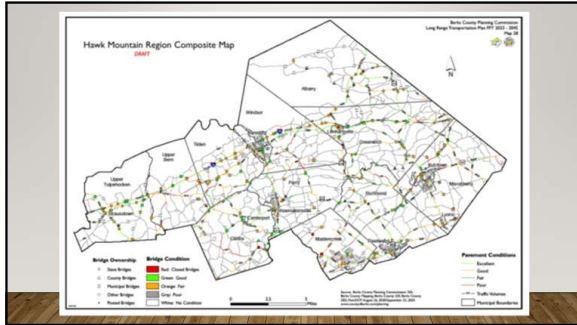
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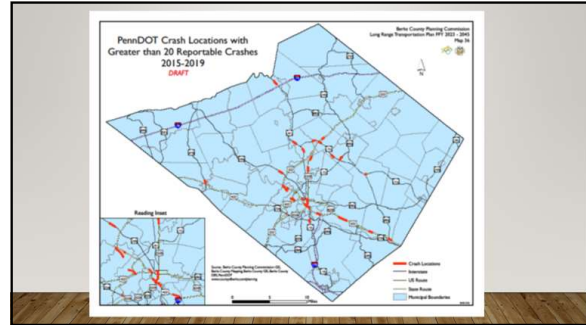
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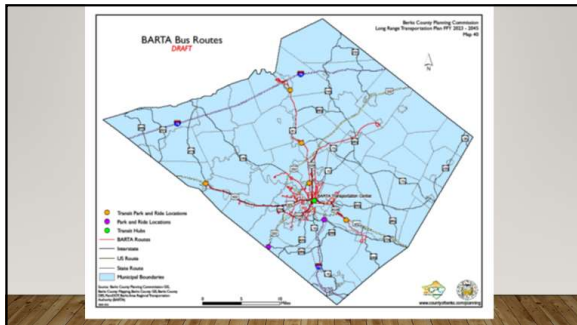
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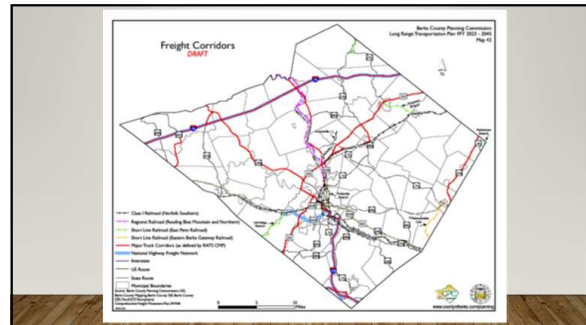
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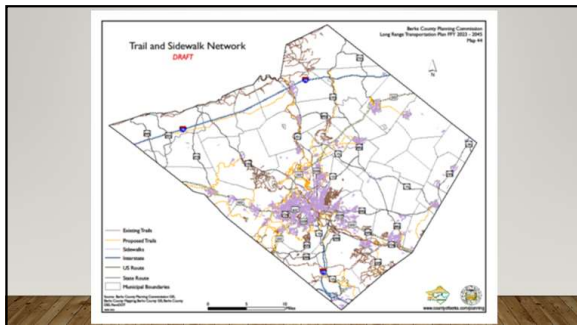
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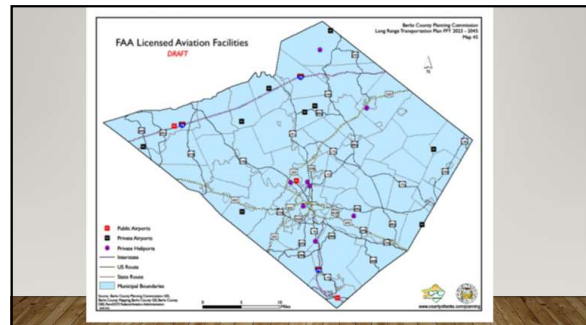
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**DRAFT FFY 2023-2045
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- Issues and Needs
 - Safety and Modernization
 - State of Good Repair
 - System Productivity and Efficiency
 - Strategic Capital Improvements
 - Alternative Fuels

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**DRAFT FFY 2023-2045
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- Chapter 4 Recommendations
 - Goals and Strategic Performance Measures
 - Project Prioritization
 - Project Listing and Financial Planning
 - Travel Demand Modeling
 - Air Quality Conformity

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**DRAFT FFY 2023-2045
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- GOAL #1 Safety: Keep travelers safe and secure, no matter the mode of transportation.
 - STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE MEASURES • See Safety Performance Measures (PM1) and Public Transportation Safety Measures
- GOAL #2 Maintenance: Maintain and improve the transportation system and services we enjoy today where financially feasible.
 - STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE MEASURES • See Pavement / Bridge Performance Measures (PM2) and Transit Asset Management Performance Measures

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**DRAFT FFY 2023-2045
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- GOAL #3 Economic Development: Invest in projects that strengthen the ability of Berks County commerce to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development and tourism opportunities.
 - STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE MEASURES
 - See System Performance Measures (PM3)
 - Support the Reading Regional Airport Authority in strengthening the use of the airport for both business and commercial aviation activities.
 - Support the efforts of the newly created Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority to reestablish passenger rail service between Reading and Philadelphia.

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**DRAFT FFY 2023-2045
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- GOAL #4 Improved Connections and Choices: Give travelers a variety of well-designed transportation choices that are in good condition.
 - STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE MEASURES
 - Support projects that expand the county trail and sidewalk network.
 - Work closely with municipalities, PennDOT and SCTA/BARTA to ensure the safe interaction of vehicles, transit and bicyclists / pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.

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**DRAFT FFY 2023-2045
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

- GOAL #5 Environmental Sustainability: Enhance the performance of the county transportation system in environmentally sustainable ways that increase resiliency to both climate change and vulnerability to natural disaster.

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7/7/2022

DRAFT FFY 2023-2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Maintain the county's attainment status for both ozone and fine particulates (PM 2.5).
 - Work closely with federal, state, municipal and private entities to implement alternative fuels use throughout our region. Specific focus should be given to the new National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program and similar programs offered at the state level.
- Continue coordination with appropriate agencies to protect and provide resiliency for critical transportation infrastructure against disaster by identifying vulnerable assets and prevention strategies through an updated, current hazard mitigation plan.
- Work with all local, regional, state, and federal organizations and agencies to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts from TIP and LRTP projects using the PennDOT Connects process.
- Assist in identification of potential environmental mitigation issues by acquiring, creating, and updating, as needed, geographic information system data layers for use by the implementing agencies and disseminating them in a readily accessible format to municipalities.
- Work with PennDOT to implement best management practices and mitigation strategies on transportation projects.

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Highways, Bridge and Tunnel Projects

Short- and Long-Range Transportation Planning Network, Berks, 2022

Project #	Project Name	Priority/Category	Cost	Start Year	End Year	Notes
0001	US 222/PA 272	Major	\$1,000,000	2023	2026	
0002	US 222 & Middleburg Road	Major	\$200,000	2023	2026	
0003	US 222 & Middleburg Road	Major	\$200,000	2023	2026	
0004	US 222 & Middleburg Road	Major	\$200,000	2023	2026	
0005	US 222 & Middleburg Road	Major	\$200,000	2023	2026	
0006	US 222 & Middleburg Road	Major	\$200,000	2023	2026	
0007	US 222 & Middleburg Road	Major	\$200,000	2023	2026	
0008	US 222 & Middleburg Road	Major	\$200,000	2023	2026	
0009	US 222 & Middleburg Road	Major	\$200,000	2023	2026	
0010	US 222 & Middleburg Road	Major	\$200,000	2023	2026	

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BERKS AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

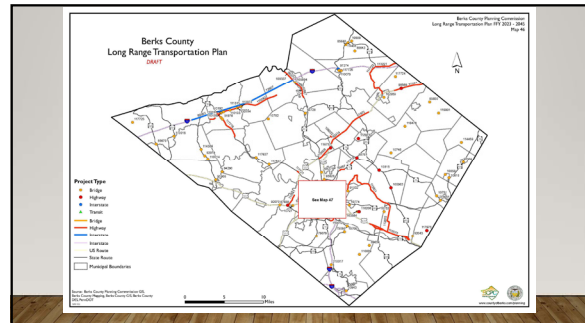
STATE OF GOOD REPAIR

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

SHORT RANGE PERIOD FFY 2023-FFY 2026

FFY	CAPITAL NEEDS	FEDERAL			LOCAL			TOTAL			PROJECTED BALANCE		
		80.00%	19.347%	0.453%	STATE	LOCAL	TOTAL	FEDERAL	LOCAL	TOTAL	FEDERAL	LOCAL	TOTAL
FFY 2023	REPLACE 18-2017 1-PARA TRANSIT VANS	\$1,200,000	\$230,400	\$96,960	\$1,069,600	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,200,000	\$230,400	\$96,960	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
	COMPUTER HARDWARE/SOFTWARE	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$64,328	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	REPLACE PORTABLE LIFTS	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$64,328	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	REPLACE BUS VACUUM SYSTEM	\$120,000	\$23,520	\$9,408	\$96,480	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$120,000	\$23,520	\$9,408	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
	REPLACE EMERGENCY KIT, ETC.	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$64,328	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	TIP UPDATE	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$64,328	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	ADA SERVICE	\$375,000	\$76,500	\$30,192	\$300,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$375,000	\$76,500	\$30,192	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000
	TOTAL	\$3,960,000	\$772,160	\$301,416	\$3,187,840	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$3,960,000	\$772,160	\$301,416	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000
FFY 2024	REPLACE 11 1-PARA TRANSIT VANS	\$750,000	\$153,000	\$60,000	\$597,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$750,000	\$153,000	\$60,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000
	REPLACE 11 2016 SUPERVISORY VEHICLE	\$20,000	\$4,000	\$1,560	\$16,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$4,000	\$1,560	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
	REPLACE BLK FLUO LIFT SYSTEM 2009	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$64,328	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$15,680	\$6,272	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	REPLACE 11 CON SWITCHE ETC	\$40,000	\$8,160	\$3,144	\$31,840	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$40,000	\$8,160	\$3,144	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
	REPLACE 11 CON SWITCHE ETC	\$20,000	\$4,080	\$1,584	\$16,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$4,080	\$1,584	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
	ADA SERVICE	\$772,800	\$156,576	\$61,008	\$616,224	\$885,000	\$885,000	\$772,800	\$156,576	\$61,008	\$885,000	\$885,000	\$885,000
	TOTAL	\$1,292,800	\$260,516	\$101,472	\$1,031,328	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,292,800	\$260,516	\$101,472	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000

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Projected Reading MPO Transportation Funding by Year (2020-2026)

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FEDERAL AND BRIDGE	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
STATE	230,400	230,400	230,400	230,400	230,400	230,400	230,400
LOCAL	96,960	96,960	96,960	96,960	96,960	96,960	96,960
TOTAL	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360

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Projected Reading MPO Transportation Funding by Year (2020-2026)

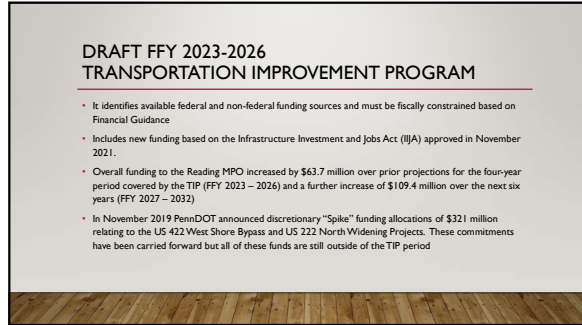
Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
FEDERAL AND BRIDGE	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
STATE	230,400	230,400	230,400	230,400	230,400	230,400	230,400
LOCAL	96,960	96,960	96,960	96,960	96,960	96,960	96,960
TOTAL	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360	1,527,360

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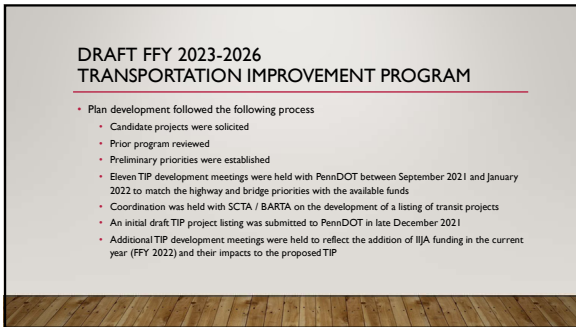
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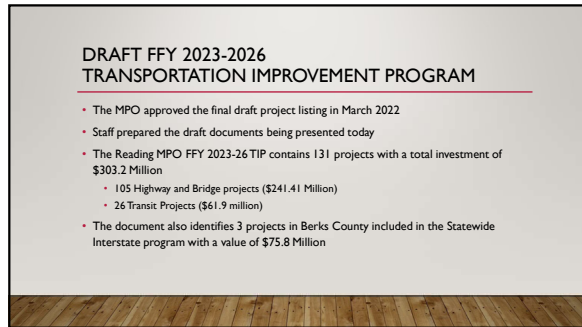
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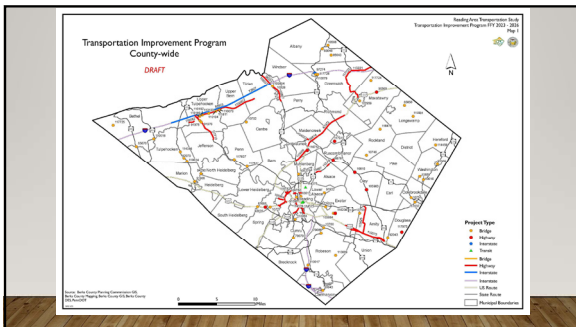
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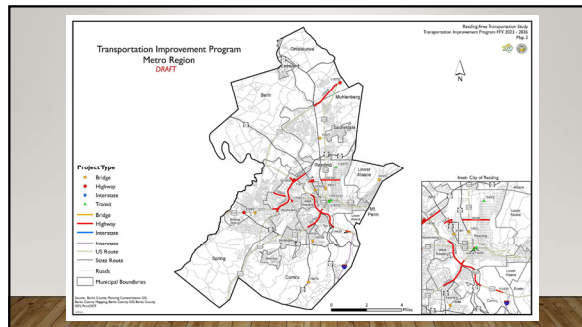
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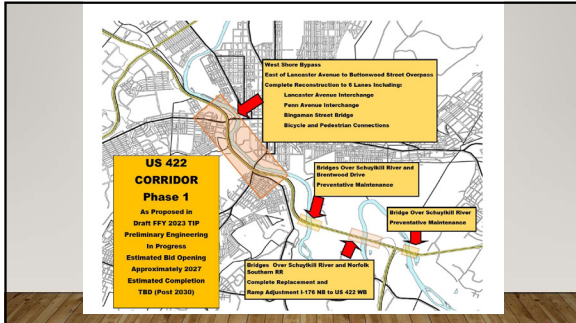
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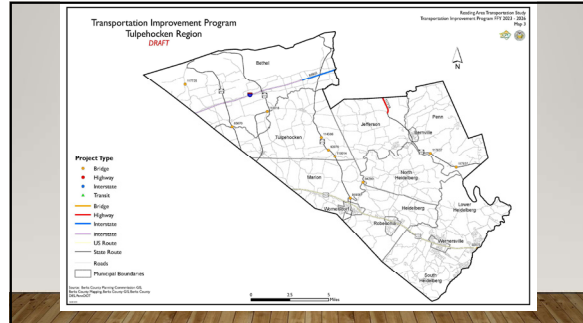
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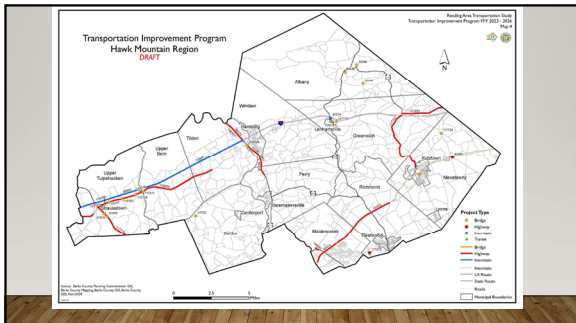
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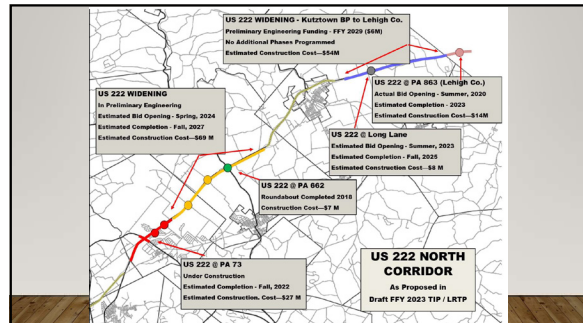
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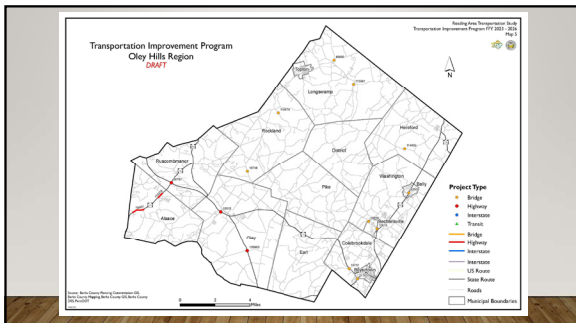
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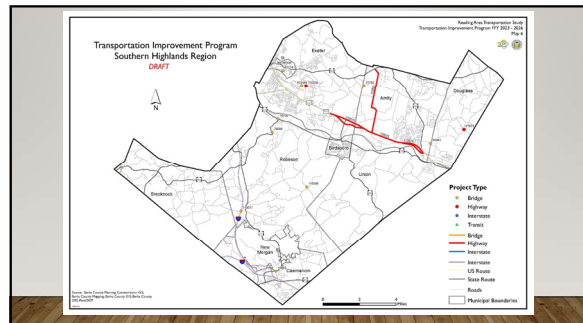
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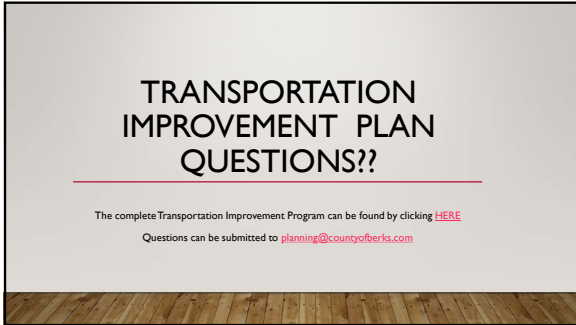
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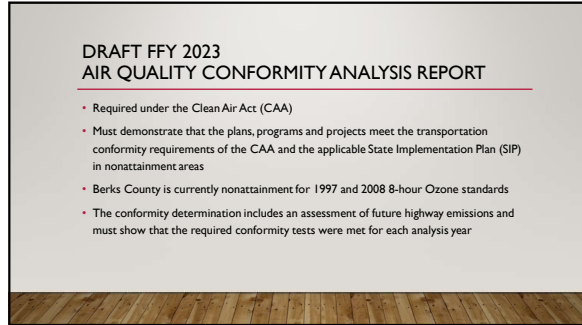
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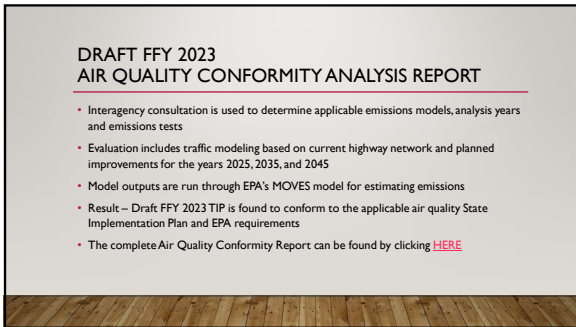
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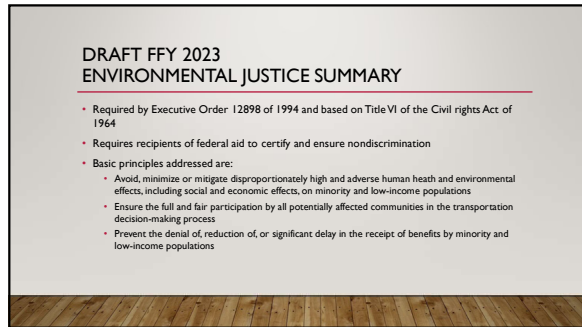
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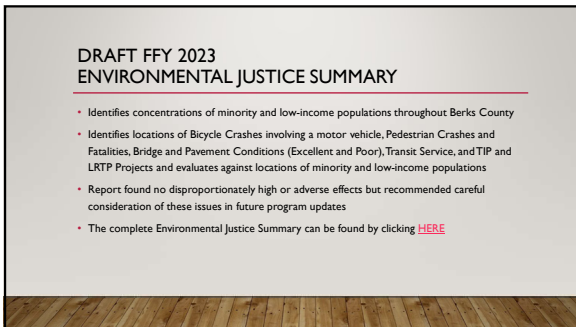
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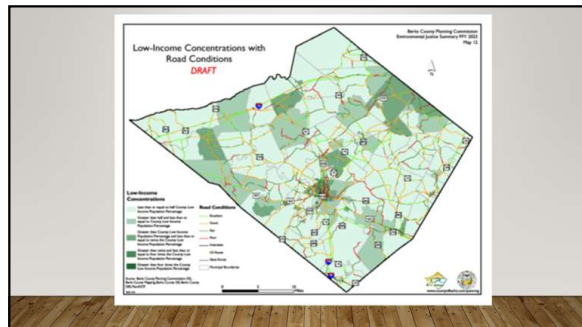
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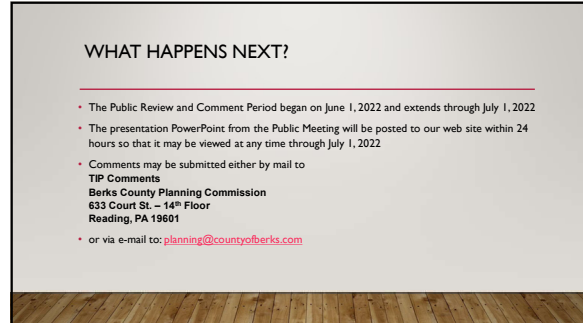
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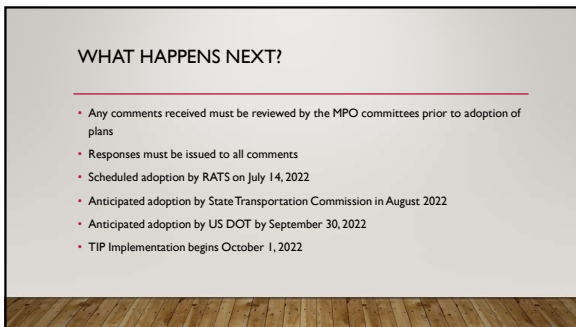
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Reading MPO**Public Comment Period for the
FFY 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program,
Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report and FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary**

Public Comment period began June 1, 2022 and ended July 1, 2022

Comments and Response to Comments:

(Complete copies of all written comments follow this summary)

Zackary Tempesco, Airport Director – Reading Regional Airport

E-mail Dated 6/1/2022

Comment: Requested incorporation of the Reading Regional Airport Capital Improvement Plan (submitted) into the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Response: While the Reading MPO has limited involvement with the allocation of funding to the Reading Regional Airport, we concur with the request to include the Capital Improvement Plan in our Long Range Transportation Plan to acknowledge the airport's important role in Berks County's transportation system and to document their approved slate of projects for reference in current and future grant applications. The Aviation section in Chapter 3 has been modified to reference this material and the Airport Capital Improvement Plan spreadsheet has been incorporated into Chapter 4.

Anne Franke – Citizen**Verbal Comments During June 14, 2022 Public Meeting**

Comment 1: Expressed concerns regarding the growth in warehousing in the Kutztown area and asked if development can be stopped prior to the provision of adequate highways.

Response: Project approval is a shared responsibility between the municipality the development is occurring in and PennDOT. The municipality can restrict development in certain areas based on its zoning requirements and subdivision and land development ordinance (SALDO). PennDOT has the ability to require developers to make certain improvements to the surrounding state roadway network prior to or in conjunction with their development based on the Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) process. These improvements can only address issues created by that specific development and/or in coordination with adjacent developments within a reasonable proximity to the development location as specified in the HOP guidelines. The Reading MPO has no jurisdiction in land use approvals.

Anne Franke – Citizen

Verbal Comments During June 14, 2022 Public Meeting

Comment 2: Noted high concentration of Mennonite population in this same area and their use of bicycles and horse and buggies. Coordination with this community should occur in the planning of both the proposed SR 737 Slope Repair Study (MPMS# 117723) and the US 222 North Kutztown to Lehigh County Line Study (MPMS# 97234) and their ultimate implementation due to their documented use of these highways.

Response: The Reading MPO's Long Range transportation Plan acknowledges the presence of the Mennonite population in this area and the safety risks involved in their shared use of the highway system with other passenger and commercial vehicles. As was done with the prior US 222 Widening project in Maiden Creek and Richmond Townships, the Mennonite community will be contacted regarding their input into the two planned studies in this area and their concerns incorporated into the designs to the extent possible.

Brad Stewart, Senior Transportation Planner, Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS)

Letter Dated June 17, 2022

Comment: LVTS staff found the Reading MPO LRTP's policies and maps consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* (the Lehigh Valley's Long Range Transportation Plan) and commends our reference to and participation in the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance in the LRTP. Requested a copy of the final plan upon adoption.

Response: We will continue our cooperative participation with the LVTS and other alliance partners in the development of the regional freight plan and incorporate it as appropriate in future LRTP updates.

A link to the approved plan will be provided to the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study.

Lauri Ahlskog, Manager of Transit Planning & Compliance, South Central Transit Authority

Two e-mails, both dated June 30, 2022

Comment 1: Numerous editorial comments throughout Chapter 3 of the LRTP.

Response: The editorial comments have been addressed.

Comment 2: Recommended that an additional strategic performance measure be added to Goal #4 (Improved Connections and Choices: Give travelers a variety of well-designed transportation choices that are in good condition) in Chapter 4 of the LRTP- "Support projects that expand the transit network as identified in the (SCTA / BARTA) Transit Development Plan".

Response: We agree with the proposed addition and have incorporated it into the final document.

David Farrier – Citizen**E-mail dated July 1, 2022**

Comment: Expressed concerns over the lack of transit service interconnectivity between Berks County and transit systems serving surrounding counties and asked that transit interconnectivity be a priority for BARTA as a way to reduce traffic congestion in Berks.

Response: The FFY 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan contains Goal #4 (Improved Connections and Choices: Give travelers a variety of well-designed transportation choices that are in good condition).

Based on the prior response (L. Ahlskog – Comment #2) we have added a performance measure to that goal - “Support projects that expand the transit network as identified in the (SCTA / BARTA) Transit Development Plan”.

The 2018 South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) Transit Development Plan (TDP) which includes both the BARTA and RRTA systems includes Goal #3 “Connect people to desired locations” with Objectives to “Provide cross county connections” and “Provide connections between counties”. The TDP also includes recommended Service Improvements that include:

New Routes: “Express/limited-stop routes would also be introduced in both Berks and Lancaster Counties, and a new intercountry Reading-Lancaster Express route would provide connections between Reading, Lancaster, and employment opportunities in northern Lancaster County.” Implementation of this proposed new service fell into Phase 3 of the TDP Implementation Plan which covers the period 2024 to 2027.

SCTA is currently beginning its process to update the 2018 TDP.

The Reading MPO will work with SCTA and other partners to expand transit options to link to surrounding counties. These also include those efforts that relate to the restoration of passenger rail service between Reading and Philadelphia with links to the national passenger rail network as is being pursued by the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority.

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

Piper, Alan

From: Zackary Tempesco <ztempesco@readingairport.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Piper, Alan
Subject: FW: ACIP spreadsheet
Attachments: 20220321 ACIP EOPC - Reading RDG R1.pdf

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

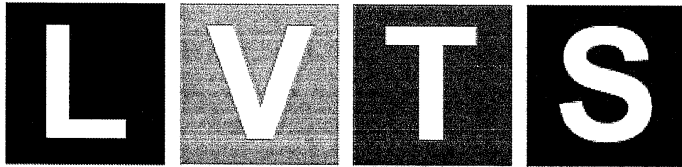
Alan

I would like to request incorporation of the Reading Airport Capital Improvement Plan into Berks County's overall transportation plan.

Please see attached and contact me with any questions.

Zackary J. Tempesco
Airport Director

Reading Regional Airport Authority
ztempesco@readingairport.org
610.372.4666 x101
610.587.3567



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

LAMONT G. MCCLURE, JR.
Chair, Coordinating Committee

BRENDAN COTTER
Chair, Technical Committee

BECKY A. BRADLEY, AICP
Secretary,
Coordinating Committee +
Technical Committee

Planning for the Future of Lehigh and Northampton Counties at 961 Marcon Blvd., Ste 310, Allentown, PA 18109 ■ (610) 264-4544 ■ lvpc@lvpc.org ■ www.lvpc.org

June 17, 2022

David N Hunter, AICP
Executive Director
Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601-4309

**RE: Berks County 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan
Berks County**

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Thank you for forwarding the revised draft version of the *Berks County 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan* for review. The Lehigh Valley Transportation Study (LVTS) staff reviewed the *Berks County 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan* on June 17, 2022. LVTS staff found the policies and maps to be consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, the Lehigh Valley's Long-Range Transportation Plan. LVTS commends the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) for recognizing the Eastern Pennsylvania Freight Alliance in the plan.

Please provide us with a final copy of the plan upon its adoption. Thank you for sending the revised draft version of your plan for comment, and for helping to foster excellence in planning across the greater region.

Sincerely,

Brad Stewart
Senior Transportation Planner

RECEIVED
JUN 30 2022
BERKS COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

Piper, Alan

From: Lauri Ahlskog <lahlskog@sctapa.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:34 AM
To: Planning Department
Cc: Jeff Glisson; Piper, Alan
Subject: RE: SCTA comments on LRTP

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

Mike,

I have a couple revisions to the comments I submitted:

Comment #1 – The sentence I suggested to be added does not need to be added. At this time BARTA is not using the Access to Jobs program.

Comment #2 – the TAM Plan was updated in 2021 not 2022.

Lauri

Lauri P. Ahlskog, AICP
 Manager of Transit Planning & Compliance
 South Central Transit Authority
lahlskog@sctapa.com



Headquarters
 45 Erick Road
 Lancaster, PA 17601

Reading Office
 1700 North 11th Street
 Reading, PA 19604

Lancaster Direct Line: 717-947-7294

Reading Direct Line: 484-987-2420

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From: Planning Department <planning@countyofberks.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:01 AM
To: Lauri Ahlskog <lahlskog@sctapa.com>; Planning Department <planning@countyofberks.com>
Cc: Jeff Glisson <jglisson@sctapa.com>; Piper, Alan <APiper@countyofberks.com>
Subject: RE: SCTA comments on LRTP

Good morning, Lauri:

Thank you for providing feedback on the Draft *FFY 2045 Reading Area Transportation Study Long Range Transportation Plan*. Your comments will be reviewed and included in the Public Input section of the Final document. We appreciate the time you took to review the Draft Plan, and we will provide written responses to your comments upon their approval by the Reading MPO at their meeting on July 14, 2022.

Sincerely,

Mike



Coming Together Working Together
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

From: Lauri Ahlskog <lahlskog@sctapa.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Planning Department <planning@countyofberks.com>
Cc: Jeff Glisson <jglisson@sctapa.com>
Subject: SCTA comments on LRTP

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

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Long Range Transportation Plan for the Reading MPO. SCTA offers the following comments:

- ~~p.95 3rd paragraph, Suggest adding sentence after 2nd to last sentence – BARTA also provides transportation to/from work for 2nd and 3rd shift workers through the Access to Jobs program.~~
- ~~p.95 4th paragraph add text that TAMP was updated in 2022.~~
- p.95 5th paragraph, first sentence – overtime should be corrected to over time
- p.96 2nd paragraph under Fixed-Route Operations, last sentence -of Medical Assistance and including... and should be replaced by to
- p.96 last paragraph - Suggest adding text - See map on next page for bus route locations.

Also suggest adding reference to Population Density map on page 12. This map and the other demographic maps show the population distributed that is discussed in this paragraph.

p.98 suggest changing “between” to “to” in the first sentence. BARTA also provides service ~~between~~ TO five (5) Park and Ride lots in the county.

p.98 for caption under photo - 2015 is before this plan timeframe. suggest removing text or if it is relevant, add it to the main text, not as a caption.

p.98 Suggest adding website link for Commuter Services

Map 47 – location and names of transit projects may have changed since preliminary draft TIP was created. Double check with transit public narrative

Chapter 4, p. 172 the first sentence under Transit seems to be out place. Should this sentence be under Highway and Bridge Funding or under the Financial Plan?

Ch.4, p. 172 under Goal #4 suggest adding Support projects that expand the transit network as identified in the TDP

I’ve attached a PDF of Chapter 5 of the plan with my comments included.

Lauri P. Ahlskog, AICP
 Manager of Transit Planning & Compliance
 South Central Transit Authority
lahlskog@sctapa.com



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 45 Erick Road
 Lancaster, PA 17601

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Piper, Alan

From: Planning Department
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 7:02 AM
To: Piper, Alan; Timochenko, Amanda
Subject: FW: Public Comment: Reading Area Transportation Study



*Coming Together Working Together
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

From: Wuz <thewuzuk@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 1:37 AM
To: Planning Department <planning@countyofberks.com>
Subject: Public Comment: Reading Area Transportation Study

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

Thank you for accepting public comments.

It's been said that the only way to ease traffic congestion is by offering people alternatives to the car. So I beg your indulgence as I make my comments solely about transit in Berks county.

I'd make the argument than transit is failing the people of Berks county due to a lack of inter-city connections. With the demise of train service in 1981, the demise of air service in 2004, and the bankruptcy of Bieber Tourways in 2019, Reading has a distinct lack of inter-city transportation options. The replacement services have been dismal with scheduling making them useless for commuters. Local transit could make conditions better, but service improvements have not been presented.

I had some free time recently and so I mapped the fixed route buses, trolleys, subways, and trains of nearby transit agencies. <https://i.imgur.com/4p7rLvS.png> The results paint a stark picture. While most transit agencies make an effort to connect with neighbouring systems, BARTA does not.

For example, from Lebanon, you can take local transit to Harrisburg, then to York, then to Columbia, Lancaster County to Red Rose Transit to Lancaster city. From York, you can board a bus to Baltimore.

From Allentown, you can take a bus to Carbon County where there system extends to the Schuylkill Transit System & Hazleton Public Transit, where you can then travel to Scranton Wilkes-Barre... All on local transit.

With the number of people commuting between Berks and our six neighbouring counties, <https://i.imgur.com/RMcZXSr.png> it's safe to say almost none of those people are taking transit because transit doesn't exist.

I'm asking that transit interconnectivity be a priority for BARTA as a way to reduce traffic congestion in Berks.

Schuylkill County: A lone bright spot. STS extended their southern loop to terminate at Cabela's which is also served by BARTA. This should be a model for our other neighbouring cities.

Lebanon County: BARTA does a good job of connecting to the Womelsdorf Park-N-Ride, but LT fails to make the connection from the city of Lebanon to Wolmelsdorf. Suggest liaison with LT about completing the link.

Lehigh County: Neither LANTA nor BARTA come close to meeting in the middle. The easiest solution to linking systems would be a BARTA route to Dorney Park. This is a prime LANTA destination and also offers BARTA a chance to connect to Kutztown which has been without transit options since the demise of Bieber.

MontCo: Seems to be moving in a good direction and I have faith in the restoration of rail. Even with a bus service that fails commuters with poor scheduling.

Lancaster: Both BARTA and Red Rose transit are operated by the same authority, the South Central Transit Authority, and yet it's impossible to get between the two cities without a layover in Philadelphia. There is even a PennDOT Park-N-Ride in Adamstown that is served by neither agency. So you can Park, but not Ride. If both agencies say that a direct connection between transit hubs is impossible, then a link to the Adamstown Park-N-Ride would do the same job.

Traffic in Berks keeps getting worse and worse and we need options. Viable options, not half-hearted efforts designed to fail. Widening highways has been proven to be a failed option. Induced Demand increases volume and keeps travel times the same or worse. The city of Houston spent \$2.8 billion widening the Katy free-way to 23 lanes and commute times have increased by 30%. (25 minutes AM / 23 minutes PM rush hours) Let's learn from their mistakes. Fund transit.

Thank you,

--

David Farrier - "The Wuz"
IATSE Local 97
Reading, Pennsylvania