



READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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TO: Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee
INFO: 2025 Round of Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Scoring and Recommendation
FROM: Devon B. Hain, Transportation Planner II
DATE: January 15, 2026

The 2025 Round of the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program opened on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. The TASA Program provides funds to construct pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to public transportation, create safe routes to school, incorporate community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management, provide environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity, create trail projects that serve a transportation purpose, while promoting safety and mobility, and provide for vulnerable road user safety assessment program projects. [PennDOT's Guidance](#) can be found at the [TASA Program landing page](#).

There are two general allocations of funds: statewide and by population. The statewide funds may be used on any project within the state, whereas "by population" funds must be spent in the MPO to which they're allocated. Approximately \$70 million is available for award through the Statewide 2025 Application Round. Approximately \$1.186 million is available for award through the Reading MPO 2025 Application Round.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) received three (3) applications for funding consideration for this program. The proposed projects were evaluated through a two-part submission process. Preliminary applications were due by September 5, 2025. Each applicant then met with staff from PennDOT and the MPO to review the draft submission. The applicants were given until October 31, 2025 to revise and resubmit their applications based on guidance received. These were given a preliminary review by PennDOT and then distributed to their respective MPOs for local review and recommendations on funding.

A special one-and-a-half-hour workshop meeting of the Technical Committee was held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 to review the projects and allow the opportunity to ask questions and adjust their preliminary scoring based on discussion. The projects were ranked, and a series of options for funding recommendations are provided in this memo.

You may review the project selection criteria, project summary table, and each application by following these links:

- [2025 TASA Project Selection Criteria](#)
- [2025 TASA Projects Summary Table](#)
- [Exeter SD Connector Bridge 2025 TASA Final Application All Files Combined](#)
- [RDA Boyertown Improvements All Files Combined](#)
- [Sinking Spring Borough Broad St Ditch and Ped Connector 2025 TASA Final Application All Files Combined](#)

Brief summaries of the projects and their average scores are also provided below:

Exeter School District – Campus Connector Bridge

Requested Funding: \$1,982,952.00

Score: 2nd Place, 51.1 average score out of 60 possible points

This project will construct an ADA compliant pedestrian bridge over Antietam Creek and ADA compliant sidewalks on both sides of the campus corridor, creating a safer and continuous, fully accessible pedestrian network between the district’s administrative offices, multiple Exeter School District campuses, athletic facilities, Exeter Community Park, and adjacent residential neighborhoods. These improvements would allow the school district to convert at least 100 students from bus riders to walkers. An additional benefit is that the proposed bridge would be constructed to accommodate emergency response vehicles, enhancing public safety by reducing response times by approximately 10 minutes between key areas of the campus and surrounding neighborhoods.

Redevelopment Authority of Berks County – Boyertown Safety, Accessibility, and Connectivity Improvements

Requested Funding: \$1,298,120.14

Score: 1st Place, 52.0 average score out of 60 possible points

This project is the third phase of a multiuse, ADA compliant route located around the Colebrookdale Railroad Boyertown Yard. The deteriorated existing sidewalk, curbing, aprons, and ADA ramps would be replaced along S. Washington and East 3rd Streets. New sidewalk, curbing, aprons, ADA ramps, illumination, and landscaping would be constructed along Pear and Marion Streets. This project aims to increase ADA accessibility, separate transportation modes, reduce conflict points, and fill in missing infrastructure between Boyertown’s public gathering area, residential neighborhoods, business district, event space, visitor welcome center, post office, borough hall, and future farmer’s market.

Sinking Spring Borough – Broad Street Stormwater Improvement and Pedestrian Connector Bridge

Requested Funding: \$549,240.00

Score: 3rd Place, 42.4 average score out of 60 possible points

This project combines flood control with multimodal enhancements through the manual and mechanical clean out of the approximately 575-meter-long stormwater ditch along Broad St, the construction of a new pedestrian bridge that spans the ditch, and appropriate crosswalks at the intersection of Broad St and Kirkwood Ave. The project will significantly reduce stormwater runoff, localized flooding, erosion, and infrastructure undermining. The proposed pedestrian improvements will provide a connection between an existing trail and sidewalk network connecting neighborhoods, school campuses, recreational opportunities, services, and businesses.

OPTIONS FOR FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS: The following are options to be considered for recommendation to the Coordinating Committee.

1. Recommend offering the \$1,186,000 funding available from the Reading MPO to be applied to the Boyertown Safety, Accessibility, and Connectivity Improvements (\$1,298,120.14). It would then be recommended that the Reading MPO ask that the shortage (\$112,120.14) be considered for statewide funding. If the state does not select to fund the shortage, the Redevelopment Authority of Berks County would be asked to rescope their project to the available \$1,186,000.

If they are unable to rescope the project, our MPO funds would be recommended to be applied to the Broad Street Stormwater Improvement and Pedestrian Connector Bridge Project (\$549,240) and the balance (\$636,760) placed into a line item to be applied should a different project arise that would be eligible to receive this funding within the next two years,

2. Recommend offering the \$1,186,000 funding available from the Reading MPO to be applied to the Exeter School District Campus Connector Bridge Project (\$1,982,952). It would then be recommended that the Reading MPO ask that the shortage (\$796,952) be considered for statewide funding.

If the state does not fund this project, the MPO funds would be recommended to be applied to the Broad Street Stormwater Improvement and Pedestrian Connector Bridge Project (\$549,240) and the balance (\$636,760) would be placed into a line item to be applied should a potential project arise within the next two years that would be eligible to receive this funding,

3. Recommend splitting the TASA funds available from the Reading MPO (\$1,186,000) equally between the Boyertown Safety, Accessibility, and Connectivity Improvements and the Exeter School District Campus Connector Bridge Project with a recommendation that the remaining balances be considered for statewide funding. If the state does not select both projects, our MPO funds would be applied to the project selected by the state.

If the state does not fund either of these projects, the funds would be recommended to be applied to the Broad Street Stormwater Improvement and Pedestrian Connector Bridge Project (\$549,240) and the balance (\$636,760) would be placed into a line item to be applied should a potential project arise within the next two years that would be eligible to receive this funding,

4. Recommend fully funding the Broad Street Stormwater Improvement and Pedestrian Connector Bridge Project (\$549,240) with the funding available from the Reading MPO. Split the remaining MPO funds (\$636,760) equally between the Boyertown Safety, Accessibility, and Connectivity Improvements and the Exeter School District Campus Connector Bridge Project with a recommendation that the balances be considered for statewide funding.

If the state selects only one project, our MPO funds would be applied to the project selected by the state. If the state does not fund either of the projects, the remaining MPO funds would be placed into a line item to be applied should a different project arise within the next two years that would be eligible to receive this funding. This option guarantees that one Berks County submission gets fully funded.

RECOMMENDATION:

The RATS Technical Committee recommends approval of Option 1 above and further recommends that both the Exeter School District and Sinking Spring Borough projects be recommended for consideration for funding under the Statewide allocation.