

Reading MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting

August 19, 2024, via Microsoft Teams



Participating Organizations

Berks County
Planning
Commission

Reading Area
Transportation
Study

Federal
Highway
Administration

Federal Transit
Administration

PennDOT
District 5-0

PennDOT
Central

South Central
Transit Authority

Reading
Regional Airport
Authority

Schuylkill River
Passenger Rail
Authority

Schuylkill River
Greenways
Association

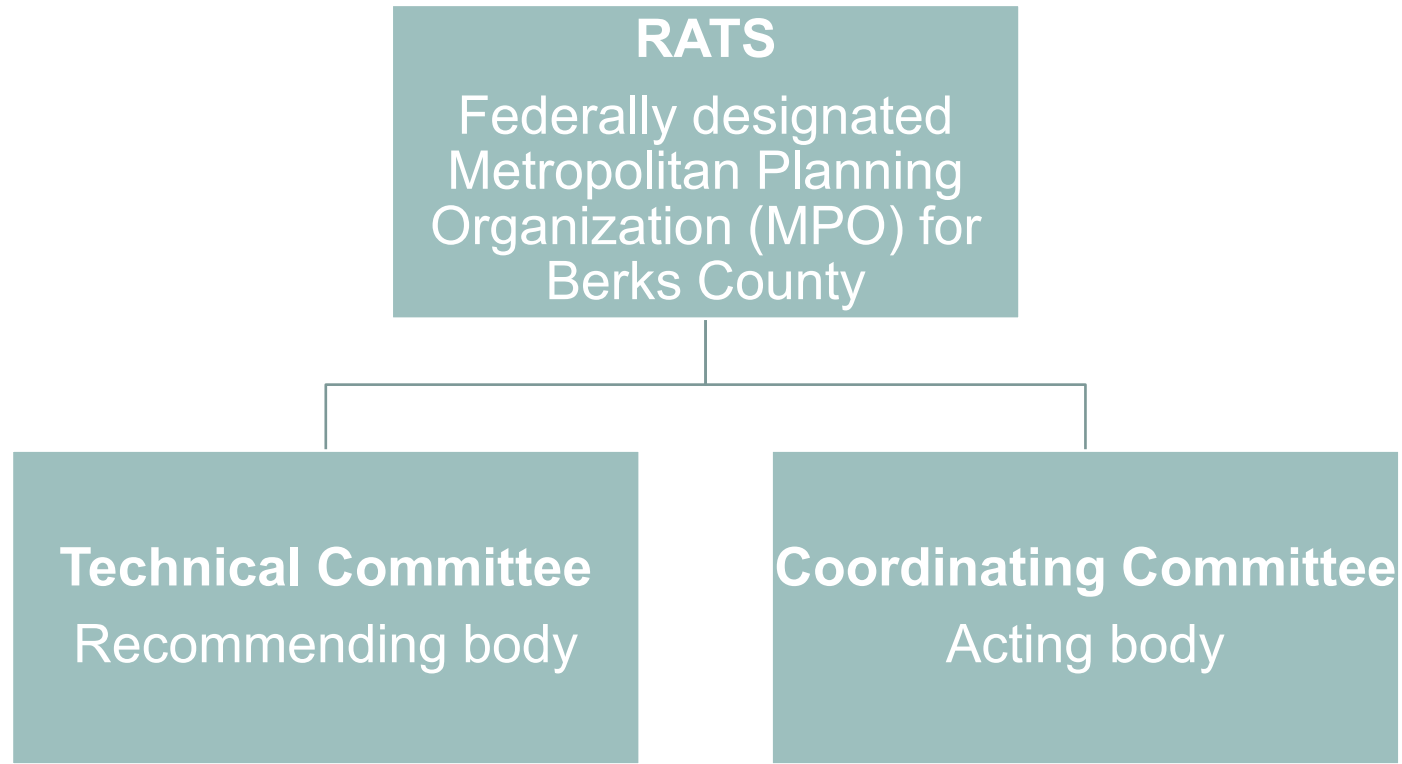
Abilities in
Motion

Greater
Reading
Chamber
Alliance

Freight
Representatives
(Penske, Burns
Logistics)

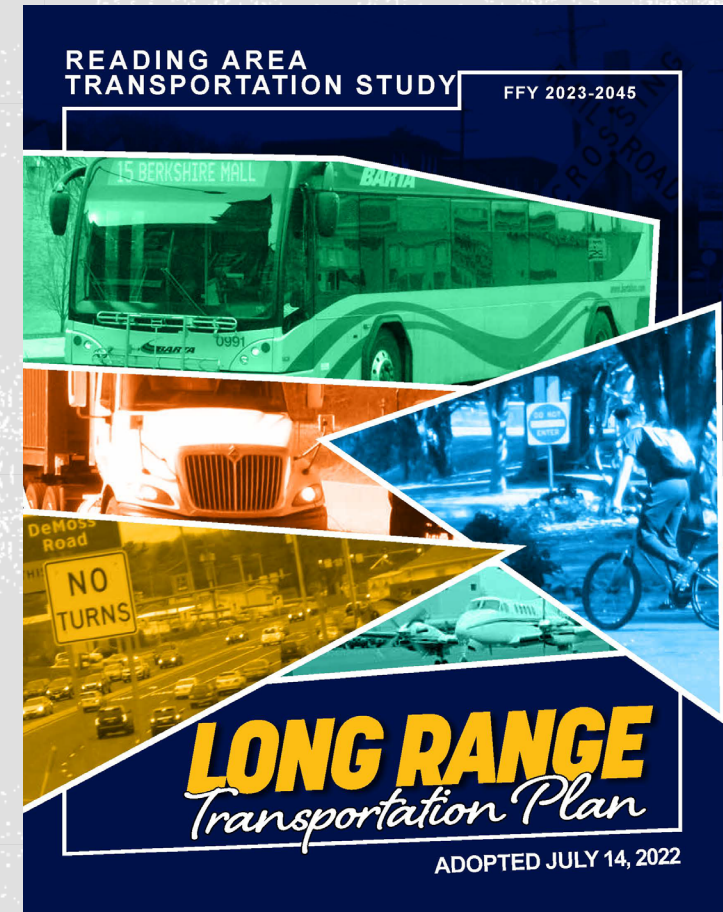


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)



- Required by federal transportation regulations
- Has a minimum 20-year planning horizon reflecting program goals and their application to project prioritization
- Identifies transportation system assets and their conditions, sensitive environments and the evolving needs of the users of that system
- Reflects needs related to safety, maintenance, congestion, and climate change
- Includes Performance Measures for achieving plan goals
- Must be fiscally constrained and identify funding sources
- Must be updated every four years through cooperative process that includes federal, state, local agencies and the public
- Serves as the foundation for the development of the Transportation Improvement Program
 - Projects must be identified in the LRTP prior to programming phases for construction on the TIP

What is the LRTP?



L RTP Plan Components

- Chapter 1 – Introduction
 - Provides the context for why the plan is done and its relationship with other federal, state, and local plans
 - **Vision Statement:** The Reading Area Transportation Study will provide and maintain a balanced, multimodal transportation system that will safely and efficiently move goods and people.



L RTP Plan Components

- Chapter 2 – Background
 - Demographics
 - Economics
 - Environmental Integration
 - Resiliency



LRTP Plan Components

- Chapter 3 – State of the System
 - Roads and Bridges
 - Congestion Management Process
 - Safety and Security
 - Transit
 - Freight
 - Non-Motorized Transportation
 - Aviation
 - Issues and Needs



LRTP Plan Components

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



L RTP Plan Components

- Appendix
 - Public Participation Process
 - Amendment Procedures
 - Highway and Transit Program Funding



FEDERAL PLANNING FACTORS

- Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight.
- Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvement and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
- Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- Promote efficient system management and operation.
- Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
- Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.
- Enhance travel and tourism.



State Plans and Programs

Long Range
Transportation
Plan

Freight
Movement Plan

State Rail Plan

Active
Transportation
Plan

Transportation
Asset
Management
Plan

Regional
Operations Plan

Extreme
Weather
Vulnerability
Study

Strategic
Highway Safety
Plan



RATS PLANS AND PROGRAMS

- Berks County Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
- Congestion Management Process
- System Condition Reports
 - Annual Pavement and Bridge Report
 - Annual Safety Report
- Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan
- SCTA/BARTA Transit Development Plan
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Environmental Justice Summary
 - Air Quality Conformity Analysis
- Public Participation Plan
- Limited English Proficiency Plan
- Title VI Program Plan





COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN



GREENWAY, PARK
AND RECREATION
PLAN



IMAGINE BERKS PLAN



HAZARD MITIGATION
PLAN



SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN



READING AIRPORT
AUTHORITY
STRATEGIC MASTER
PLAN

County Plans and Programs





ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

- October 2023 – 30-month Kickoff Meeting
- July/August 2024 – Establish Steering Committee
- September/October 2024 – Public Outreach Meetings
- November 2024 – June 2025 – Gather background information
- March-May 2025 – Gather public input on issues and needs (in coordination with STC public outreach on the State's Twelve—Year Program Update)
- July 2025 – Review STC survey responses
- August-December 2025 – TIP and LRTP project meetings with PennDOT
- November/December 2025 – Present at ACM meeting
- February 2026 – Complete Draft LRTP
- March/April 2026 – Begin 30-day public comment period and conduct public meetings
- May 2026 – Response to comments
- May 2026 – Anticipated RATS MPO Adoption
- September 2026 – Anticipated FHWA and FTA approval





Advise on federal and state regulations to ensure compliance



Provide system analysis/data



Assist in project selection and prioritization



Assist in providing cost estimates for new needs



Provide technical assistance on public transportation service operations and needs



Review components of plan throughout development and provide input and recommendations



Assist in public outreach efforts

Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities



Next Steps – Public Outreach

5 planning region meetings

1 virtual meeting

- Gather input on the existing goals and objectives of the current LRTP
- Gather initial input on current issues experienced

Survey



Steering Committee Anticipated Meeting Schedule

- Meet quarterly
 - November 2024
 - February 2025
 - May 2025
 - August 2025
 - November 2025
 - February 2026
 - May 2026 (?)
- Continue using Doodle Poll to identify best dates/times for meetings?
- Use consistent schedule – every 3rd Monday of scheduled meeting month from 1PM-2:30PM?



Questions

