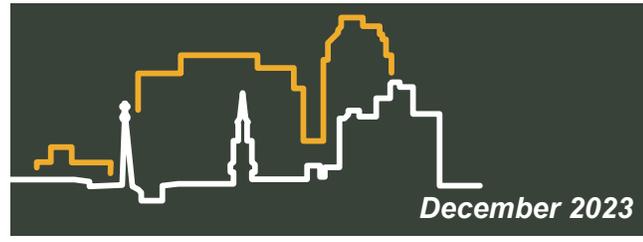




# FLASH



December 2023



## Congestion Management Process

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)/Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC), recently updated the 2016 Congestion Management Process (CMP) report. A copy of the new report can be found here: [bit.ly/BCPC\\_CMP](https://bit.ly/BCPC_CMP)

Congestion on the road network can have negative impacts on the efficient and safe movement of goods, services and people throughout the region. The CMP is used by county planners to continually assess and monitor congestion on the higher order state and interstate road network throughout Berks County. The CMP is a performance based process that can help planners manage existing travel facilities by identifying the type, location, and duration of congestion problems within the transportation system. Ultimately, this process helps feed needed projects into the County's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Over time, the CMP is updated to include projects that have been implemented. With the implementation of new projects and continued evaluation through the CMP, RATS/BCPC can monitor the system and continue making improvements that have the biggest impacts on mitigating congestion.



## Solar Advice

The Berks County Planning Commission has received questions and concerns about utility scale solar facilities from the development and agricultural communities. The Planning Commission has also reviewed proposed zoning amendments regulating utility scale solar facilities. Further, because of the vulnerability of developable sites to the proliferation of utility scale solar facilities, and because of these facilities' potential impact on economic development in Berks County, BCPC staff recommends that municipalities in the County consider the following best practices when regulating utility scale solar facilities (including, but not limited to amending zoning, subdivision and land development ordinances).As the County continues to promote renewable energy sources, these new guidelines are intended to help communities do so in a sustainable manner.

[bit.ly/BCPC\\_Solar](https://bit.ly/BCPC_Solar)



## Census Report

As part of the 2020 Decennial Census of Population and Housing, detailed information on age is collected and released. These data give valuable insight into one component of how Berks County is growing and changing, and the resultant implications on issues such as education, workforce development, and elder care, to name just a few. All data used in this report are derived from the 2010 Decennial Census [bit.ly/BCPC\\_1020Census](https://bit.ly/BCPC_1020Census)

