

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
SOUTH CAMPUS
400 E. WYOMISSING AVE., SUITE D, BOX 2
MOHNTON, PA 19540

March 11, 2026

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Glenn R. Knoblauch called the monthly meeting of the Berks County Planning Commission to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, in person in the 1st floor conference room at South Campus.

2. ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

Glenn R. Knoblauch, Chair
Sarah Phillips, Vice Chair
David Mattes; Secretary
Jodi Gauker
Kevin Lerch
Thomas C. McKeon, AICP, CEcD
Gavin Milligan
Lee Olsen, AIA, NCARB
Carolyn Rodino

Also Attending:

Ashley Showers, Executive Director
David Peris, Berks County Assistant Solicitor
Matthew McGough, Transportation Planner III
Michelle Franklin, Planner III
Taylor Lawrence, Planner III
Rick Royer, Design Planner I
Devon Hain, Planner II
Laura Mursch Hosie, Intergovernmental Planner III
Beth Burkovich, GIS Analyst
Alan Piper, Transportation Planner III
Amanda Timochenko, Transportation Planner II
Shanice Ellison, Planner I
Thiago Correa de Almeida, Planner II
Derek Harris, Economic Development Coordinator
Mark Mohn, Gov't Affairs Director, Reading-Berks Association of REALTORS®
Jeremy Zaborowski, Director of Industrial Development Authority
Alex Darlington, Lyons Borough

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

A. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ashley Showers began her report by welcoming new Assistant Director Leo Scott. Mr. Scott introduced himself and provided a brief biography of his planning experience.

Ms. Showers then shared a reminder with the Board regarding the completion of the Statement of Financial Interest form.

Ms. Showers provided an update on the East Penn land development project. Specifically, that we are still awaiting a formal submission and that the agreement between the Borough and the Planning Commission regarding fees is being worked on via the solicitors.

Ms. Showers informed the Board that there will be regional meetings in May and to look for a formal invitation coming soon.

The Executive Director closed the report by noting the 2025 Annual Report was on the consent agenda for approval.

B. Staff Reports –

a. Taylor Lawrence – Draft Data Center Planning Advice

Executive Director Showers introduced Taylor Lawrence, the staff member who has been researching and creating the draft advice. Discussion ensued amongst the Board regarding the content of the draft. It was noted that comments would be collected until March 30th for consideration. Upon review of comments the Data Center Advice will be finalized and presented for approval at the April Board meeting.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. [Approve 2025 Berks County Planning Commission Annual Report](#)
- B. [Approve February 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. [Approve Land Development & Subdivision Activity Report/Summary: January 23, 2026–February 19, 2026](#)
- D. [Approve Endorsed Land Development & Subdivision Activity: February 2026](#)

MOTION: Lee Olsen made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dave Mattes and passed unanimously.

6. STAFF, STAKEHOLDER AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

A. Alan Piper, Amanda Timochenko – Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program Update

Amanda Timochenko Transportation Planner II began the presentation with an explanation to the Board regarding the role of staff working with the Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning and programming in the County. Ms. Timochenko then explained that the formal comment period for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will begin after approval from the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee (Reading MPO) on March 19th and will include four public meetings in April.

Ms. Timochenko explained that the Long-Range Transportation Plan is a 20+ year strategic plan that guides how the region's transportation system will grow and evolve. The LRTP establishes a vision, goals, and objectives for the transportation system (safety, mobility, equity, economic development), incorporates current and projected population, land use, and economic forecasts, identifies major projects and priorities (highways, transit, non-motorized, freight) and must be financially constrained (projects must be realistically fundable).

New to the development process for this LRTP Update was the creation of a Steering Committee which assisted staff in developing the plan and the creation of an online portal for the plan development process. Fourteen public outreach meetings were conducted early in the development process to gather public input on the vision, goals, and objectives as well as provide an opportunity for input on the current and future transportation system issues and needs. An overview of the contents of each chapter of the plan was then given.

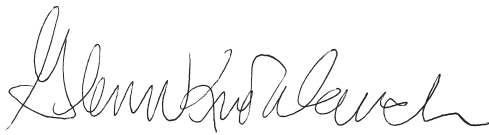
An explanation of the correlation between the LRTP and the TIP was given. Specifically, the LRTP sets the vision and priorities for the county's transportation network, and the TIP puts those priorities into action.

Alan Piper Transportation Planner III, then provided an overview of the TIP. The TIP is the capital plan for transportation projects. Specifically, The Transportation Improvement Program is a short-term (typically 4-year) implementation document that programs specific transportation projects for funding and construction. The TIP is updated every two years. So, for every LRTP which is updated every four years, the TIP is updated twice. Just because a project is listed in the TIP doesn't guarantee that project is going to be completed.

Mr. Piper provided an overview of the transportation projects identified in the TIP. There are 102 projects planned for the 2027-2030 TIP – 89 related to highway and bridges and 13 related to transit. The total budget for these projects is over \$464 million.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jodi Gauker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Sarah Phillips.



Glenn R. Knoblauch, Chair



David Mattes, Secretary