

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY
SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

ATTENDANCE

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Scott Vottero, PennDOT 5-0, Chair
Nyomi Nonnemaker, PennDOT Central, Vice Chair*
Alan Piper, Berks County Planning Commission, MPO Secretary
Keith Boatman, South Central Transit Authority
Michael Golembiewski, Berks County Planning Commission
Timothy Krall, City of Reading

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING

Zackary Tempesco, Reading Regional Airport Authority
Kyle Zeiber, City of Reading

*Tie-breaking vote only

OTHERS

Michael Donchez, PennDOT 5-0
Jennifer Ruth, PennDOT 5-0
Matt Boyer, CommutePA
Lauri Ahlskog, South Central Transit Authority
Elvin Herrera, City of Reading
David Hunter, Executive Director, Berks County Planning Commission
Amanda Timochenko, Berks County Planning Commission
Matthew McGough, Berks County Planning Commission
Devon Hain, Berks County Planning Commission
IS Production, Berks County Information Systems

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vottero called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Krall made an announcement that he is retiring from his position at the City of Reading at the end of the year. He thanked the committee for allowing him to be a part of the important work that they do. The committee thanked Mr. Krall for his commitment to his work and wished him the best in his retirement.

There was no business from the floor.

3. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 10, 2025 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman Vottero asked if there were any questions or comments on the July 10, 2025 Technical Committee meeting minutes. There were no questions or comments.

MOTION: Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to recommend approval of the July 10, 2025 Technical Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Boatman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. UPDATE ON FY 2025-2027 SOUTH CENTRAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (SCTA) REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

Mr. Piper provided an update on the status of the SCTA reimbursement agreement. Mr. Piper stated that the agreement was signed by the Berks County Commissioners today (9-4-2025) at their morning meeting. It will now be forwarded to SCTA for their execution and a subsequent meeting with the MPO staff and SCTA representatives will be scheduled soon to review said agreement. Mr. Piper suggested that this meeting would be a good opportunity for staff to visit BARTA's facility on North 11th Street. Since many on staff have never been there this would be a great opportunity to tour the facility and see their operations.

Mr. Boatman stated that BARTA/SCTA would be more than willing to entertain staff at their facility. Mr. Piper added that he will coordinate with Mr. Boatman on scheduling the meeting and tour in the near future.

5. PENNDOT REQUESTED AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS TO FFY 2025-2028 TIP

Mr. Donchez gave an update on PennDOT's requested Amendments/Modifications to the FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from July 3, 2025 to August 27, 2025.

- There were five (5) Administrative Actions – the actions address increases for recent phase estimates, increases for stormwater and maintenance inspections, increases for phase supplements, reductions due to assignment of PROTECT funds, moving final design funds to better align with anticipated clearance dates, increases for a qualified bog turtle surveyor and other miscellaneous costs.
- There was one (1) Statewide Administrative Actions – the action involved a decrease to the construction phase to meet obligation amount due to low bid and inspections for the Berks 2025 High Friction Surface Treatments projects.
- There was (1) Interstate Management Administration Action – this action involved cash flow due to funds not obligated in FFY 2025 maintain fiscal constraint for the I-78 Grimes Interchange Removal Project.

None of the modifications presented in the chart adversely affect project delivery schedules or air quality conformity.

6. UPDATE ON FFY 2027 – 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Timochenko presented that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Steering Committee last met on August 17, 2025 via Microsoft Teams. During that meeting the outcomes of the State Transportation Commission (STC) Public Outreach Survey as they pertained to Berks County were reviewed and discussed. Staff also presented the draft sections of the LRTP including the Freight, Transit, Safety and Security sections. Edits were recommended to some of the sections. The edits will be completed, and the information will then be posted on the LRTP development portal within the Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) website.

Ms. Timochenko continued that staff will review and incorporate survey and public outreach responses into the project and development process. The update of sections including Amendment Procedures, Issues and Needs, Congestion Management Process (CMP) and Roads and Bridges will be taking place. During this time staff will continue updating the LRTP Development Portal on the BCPC website. The next meeting of the LRTP Steering Committee is scheduled for November 17, 2025, from 1PM -2:30PM.

Ms. Timochenko added that before the end of the calendar year staff would like to coordinate with SCTA about incorporating the SCTA Capital Improvement Program into Chapter 4 of the LRTP like what was done in the current LRTP. This would also apply to the Reading Regional Airport Authority's Capital Improvement Program. Ms. Timochenko stated staff would be looking to coordinated with Zack Tempesco from the Reading Regional Airport regarding their Capital Improvement Program.

7. PRESENTATION ON IMAGINE BERKS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Hunter presented a slide deck detailing the Imagine Berks Comprehensive Plan. He discussed what the comprehensive plan is and how it is used. Mr. Hunter described how this plan will be an "Implementable Comprehensive Plan" in that it will focus on relevant land use issues, the creation of workable ideas and action plans, identification of capacity and implementation partners, and community ownership.

Mr. Hunter explained that the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code (PA MPC) dictates what should be included in the comprehensive plan, and he went over the ten elements required to be included in the plan by the MPC. The process for plan development was discussed as well as the tools used to develop the plan and analysis.

Mr. Hunter continued his presentation by showing the committee the draft Berks County corridor buildout analysis that is being done as part of the comprehensive plan update. This buildout analysis identifies parcels that are vacant and/or underutilized based on existing zoning. The next step after identification would be to engage municipalities about the future of these parcels and how they can be developed for their best potential use. Mr. Hunter noted that the corridor analysis will not identify transportation impacts at this time. That may be evaluated in a later phase. Mr. Piper stated that this information will not be incorporated into the current Long Range Transportation Plan since it must be completed prior to the anticipated adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Hunter presented a link to the survey for the plan and asked the committee to take a minute to fill it out when they get a chance.

Mr. Golembiewski asked when Mr. Hunter anticipated that the corridor analysis will be complete. Mr. Hunter stated that the corridor analysis should be complete by the end of the year. Mr. Hunter said that the corridor analysis will be a topic of discussion for the Berks County Planning Commission at one of their meetings in the first quarter of 2026.

8. UPDATE ON PROPOSED DRAFT FEDERAL AID FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION REVISIONS

Mr. Golembiewski presented that in July staff presented to the committee that they had started the process of updating the current Federal Aid Functional Classification of Berks County roadway designations for any revisions. There were some initial staff discussions, and a proposal was developed of potential changes to be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The proposal was reviewed by PennDOT Central Office, District 5-0 staff, and County staff in August. During that meeting staff received comments and recommendations. After that meeting there were internal discussions regarding additional functional classification revisions. Staff will complete these revisions and be looking for a formal recommendation on the final proposal from the committees in November. There will then be a formal submittal to PennDOT and the FHWA.

9. PENNDOT UPDATES ON BRIDGES AND TASA/MTF PROJECTS

Chairman Vottero gave an update on the status of Bridge and TASA/MTF projects.

10. LTAP PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. McGough presented an update on the FY 2024-2025 Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). Mr. McGough started his presentation by giving a background of the program. Mr. McGough stated that FY 2024-2025 was RATS' ninth full year offering the program locally. During this time staff coordinated and administered seven classes and trained approximately 118 people on various transportation related topics. Moving forward staff will continue to coordinate the program in Berks County.

11. COMMUTEPA UPDATE

Mr. Boyer presented the July 2025 Monthly Activity Report to the committee for their information. In July CommutePA added 94 new members, recorded 9,008 commuter trips, saved commuters \$123,523 in gas money, and reduced 176,461 miles on the road by carpooling, biking, or using public transit. Participants in the program burned a combined 301,041 calories by using other modes of transportation like biking or walking and saved 7,310 gallons of fuel.

12. PROPOSED CANCELLATION OF OCTOBER 2, 2025 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Piper noted that the PennDOT Fall Planning Partners meeting is being held at the same time as the next scheduled RATS Technical Committee meeting. Because of this conflict Mr. Piper made the recommendation to cancel the October 2, 2025 meeting of the RATS Technical Committee. The next meeting will be the joint meeting with the Coordinating Committee on November 13, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion recommending cancellation of the October 2, 2025 RATS Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Krall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

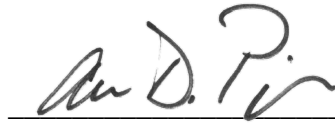
13. OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Piper stated that MPO staff, along with PennDOT staff, will begin working on the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project listings. Mr. Piper asked PennDOT representatives in attendance if there were any dates confirmed yet for the TIP Risk Management exercise. PennDOT representatives informed Mr. Piper that there were no dates confirmed yet, but that PennDOT Central Office staff is currently looking at possible dates for the meeting. Mr. Piper then informed the rest of persons in attendance about the Risk Assessment tool and how it will be used during the project selection process moving forward during TIP development. Using the risk assessment tool will help mitigate project delays by evaluating each project for issues prior to getting too far along in the process.
- Mr. Piper asked if PennDOT District 5-0 has any dates on the horizon to meet with MPO staff to start going over the TIP project selection process. PennDOT representatives informed Mr. Piper that they are currently working on dates internally and once some dates have been selected, they will be reaching out to RATS to schedule a meeting. Mr. Donchez informed Mr. Piper that it could be sometime in the beginning of October.
- Mr. Piper informed the committee about a maintenance issue that was forwarded to him by Commissioner Leinbach. The issue had to do with a culvert on SR 4015 (Berne Road in Tilden Township) that was damaged during a storm. There is currently a temporary fix on the culvert and the Commissioner was inquiring as to when it would be fixed. Mr. Piper informed the committee that he forwarded the issue to the department using PennDOT's online Customer Care Center.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Krall seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:41PM.

Date: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alan D. Piper", written over a horizontal line.

Alan D. Piper
(MPO Secretary)