

**RATS FFY 2027 - 2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)**  
**PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING #14**  
**CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGION MEETING**  
**MAY 13, 2025**

Mr. Piper started the meeting at 6:15 PM. Mr. Piper welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the purpose of tonight's meeting which was to review and gather public input during the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update development process. He mentioned that specific projects will be discussed in the second half of the meeting.

Ms. Timochenko next shared a PowerPoint presentation (see attachment at the end of these notes).

Ms. Timochenko described the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) and the Committee structure.

Ms. Timochenko then explained what the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is along with some of the necessary items to be included under federal requirements; planning horizon and update process (every four years minimum); performance measures; and serving as the foundation for the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ms. Timochenko summarized the ten (10) Federal Planning Factors that must be incorporated into the LRTP:

- 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.

The LRTP must be consistent with state and local transportation plans and programs.

Ms. Timochenko then summarized the public outreach staff has done to date and plans on doing in the future. Ms. Timochenko informed the audience that in 2024 staff held 4 in-person meetings in multiple municipalities throughout Berks County. Staff also held one virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams and distributed a survey for public input.

Ms. Timochenko informed the attendees that staff planned 7 in-person meetings for 2025 in various. As well as two scheduled virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams.

Ms. Timochenko then presented the vision statement for the plan. This provides the context for why the plan is done and its relationship with other federal, state, and local plans. The **Vision Statement** is: *The Reading Area Transportation Study will promote a well maintained and balanced multimodal transportation system that will safely and efficiently move people and goods.*

Ms. Timochenko introduced and reviewed all five goals which are:

Goal #1: Keep travelers safe and secure for all modes of transportation.

Goal #2: Maintain and improve the existing multimodal transportation system and services within fiscal constraints.

Goal #3: Invest in projects that strengthen and enhance economic development and tourism opportunities.

Goal #4: Give travelers a variety of well-designed transportation choices that are in good condition.

Goal #5: Enhance the County transportation system to address environmental impacts.

Mr. Piper reviewed Slide #14 and asked the question: "What transportation issues do you currently experience?" Responses included:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues:

- Mr. Piper acknowledged that the region is home to an Amish community who regularly use regional roadways for bicycling and horse and buggy transportation.

Transit:

- Mr. Piper discussed that transit service was previously provided by BARTA linking the Reading urban area to the regional industrial park in Caernarvon Township but service was ended due to lack of ridership. However, with several new warehousing and residential developments proposed in the region, coordination with transit providers should occur to evaluate the feasibility of a potential resumption of service

Aviation:

- Mr. Piper indicated he was not aware of any aviation issues within the region and the attendees concurred.

Highways and Bridges:

- No new issues were identified or discussed.

Safety:

- No new issues were identified or discussed.

Rail lines:

- No new issues were identified or discussed.

Mr. Piper explained the TIP and presented a visual (slide 15) describing the relationship between the TIP and the LRTP.

Ms. Timochenko shared a Countywide map depicting the locations of current TIP projects throughout the County. The TIP map was further reduced to show only projects located within the Southern Highlands region of the County. Mr. Piper went on to describe the projects that were located within the confines of the Southern Highlands region. He noted that most of the projects in this region involve bridge replacement projects including those on PA 724 and on Alleghenyville Road in Robeson Township, and on PA 10 east of the PA Turnpike interchange in Caernarvon Township / New Morgan Borough.

Mr. Piper then discussed projects under development by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC). As a part of their initiative to provide increased safety and capacity in its eastern region, the PTC is conducting a phased widening project extending westward. An initial phase of this project involves the replacement of overhead bridges to facilitate the mainline widening. To date, bridge widening has been completed through the recent replacement of the SSR 82 bridge in neighboring Chester County. The next two bridges scheduled for replacement are those carrying Twin Valley Road, on the Chester/ Berks County line, and SR 23 in Caernarvon Township. PTC officials estimate that work on these two bridges will begin in late 2026. There is no current schedule for the mainline widening in this area. Also of note is the PTC's initiative to implement On Road Tolling (ORT) by installing gantries over the mainline. Following implementation of this system, the PTC intends to reconstruct existing interchanges to remove toll booths to improve safety and traffic flow.

Mr. Piper described the US 422 Corridor (West Shore Bypass) project to the attendees. Some of the key takeaways from this presentation included:

- Project includes the complete reconstruction to 6 lanes including: Lancaster Avenue interchange, Penn Avenue interchange, Bingaman Street Bridge, and bike and pedestrian connections
- Preventative maintenance on the bridges over the Schuylkill River and Brentwood Drive
- Complete replacement of bridges over Schuylkill River and Norfolk Southern Railroad and ramp adjustment at I-176 NB to US 422 WB
- Final design is currently in progress
- Estimated bid opening in approximately 2027
- Estimated completion date post 2030

Mr. Piper presented slide 25 regarding the State Transportation Commission's Twelve-Year Program Update. As part of their update and public outreach efforts, a survey was available from March 3, 2025 to April 30, 2025. Mr. Piper explained how results from the survey are shared with the MPOs across the state. Any information relating to Berks County will be reviewed and considered for inclusion onto one of the programs (LRTP / TIP) for potential implementation. Ms. Timochenko presented the link to the Twelve-Year Program Update process and how it works: <https://survey.talkpatransportation.com/how-it-works/typ#>

Mr. Piper asked for any final questions or comments.

Hearing no other comments, Ms. Timochenko and Mr. Piper thanked the attendees for coming. The meeting concluded at 7:00 PM.

*Prepared by,  
Ashley Showers  
Assistant Director  
BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION*





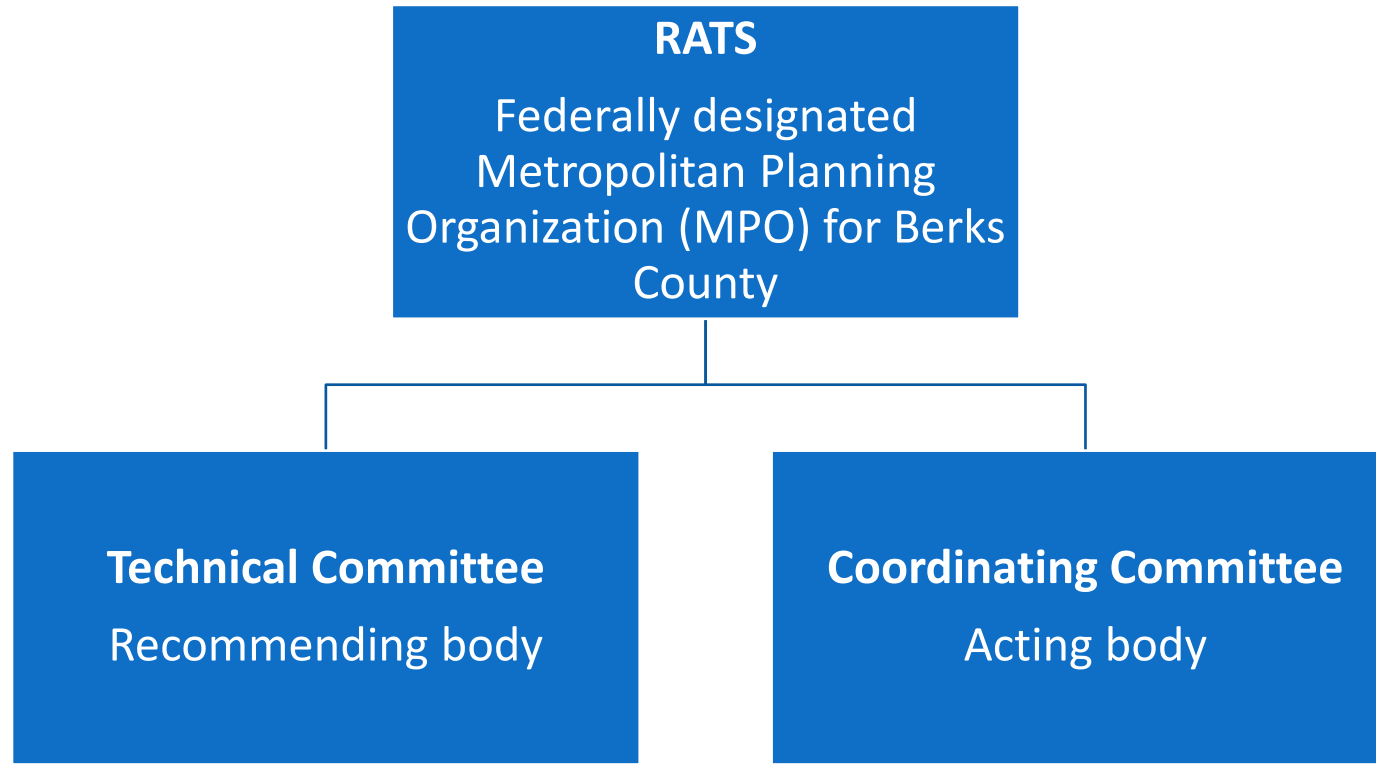
# READING MPO LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGION MEETING

May 13, 2025, Caernarvon Township



# READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (RATS)

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# TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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PENNDOT  
DISTRICT 5-0 (1)

PENNDOT  
CENTRAL OFFICE  
(1)

BERKS COUNTY  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION (2)

CITY OF READING  
(2)

SOUTH CENTRAL  
TRANSIT  
AUTHORITY (1)

READING  
REGIONAL  
AIRPORT  
AUTHORITY (1)



# COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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PennDOT  
District 5-0 (1)

PennDOT  
Central Office  
(1)

Berks County  
Commissioners  
(1)

Berks County  
Planning  
Commission (1)

City of Reading  
(1)

Berks County  
Boroughs (1)

Berks County 1<sup>st</sup>  
Class Townships  
(1)

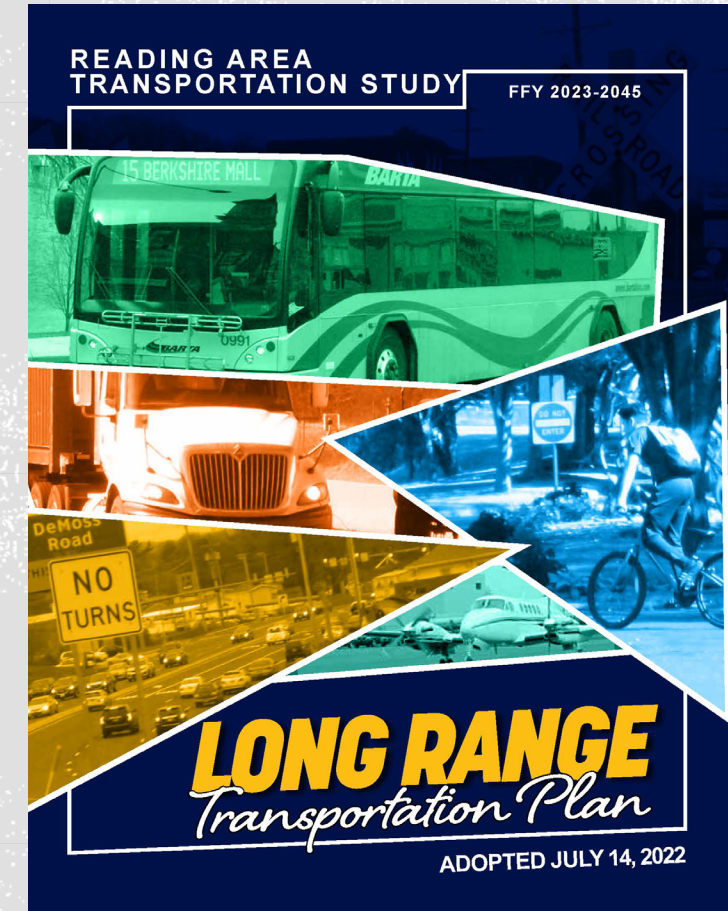
Berks County  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Townships (1)

South Central  
Transit  
Authority (1)

Reading  
Regional Airport  
Authority (1)

- 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?





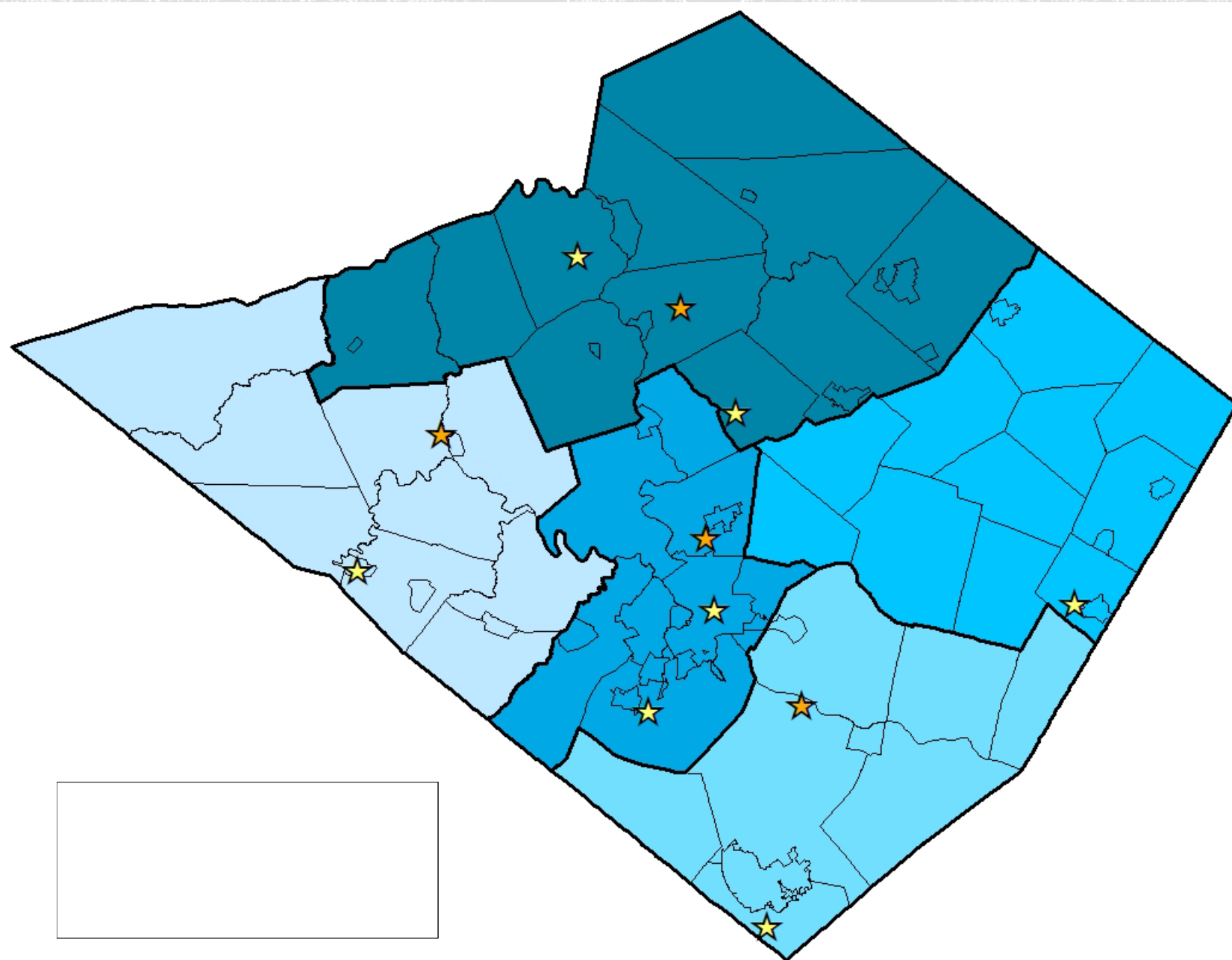
# FEDERAL PLANNING FACTORS

- 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.



# SUMMARY OF PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 2024
  - 4 In Person Meetings
    - Robeson, Jefferson, Muhlenberg, Perry
  - 1 Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
  - Survey
- 2025
  - 7 In Person Meetings
    - City of Reading, Womelsdorf, Tilden, Colebrookdale, Cumru, Maiden creek, Caernarvon
  - 2 Virtual Meetings via Microsoft Teams







The Reading Area  
Transportation Study will  
promote a well maintained  
and balanced multimodal  
transportation system that  
will safely and efficiently  
move people and goods.

# LRTP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Goal 1

Keep travelers safe  
and secure for all  
modes of  
transportation.

Reduce the number, frequency, and severity of crashes on our highway system by implementing projects to address safety issues for all users.

Work closely with municipalities, PennDOT, and SCTA/BARTA to ensure the safe interaction between all transportation modes and users.

Increase public awareness of construction zone safety for workers and users.

Evaluate proposed land development plans to identify potential transportation safety issues during local and PennDOT review processes.

Educate the public on future transportation projects and changes to increase safety awareness.

Coordinate with appropriate agencies to identify and provide efficient emergency vehicle access to the transportation system where feasible.

# LRTP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Goal 2

Maintain and  
improve the existing  
multimodal  
transportation  
system and services  
within fiscal  
constraints.

Minimize maintenance costs of roadways, bridges, and public transportation through proper routine maintenance using Transportation Asset Management planning.

Improve the efficiency of the existing transportation system and services.

Major roadway widening or relocation should only be considered if efforts to improve capacity and safety of existing roadways can not meet desired service levels.

Reduce congestion, improve air quality, and increase the reliability of the transportation system.

Develop a full range of public transportation options using available funding.

# LRTP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Goal 3

Invest in projects  
that strengthen and  
enhance economic  
development and  
tourism  
opportunities.

Implement best practices that will enable the efficient movement of people and freight.

Ensure that major activity centers are designed to accommodate a range of transportation modes.

Increase the region's global and national competitiveness by improving and enhancing regional freight infrastructure.

Support the Reading Regional Airport Authority in strengthening the use of the airport for both business and commercial aviation activities.

Support the efforts of the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority to reestablish passenger rail service between Reading and Philadelphia.

Provide multiple modes of convenient transportation to tourist destinations.

Coordinate with the agricultural community to identify and address obstructions to the movement of equipment and products.

Coordinate with appropriate agencies to review, update as needed, and implement recommendations identified in the EPFA Regional Freight Plan.

# LRTP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Goal 4

Give travelers a variety of well-designed transportation choices that are in good condition.

Promote coordinated regional bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit, and rail routes.

When designing roadways, include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and transit stops where applicable and feasible.

Support Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs such as ridesharing, using public transportation, walking, biking, or working from home.

# LRTP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Goal 5

Enhance the County  
transportation  
system to address  
environmental  
impacts.

Identify transportation system assets that are vulnerable to natural hazards and continue coordination with appropriate agencies to develop protection and recovery strategies through hazard mitigation planning.

Maintain the County's Air Quality attainment status for fine particulates and improve the marginal nonattainment status for Ozone.

Work closely with federal, state, municipal, and private entities to implement alternative fuels use (i.e. electric, natural gas) throughout our region.

Collaborate with local, regional, state and federal organizations and agencies to prevent, minimize, or mitigate potential negative environmental and social impacts from planned projects.

Assist in identification of potential environmental issues by maintaining and providing geographic information system data layers in a readily accessible format.

Work with PennDOT to implement stormwater best management practices and mitigation strategies on transportation projects.





BICYCLE



PEDESTRIAN



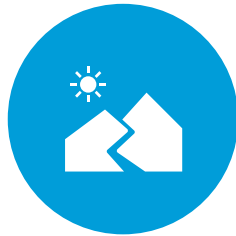
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION



AVIATION



BRIDGE



HIGHWAY

**WHAT  
TRANSPORTATION  
ISSUES DO YOU  
CURRENTLY  
EXPERIENCE?**

# PLANNED PROJECTS

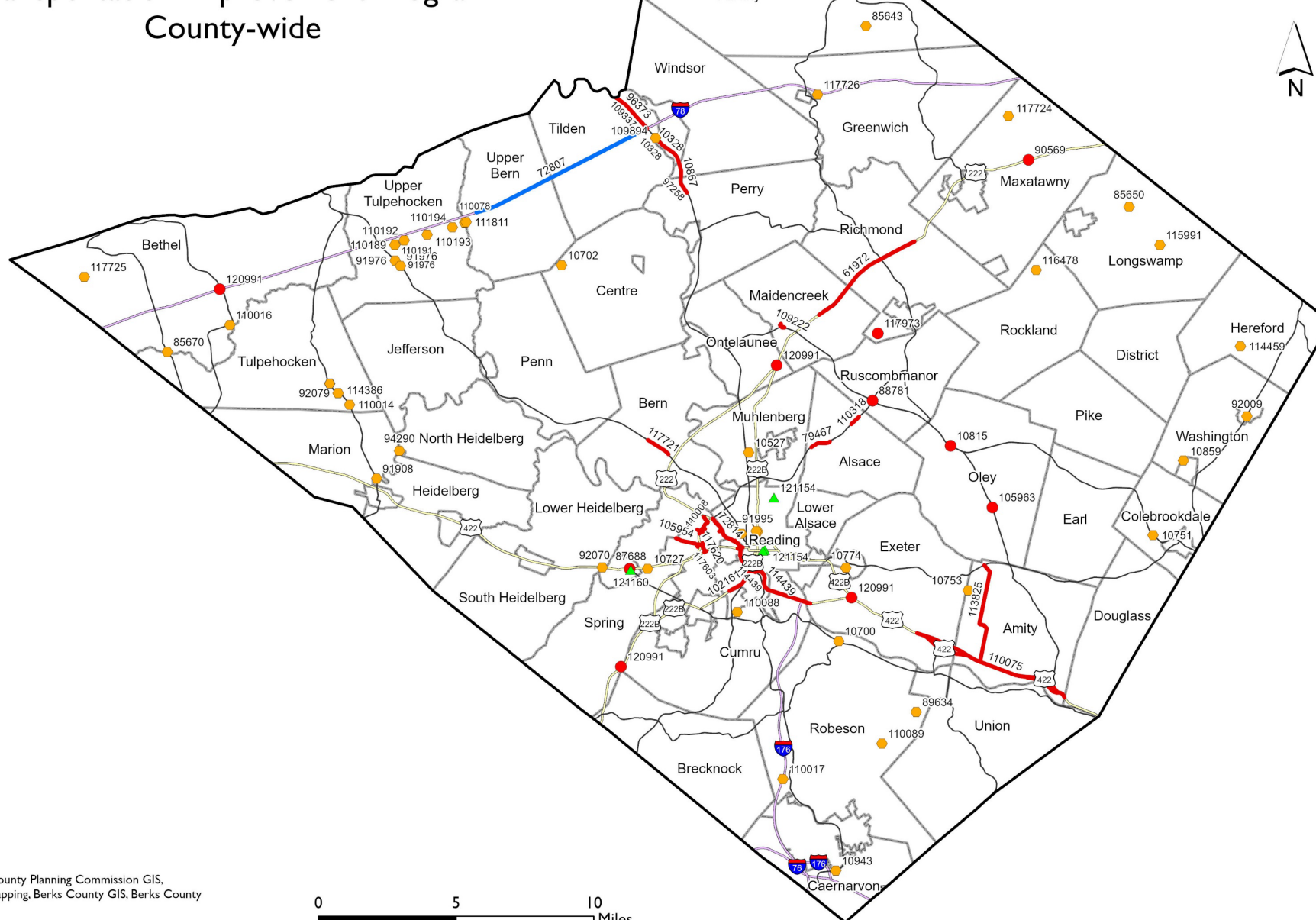
- The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is an agreed upon list of specific priority transportation projects that intend to use federal funds along with non-federally funded projects that are regionally significant.
  - It covers a four-year period and is updated every two years.
  - It shows estimated costs and funding sources and documents the anticipated schedule for each project and project phase.
  - It must be fiscally constrained to the amount of funding available.
  - It is NOT a final schedule of project implementation or guarantee of implementation.
  - Projects are drawn from the Long Range Transportation Plan and must help meet the goals of the LRTP.



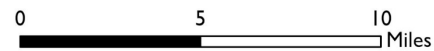




# Transportation Improvement Program County-wide

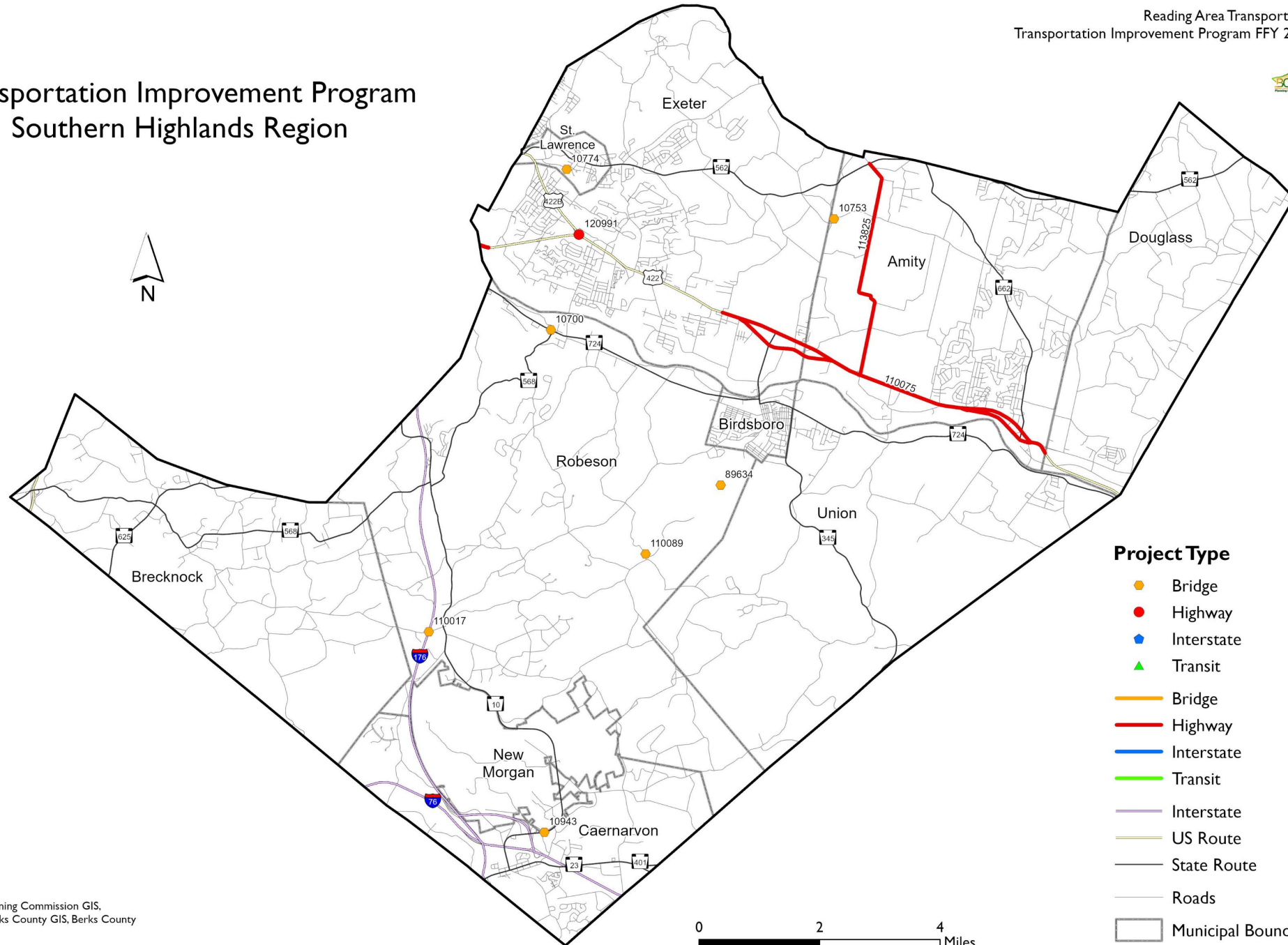


- Project Type**
- Bridge
  - Highway
  - Interstate
  - ▲ Transit
  - Bridge
  - Highway
  - Interstate
  - Transit
  - Interstate
  - US Route
  - State Route
  - Municipal Boundaries





# Transportation Improvement Program Southern Highlands Region



## Project Type

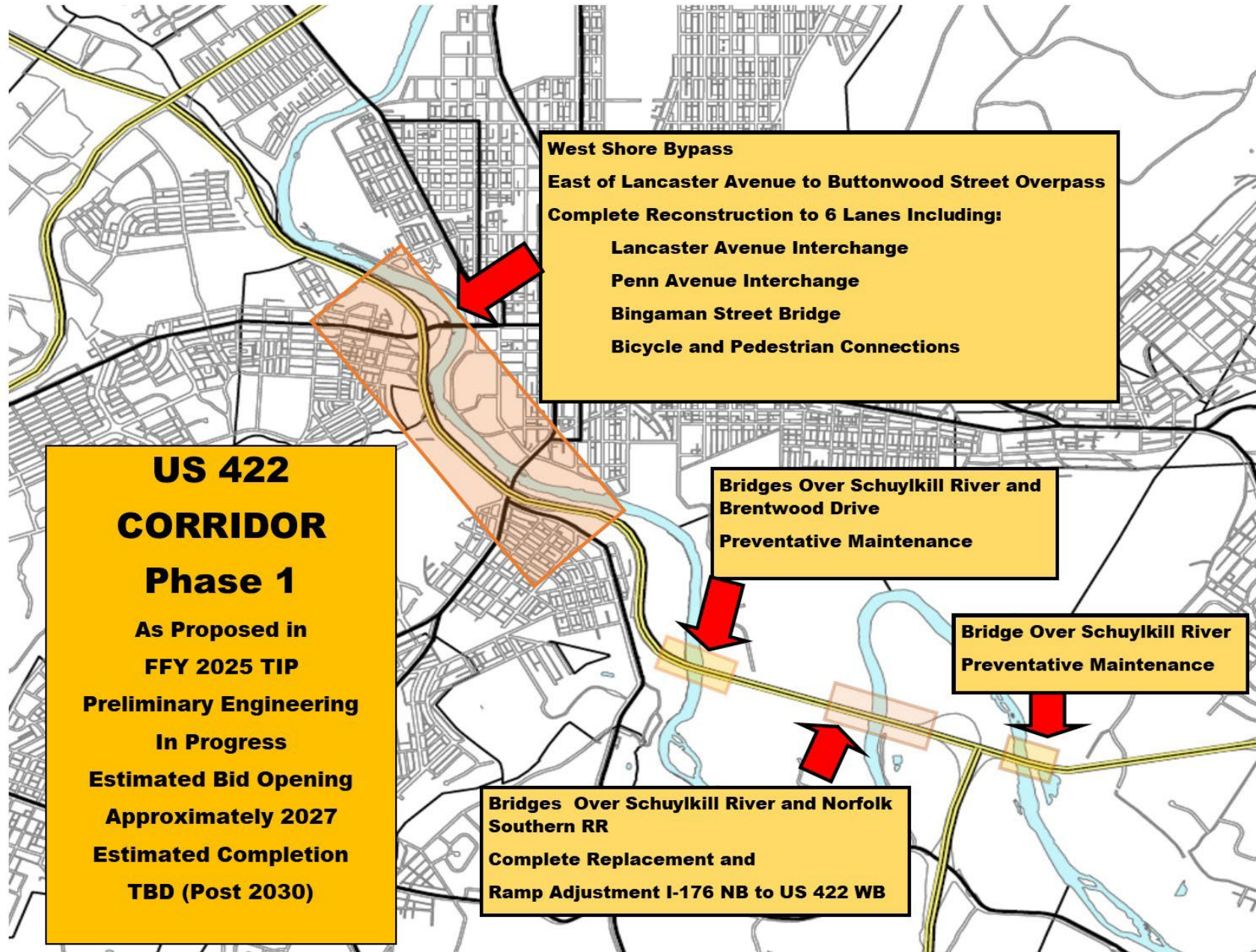
- Bridge
- Highway
- ◆ Interstate
- ▲ Transit
- Bridge
- Highway
- Interstate
- Transit
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Roads
- Municipal Boundaries





	New Date
Advertise Date	August 26, 2026
Bid Date	October 7, 2026
NTP (Anticipated)	Dec 2026/Jan 2027
Completion Date (Anticipated)	Summer-Fall 2028







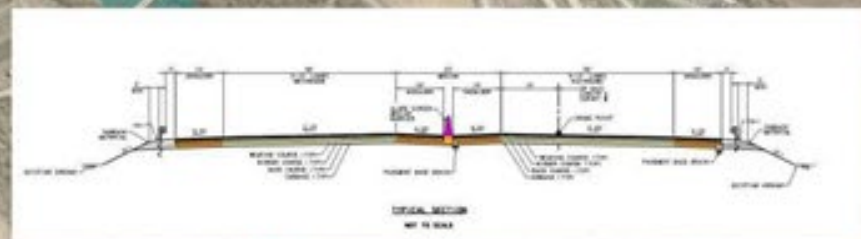
 STRUCTURE	 SHOULDER	 TRAVEL LANE
 MEDIAN	 WATERWAY	
 RECREATIONAL PARK	 BRIDGE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE	

**SR 422 SECTION PH1, BERKS CO**  
**PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION**

Source: PASDA-2008, FEMA, Berks County

















Federal Fiscal Year	Project Description/Municipality	Estimated Total Project Cost (2023\$)
FFY 2025		
MPMS# 110017	Alleghenyville Road (SR 3024) over I-176 – Robeson Township	\$6,515,000
FFY 2026		
MPMS# 110075	SR 422 Ben Franklin Congestion	\$8,137,000
FFY 2027		
MPMS# 110089	Rock Hollow Bridge – Robeson Township	\$3,276,000
MPMS# 10774	Parkview Road Bridge – St. Lawrence Borough	\$3,442,000
FFY 2028		
MPMS# 113825	Limekiln Road Resurface SR 562 to US 422 WB Ramps	\$675,000

# PROJECTS ANTICIPATED TO START DURING READING MPO FFY 2025-2028 TIP

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGION



# STC 12-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE SURVEY

[https://www.talkp  
atransportation.c  
om/how-it-  
works/typ#](https://www.talkpatransportation.com/how-it-works/typ#)

TELL US  
ABOUT YOUR  
**TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

**TAKE THE SURVEY**  
March 3 - April 30



Pennsylvania  
Department of Transportation



State Transportation  
Commission



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

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Contact Us via Email at [planning@berkspa.gov](mailto:planning@berkspa.gov) or via Phone at 610-478-6300

