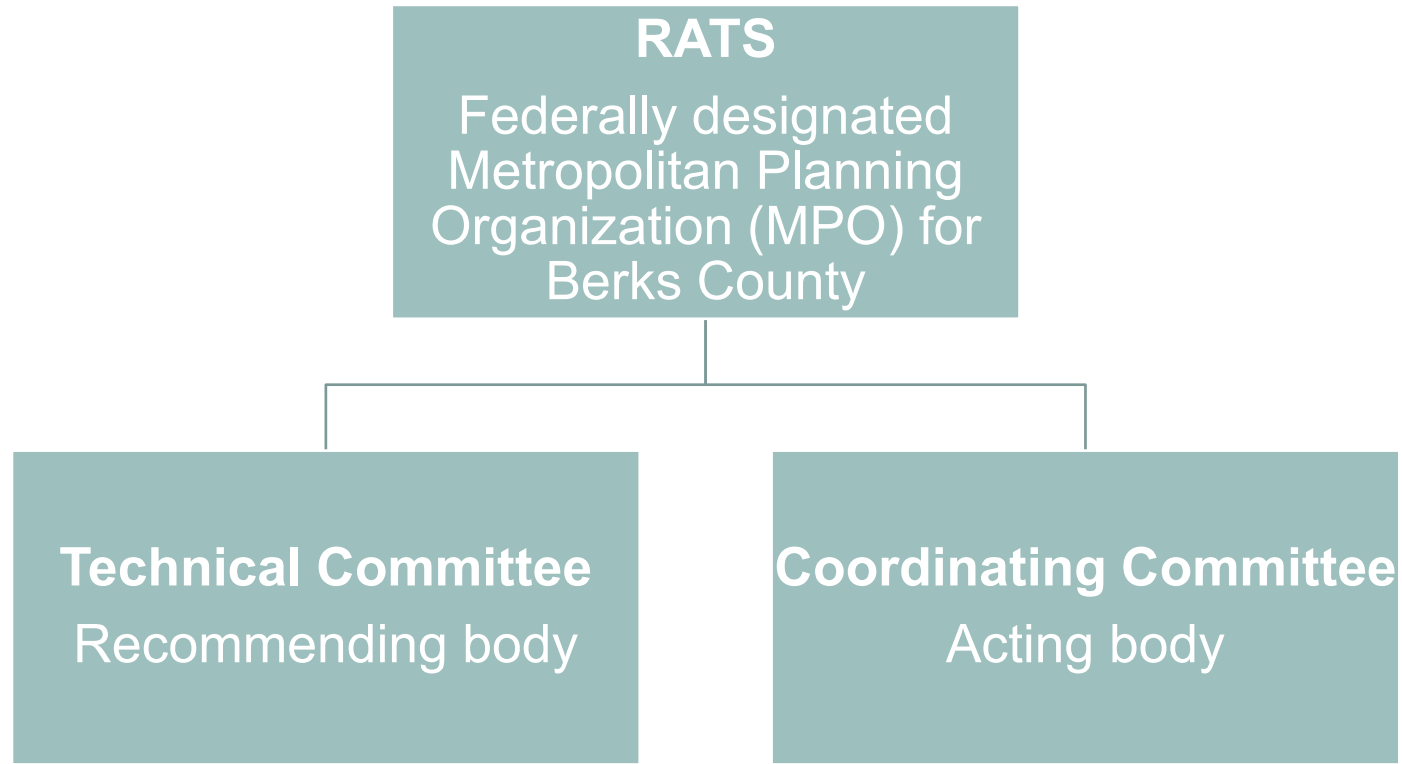


Reading MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Countywide Virtual Meeting

October 15, 2024, Microsoft Teams



Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)



Technical Committee



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

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 1st
Class Townships
(1)

Berks County
2nd Class
Townships (1)

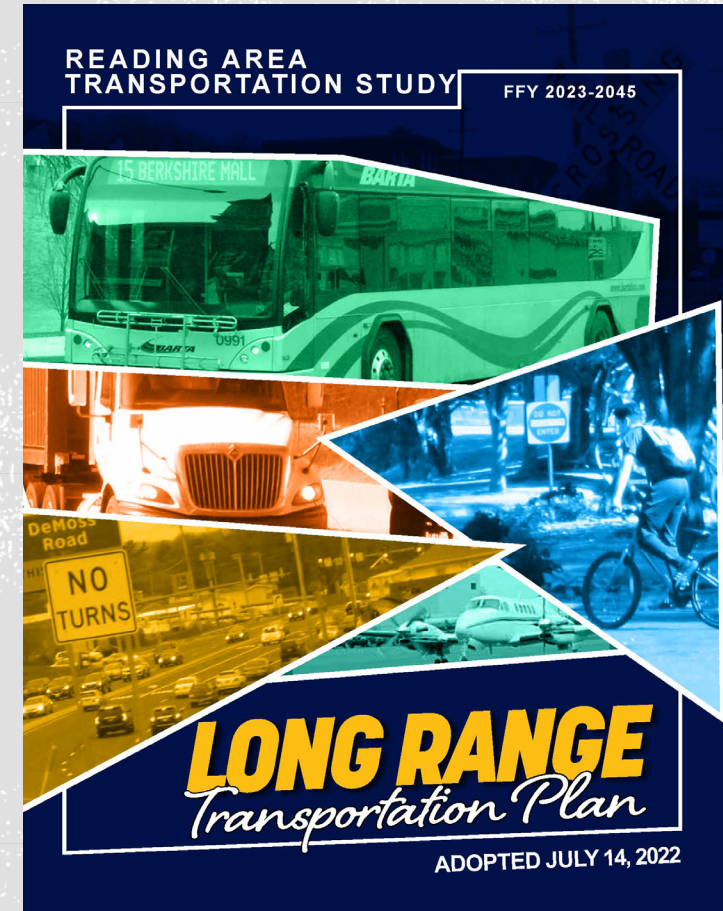
South Central
Transit Authority
(1)

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?



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.



LRTP 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



LRTP 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.



L RTP Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1 –

KEEP TRAVELERS SAFE AND SECURE, NO MATTER THE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

- Reduce the number, frequency, and severity of crashes on our highway system through proper analysis of the transportation system and implement projects to address safety issues for all users.
- Work closely with municipalities, PennDOT and SCTA/BARTA to ensure the safe interaction of vehicles, transit, and bicyclists/pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.
- Increase public awareness of construction zone safety hazards for workers and users.
- Evaluate proposed development plans for transportation safety issues during both the county review and PennDOT's Highway Occupancy Permit processes.
- Educate the public on future transportation projects and changes that may impact safety.



L RTP Goals and Objectives

GOAL 2 –

**MAINTAIN AND
IMPROVE THE
TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM AND
SERVICES WE
ENJOY TODAY
WHERE
FINANCIALLY
FEASIBLE.**

- Minimize maintenance costs of roadways and bridges through proper routine maintenance planning utilizing PennDOT's Transportation Asset Management Plan.
- Improve the effectiveness of the existing transportation system and services.
- Implement a variety of methods to improve the flow of traffic during peak travel times.
- Use available transportation funding to maintain a state of good repair for all systems.
- 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.



L RTP Goals and Objectives

GOAL 3 –

INVEST IN PROJECTS THAT STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF BERKS COUNTY COMMERCE TO ACCESS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE MARKETS AND SUPPORT REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES.

- Study implementable solutions that will speed the movement of materials, goods, and people.
- 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 newly created Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority to reestablish passenger rail service between Reading and Philadelphia.
- Provide multiple modes of convenient transportation to tourist destinations.
- Provide regional bicycle, pedestrian, bus, and rail routes (when feasible/available).
- Coordinate with agricultural community to identify and address obstructions to the movement of equipment and products.



L RTP Goals and Objectives

GOAL 4 –

**GIVE TRAVELERS A
VARIETY OF WELL-
DESIGNED
TRANSPORTATION
CHOICES THAT ARE
IN GOOD CONDITION.**

- Support projects that expand the county trail and sidewalk network.
- Support projects that expand the public transportation network.
- When designing roadways, include bicycle and pedestrian paths 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.



L RTP Goals and Objectives

GOAL 5 –

ENHANCE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE WAYS THAT INCREASE RESILIENCY TO BOTH CLIMATE CHANGE AND VULNERABILITY.

- Maintain the county's air quality attainment status for both ozone and fine particulates.
- Work closely with federal, state, municipal and private entities to implement alternative fuels use (i.e. electric, natural gas) throughout our region.
- Continue coordination with appropriate agencies to protect and provide resiliency for critical transportation infrastructure against disaster by identifying vulnerable assets and prevention strategies through an updated, current hazard mitigation plan.
- Work with all local, regional, state, and federal organizations and agencies to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential negative impacts from planned projects.
- Assist in identification of potential environmental mitigation issues by acquiring, creating, and updating, as needed, geographic information system data layers for use by the implementing agencies and sharing them in a readily accessible format to municipalities.
- Work with PennDOT to implement best management practices and mitigation strategies on transportation projects.



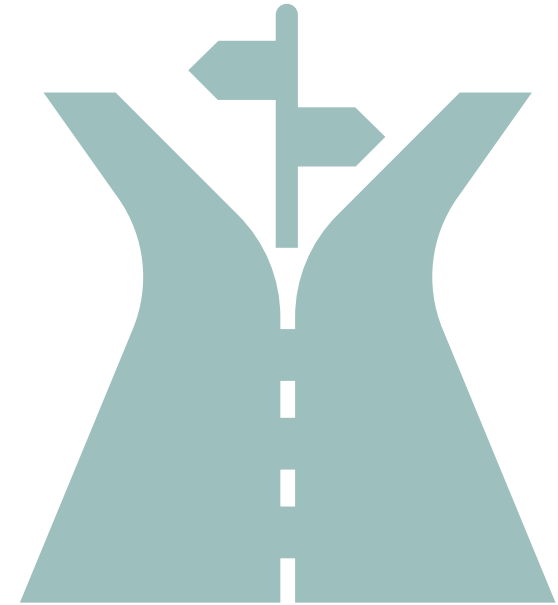


ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

- October 2023 – 30-month Kickoff Meeting
- July/August 2024 – Establish Steering Committee
- 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



**If you could
instantaneously make
one change (big or small)
to the transportation
system without concern
for cost or other potential
obstacles, what would it
be?**



Take the LRTP Goals and Objectives Survey!



[Bit.ly/LRTP_Survey](https://bit.ly/LRTP_Survey)

English



[Bit.ly/LRTPencuesta](https://bit.ly/LRTPencuesta)

Spanish



**Are there any roadways,
bridges, or other
transportation issues in
your area that you
currently consider
problematic?**



Questions

