

DRAFT
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY
JULY 9, 2026

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
Kyle Zeiber, City of Reading
Donald Edwards, City of Reading

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING

Zachary Tempesco, Reading Regional Airport Authority

*Tie-breaking vote only

OTHERS

Michael Donchez, PennDOT 5-0
Matthew McGough, Berks County Planning Commission
Amanda Timochenko, Berks County Planning Commission
Leo Scott, Berks County Planning Commission
Ashley Showers, Berks County Planning Commission
Matt Boyer, CommutePA
Joseph Zimring, CEO, Rolling Rock Stone Quarry

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vottero called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT / BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business from the floor.

3. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF THE MAY 7, 2026 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Vottero asked if there were any questions or comments on the May 7, 2026 Technical Committee meeting minutes. There were no questions or comments.

MOTION: Mr. Boatman made a motion to recommend approval of the May 7, 2026 Technical Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Golembiewski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. COMMUTEPA UPDATE

Mr. Boyer presented CommutePA's May and June 2026 Monthly Activity Reports to the Committee. During the month of May, 163 new members were signed up for the program. Over 9,821 trips were tracked, saving over \$130,565 for commuters and taking over 180,089 miles off the road because people are carpooling or using other forms of transportation as an alternative to driving alone to work.

During June, 89 new members signed up for the program. Over 9,000 trips were tracked, saving over \$117,000 for commuters and taking over 160,000 miles off the road because people are carpooling or using other forms of transportation as an alternative to driving alone to work.

Mr. Boyer also presented that staff from CommutePA have been out visiting a number of employers to familiarize them with the program. Some of those employers include Berks Technical Institute, Dieffenbach's Snacks, Empire Beauty School, Tec Centro, and PA Career Link to name a few.

Mr. Boyer then updated the Committee on the events that are happening in the month of July and the various bike, transit, and carpooling oriented events to introduce people on how to get started in the program and start thinking about using alternative modes of transportation rather than driving alone.

5. PENNDOT REQUESTED AMENDMENTS / MODIFICATIONS TO F.F.Y. 2025-2028 T.I.P.

Mr. Donchez gave an update on PennDOT's requested Amendments / Modifications to the F.F.Y. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (T.I.P.) from April 30, 2026 to July 1, 2026.

- There were six (6) Administrative Actions – the actions address such things as increases to recent phase estimates, right-of-way acquisitions, deobligations returned to the region for reassignments, increases to

agreement to continue construction inspections services, balancing to maintain fiscal constraint, supplemental increases to add additional scope of work to preliminary engineering phase not previously scoped, and shifting final design and right-of-way funds to preliminary engineering for a project to address adverse effects that were previously unidentified.

- There were three (3) Amendments:
 - Ontelaunee (Lake) Bridge - adding preliminary engineering phase to 2025 T.I.P. to advance from draft 2027 T.I.P.;
 - U.S. 222 Widening - increases to address recent construction estimates, for shared use path and appurtenances, rock capping, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, over excavation for updated pavement design, and increases in Construction Engineering.; and
 - RATS Bridge Preservation #12 - advancing project to 2025 TIP from draft 2027 TIP to use available funds.
- There were no Statewide Administrative Actions.
- There was one (1) Interstate Management Administrative Action for I-78 Grimes Interchange Removal for a construction cost increase to match current estimate.

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

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend approval of the three (3) amendments and to forward it to the Coordinating Committee for their approval. Ms. Nonnemaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. UPDATE ON LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SUBMISSION

Mr. Piper noted that at the Coordinating Committee meeting on May 21st the final changes to the draft documents were approved. In the weeks that followed staff updated the documents with the approved editorial changes to reflect approval dates and authorized responses to public comments. After the changes were made, the plans and all associated documents were packaged and sent to PennDOT on June 30th.

Mr. Piper asked if the department had a chance to review the documents? Ms. Nonnemaker said she had just started reviewing it but as of right now it looks like everything is in order. She thanked Mr. Piper for submitting it prior to the deadline for

submission. Mr. Piper added that if she comes across anything that is missing to please reach back out and staff will address it accordingly.

7. DISCUSSION OF REP. MALONEY LETTER DATED 6/4/2026 RE SR 1030 (OYSTERDALE ROAD) REQUEST

Mr. Piper presented that the Reading Area Transportation Study received a letter from PA State Representative David Maloney, Sr. and emails from Joseph Zimring (CEO of Rolling Rock Stone Quarry) expressing concerns about SR 1030 (Oysterdale Road). Mr. Piper stated that this road has drainage issues that are creating bad shoulders and there is a significant crash history along the corridor.

The correspondence received thanked PennDOT for the work that is already underway along the corridor. However, they are requesting more work on the shoulders be done on the road to alleviate the drainage and safety hazards. Ultimately, they are requesting that the improvements be added to the Transportation Improvement Program so that PennDOT can begin formal planning and programming for the necessary improvements.

Mr. Piper stated that he and staff had a chance to discuss this request with PennDOT and it is his understanding that under the existing maintenance contract there are ten drainage pipes being replaced under the road. There is also a project being conducted through the Berks County Conservation District to do some stream relocation work along the corridor.

Mr. Vottero added that this is a challenging area to work in. It is relatively easy for PennDOT maintenance crews to handle the work, but the hard part is the permitting to get the work done. Because the area is in a floodplain the permitting process becomes very difficult and time-consuming.

Mr. Piper continued that what R.A.T.S. and PennDOT run into regarding this specific request to add this project to the T.I.P. is that this road is ineligible for Federal funding. That means that any improvements would have to be funded using only state money. Also, as a maintenance project, it does not currently have state capital budget approval need for a larger effort. Mr. Piper added that if PennDOT proceeded with more extensive work such as grading the shoulders and improving drainage along the entire corridor it would trigger additional higher order environmental permits than what are currently in place.

Mr. Vottero agreed with Mr. Piper's current assessment and added that because you are dealing with a floodplain and the potential creation of more impervious surface by grading and installing shoulders along the corridor the permit process become extremely tricky. Mr. Piper stated that he evaluated the area and one of the things you encounter is that there are an a lot of cases where there are private driveways that go off of the road. Many of these do not currently have drainage

under them so they become dams when it rains and the water gets pushed out onto the roadway.

Mr. Piper continued that the request is a valid one. However, at this time the funds that are currently allocated in the T.I.P. and the L.R.T.P. are all spoken for. Furthermore, the T.I.P. and L.R.T.P. are funded under the current Federal funding legislation. It is anticipated that this funding will remain static. If new Federal funding legislation is passed and it includes more money for projects there could be room to adjust and possibly incorporate or add additional projects to the T.I.P. and L.R.T.P. by freeing up some additional State funds. If the new legislation provides less money, then there are real issues and staff would have to look at what projects to remove from the T.I.P. and L.R.T.P. The other reality is there are about ten to fifteen other projects in Berks County like this one that could also use major improvements.

Mr. Piper's recommendation is to have PennDOT proceed with their current maintenance work and have the MPO consider adding this project to the L.R.T.P. unfunded/unmet needs project list. After the initial maintenance work is complete, evaluate the corridor to see how the improvements work and if anything else needs to be done. Adding the project to the unfunded/unmet needs list would make this project a candidate for future improvements but not guarantee it. Being included on the list could potentially open it up for consideration for state capital funding authorization. This authorization does not give you the funding but does makes the project eligible for funding should any become available.

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend to the Coordinating Committee that PennDOT continue the maintenance project, evaluate for more maintenance afterward, if warranted, adding the project to the unmet/unfunded list of the L.R.T.P., and for PennDOT to look into state capital budget funding for the project. Mr. Boatman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. PENNDOT UPDATES ON T.A.S.A. / M.T.F. AND HIGHWAY PROJECTS

Mr. Piper presented the updates on the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (T.A.S.A.) / Multi-Modal Transportation Fund (M.T.F.) and Highway Projects status report. After presenting the updates to the committee he asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

9. LTAP PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. McGough provided the committee with an update on the Local Technical Assistance Program. Mr. McGough informed the committee that there were two classes held in June. There was a class on June 10th covering Pipe Culvert

Installation and Replacement and there was another class held on June 24th covering Asphalt Road Maintenance. Both classes were well attended.

Mr. McGough informed the committee that there are no new courses currently scheduled for the remainder of the year. However, with the start of the new state fiscal year he anticipates scheduling a few more courses for 2026. He has class requests submitted and is waiting for coordination with instructors and venues to confirm those requests. Mr. McGough will provide an update at subsequent meetings.

10. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Other Business:

- Mr. Piper informed the committee that in the month of August he is not anticipating having any action items. However, there are a number of items that staff will be working on. One of them being the update to the R.A.T.S. Unified Planning Work Program (U.P.W.P.) for the next two fiscal years that will start July 2027 and extend through June 2029. As part of this process a steering committee made up of the Technical Committee and other stakeholders will be formed. Mr. Piper suggested that the committee cancel the scheduled August 6th Technical Committee meeting and replace it with the steering committee meeting for the U.P.W.P. update.

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion to cancel the August 6th Technical Committee meeting and replace it with the U.P.W.P. steering committee meeting. Mr. Boatman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Mr. Piper informed the committee that in addition to the U.P.W.P., staff will begin development of an Active Transportation Plan - an update to build upon and expand the current bicycle and pedestrian plan.
- Staff earlier this year performed a review of the Federal Functional Classification system and are now being asked to review the National Highway System (N.H.S.) maps for Berks County. PennDOT is looking to scale back the number of miles that are in the N.H.S. to those that are truly national in scope. This will be brought before the committees at their September meetings.
- Mr. Piper updated the committee on the Performance Measures related to single occupancy vehicles and congestion management. Mr. Piper informed the committee that staff will be bringing new performance measure targets before the committee in September. These targets will be for Berks County

but staff also has to work with D.V.R.P.C. and Lehigh Valley because some of their urban areas extend into Berks County.

- Mr. Piper informed the committee that in the month of June, M.P.O. staff, along with PennDOT staff, went out and held scope and field views to look at the new projects that are scheduled to start in FFY 2027. There a number of new projects, particularly bridge projects, that will be moving onto the new T.I.P.
- Mr. Votero updated the committee on Hampden Boulevard in the City of Reading. He informed the committee that the City will be doing some work on Hampden Boulevard in an effort to alleviate the speeding and safety concerns along the corridor. He added that PennDOT would be willing to look at potential pilot projects so he informed City representation that if they were interested in something like that staff could set up some form of discussion with PennDOT's safety engineer to see what can be done along the corridor.

Mr. Zeiber added that the City would definitely entertain any help PennDOT is able to provide.

- Mr. Piper updated the committee on current legislation in the State House of Representatives Transportation Committee that would consider changing the requirements for representation on Metropolitan Planning Organizations (M.P.O.s). Mr. Piper stated that he does not know much about this legislation because this is the first he has really heard about it. It appears the legislation would require more municipal representation on M.P.O. boards. Mr. Piper informed the committee that after this meeting he will be participating in a call with Lehigh Valley as well as representatives from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations to get more information. He will hopefully have more information to better inform the committee at subsequent meetings.
- Mr. Donchez informed Mr. Piper about the conflict between the regularly scheduled September 3rd Technical Committee meeting and the PennDOT Planning Partners Conference. The conference will be held during September 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Mr. Piper informed the committee that the options would be to either postpone the Technical Committee a week until September 10th or check with the Coordinating Committee to see if they would be willing to hold a joint meeting on September 17th. Mr. Piper asked if there was any preference from the Technical Committee regarding either of the options. Mr. Vottero said he prefers the joint meeting. Mr. Piper stated that as of right now the September meeting of the Technical Committee will be "a to be determined." He will begin coordinating to make a formal determination on the September schedule.

b. Public Comment:

- Mr. McGough informed the committee that there was one comment under the Q & A function on MS Teams. That comment was from Mr. Joseph Zimring (CEO Rolling Rock Quarry) pertaining to item 7 on the agenda. Mr. Zimring reiterated that establishing shoulders on Oysterdale Road should be a high priority. Mr. Piper addressed this concern during his presentation under Item 7.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Golembiewski seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:44 PM.

Date: _____

Alan D. Piper, MPO Secretary