

DRAFT
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY
MAY 7, 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

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING

Zachary Tempesco, Reading Regional Airport Authority
Donald Edwards, City of Reading

*Tie-breaking vote only

OTHERS

Michael Donchez, PennDOT 5-0
Jeff Rai, PennDOT 5-0
Lawrence Peterson, PennDOT 5-0
Jennifer Ruth, PennDOT 5-0
Lauri Ahlskog, South Central Transit Authority
Devon Hain, Berks County Planning Commission
Matthew McGough, Berks County Planning Commission
Leo Scott, Berks County Planning Commission
Amanda Timochenko, Berks County Planning Commission
Andrew Kline, Oley Valley School District Board Member

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vottero called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT / BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business from the floor.

3. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 19, 2026 JOINT TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Vottero asked if there were any questions or comments on the March 19, 2026 Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. There were no questions or comments.

MOTION: Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the March 19, 2026 Joint Technical and Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Boatman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. COMMUTEPA UPDATE

Mr. Golembiewski presented a flyer and explained that CommutePA, in cooperation with Reading Hospital/Tower Health, will be holding a Bike Smart Safety Fest on Saturday, May 16th from 10AM to 2PM at Reading Area Community College. There will be some bike and helmet giveaways and other activities at this family-friendly event.

5. CONFIRMATION OF E-BALLOT REQUEST M.P.M.S. 117723 S.R. 737 (KRUMSVILLE ROAD) SLOPE REPAIRS

Mr. Piper reminded the committee that in early April 2026 an e-Ballot was conducted regarding an Amendment to the F.F.Y. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. The Amendment was required to add \$750,000 for Preliminary Engineering for the S.R. 737 (Krumsville Road) Slope Repair project (M.P.M.S. #117723) on the F.F.Y. 2025 R.A.T.S. T.I.P.

The R.A.T.S. Technical and Coordinating Committees were forwarded the information regarding this Amendment along with the associated fiscal constraint table documenting the recommended funding moves by an e-Ballot on April 6, 2026. A YES vote was asked to approve the action providing the additional funds for the S.R. 737 project.

The results of the e-Ballot were as follows:

Technical Committee

Nonnemaker – Yes (4/6/26)
Piper – Yes (4/6/26)
Golembiewski – Yes (4/6/26)
Edwards – Not Voting
Zeiber – Yes (4/6/26)
Boatman – Yes (4/6/26)

Coordinating Committee

Green – Yes (4/6/26)
Rivera – Yes (4/6/26)
Santoni – Yes (4/6/26)
McKeon – Yes (4/8/26)
Rowe – Yes (4/6/26)
Lambert – Not Voting

Tempesco – Not Voting
Vottero (Chair) – Tie Break Only
Approved 5-0 w/ two not voting

Hoffa – Yes (4/6/26)
Reed – Yes (4/6/26)
Downing – Yes (4/6/26)
Kufro (Chair) – Tie Break Only
Approved 8-0 w/ one not voting

Mr. Piper informed the Committee that we need a motion to confirm the above votes by the Technical Committee today.

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion to confirm the e-Ballot votes by the Technical Committee for the S.R. 737 (Krumsville Road) Slope Repair project amendment and forward it to the Coordinating Committee for their confirmation. Mr. Boatman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. 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 February 26, 2026 to April 29, 2026.

- There were sixteen (16) Administrative Actions – the actions address such things as increases for final design and preliminary engineering supplements, aligning funding with need, balancing sources to maintain fiscal constraint, utilities increases due to changes in design standards and project design, increases for railroad agreements, right-of-way acquisition, increases per low bid award/analysis, increase for 971 claim damage estimates, increase to cover phase of bog turtle survey, report, resilience design assessment, and wetland and watercourse study, increases to match current estimates, cash flow to align with anticipated need due to let date changes, increases due to inspection, staging, phasing, design-build during night and day shifts, increases due to revisions for new RC/DM2 standards, revisions to comply with new structure best practices, utility coordination not previously scoped, and for permit modifications for bat survey and coordination, increases due to unforeseen additions of epoxy bonded overlay, toe wall repairs, slotted barrier additional costs, pipe run "B" and CENG additional costs.
- There was one (1) Amendment – S.R. 737 (Krumsville Road) Slope Repair for adding preliminary engineering phase utilizing federal Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT) funding.
- There were no Statewide Administrative Actions.
- There were no Interstate Management Administrative Actions.

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

Mr. Donchez informed the committee that no vote will be needed to approve the one amendment listed above because a vote was made to confirm the amendment by e-Ballot under item # 5 of this meeting agenda.

7. REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION OF AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS REPORT FOR F.F.Y. 2027-2030 T.I.P. AND F.F.Y. 2027-2050 L.R.T.P.

Mr. Piper stated that this item represents the first item in the process of formally recommending adoption to the Coordinating Committee of all of the required elements of the Transportation Improvement Program (T.I.P.) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (L.R.T.P.)

Mr. Golembiewski added that under Federal guidance we are required to approve these items in a specific order (#7 through #14) as identified in the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report for F.F.Y. 2027-2030 T.I.P. and F.F.Y. 2027-2050 L.R.T.P. Mr. Piper seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION ON APPROVAL OF AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY RESOLUTION

Mr. Piper stated the Air Quality Conformity Resolution states that the R.A.T.S. T.I.P. and L.R.T.P. development process is consistent with Federal guidelines and regulations.

MOTION: Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the Air Quality Conformity Resolution. Ms. Nonnemaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

9. REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION ON APPROVAL OF F.F.Y. 2027-2030 COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT

Mr. Piper stated that the Community Demographic Assessment, which was formally known as the Environmental Justice Document, has no recommended changes from what was sent out for public review and comment.

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the F.F.Y. 2027-2030 Community Demographic

Assessment. Mr. Boatman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION ON APPROVAL OF RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Piper informed the committee that this part of the process will take more time to review in order to make sure that all comments are properly addressed. He continued that all of the documents were out for the mandatory public review and comment period that extended from March 22, 2026 through April 24, 2026. Any comments received during this period are required to be documented and responses prepared for those comments. The responses must be approved by both the Technical and Coordinating committees prior to plan adoption.

Mr. Piper went through each comment individually and received concurrence from the Technical Committee on the documented responses.

At the end of Mr. Piper's presentation there was one question from an attendee viewing the meeting. Mr. Andrew Kline, an Alsace Township resident as well as an Oley Valley School Board member submitted a question via the Q & A function on MS Teams.

Mr. Kline's comment was:

"My ongoing concern with RATS at-large and the TIP process is that school districts are not directly engaged in the process in the same way that municipalities have are through the municipal reps on the RATS Coordinating Committee. I would love for RATS to modify it's membership structure to include representation of school districts to better mitigate this concern and to commit to strengthened relations with this critical group of stakeholders."

"My concern is originating from the multiple large scale, multi-year (and MUCH needed) projects within the Oley Valley School District's area and the impact it will have on our SD operations. For complete transparency, I am fully supportive of the proposed projects, but would like to work to improve the process."

Mr. Piper expressed that he appreciated the comment and thanked Mr. Kline for his input. Mr. Piper went on to explain that while he does not have the direct authority to change the make-up or voting structure of the committees, he will forward this request to the Coordinating committee for their consideration. Mr. Piper stated that he will have to work with the committee on preparing a formal response to Mr. Kline's inquiry. Mr. Piper reiterated that he appreciated the comment and the intent behind it and thanked Mr. Kline again for his input.

MOTION: Ms. Nonnemaker made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the Response to Public Comments. Mr. Golembiewski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

11. REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION ON APPROVAL OF T.I.P. AMENDMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (M.O.U.)

Mr. Piper presented that this M.O.U. document is between the Reading Area Transportation Study, PennDOT, and the South Central Transit Authority. It is an agreement regarding the process that is used to modify the T.I.P. This agreement is similar to the ones previously approved in the past with the exception of some wording and definition changes that were made to update it to reflect the current T.I.P.

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the T.I.P. Amendment Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.). Mr. Boatman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

12. REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION ON APPROVAL OF F.F.Y. 2027-2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (T.I.P.) AND APPENDIX

Mr. Piper stated that this item is the recommendation on the T.I.P. and associated appendix subject to any revisions included in the response to comments as reviewed under item #10 of the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the F.F.Y. 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (T.I.P.) and Appendix. Mr. Piper seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

13. REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION ON APPROVAL OF F.F.Y. 2027-2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (L.R.T.P.) AND APPENDIX

Mr. Piper presented that the recommendation is to approve the L.R.T.P. and associated appendix subject to any amendments recommended in the response to comments under item #10 of the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the F.F.Y. 2027-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (L.R.T.P.) and Appendix. Mr. Zeiber seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

14. REVIEW / RECOMMENDATION ON APPROVAL OF RATS SELF-CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION

Mr. Piper stated that this item represents the statement that says all of the Federal requirements were followed in the approval of the T.I.P. and L.R.T.P. Mr. Piper continued that there was some wording changes made to reflect changes in Federal legislation. Representatives from the Federal Highway Administration reviewed the document and changes were made to accommodate the recommendations from their review.

MOTION: Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the RATS Self-Certification Resolution. Mr. Golembiewski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

15. PENNDOT UPDATES ON HIGHWAY PROJECTS AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

Mr. Piper asked if there were any questions related to the highway and bridge project status reports. There were no questions.

16. LTAP PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. McGough updated the committee on the current status of the 2026 LTAP program in Berks County. He stated that due to a scheduling conflict with the instructor the class (Asphalt Road Maintenance) that was scheduled for May 6, 2026 was rescheduled for June 24, 2026. There is another class (Pipe Culvert Installation and Replacement) also scheduled for June 10, 2026. Currently, staff is waiting for coordination from PSATS on scheduling the remaining class requests for 2026.

17. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no other business or public comment.

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Boatman seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:31PM.

Date: _____

Alan D. Piper, MPO Secretary