

# **Reading MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting**

February 24, 2025, Microsoft Teams



# Summary of Public Meetings Outreach

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## Total Number of Public Meetings Participants - 26

- Southern Highlands Region – 6 attendees (8 registrants)
- Tulpehocken Region – 6 attendees (7 registrants)
- Metro Region – 4 attendees (5 registrants)
- Hawk Mountain Region – 2 attendees (4 registrants)
- Virtual – 8 attendees (21 registrants)

## Total Number of Survey Responses Received - 15



# Vision Statement

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## Baseline Statement

**The Reading Area Transportation Study will provide and maintain a balanced, multimodal transportation system that will safely and efficiently move goods and people.**

## Proposed Rewording

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



# No Proposed Changes



- Keep travelers safe and secure, no matter the mode of transportation.

## Baseline Statement

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.



## Proposed Rewording

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

**Goal 1 -  
Objective**



# Goal 1 - Objective

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## Baseline Statement

Work closely with municipalities, PennDOT and SCTA/BARTA to ensure the safe interaction of vehicles, transit, and bicyclists/pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.

## Proposed Rewording

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





## Baseline Statement

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



## Proposed Rewording

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

**Goal 1 -  
Objective**



# Goal 1 - Objective

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## Baseline Statement

Evaluate proposed development plans for transportation safety issues during both the county review and PennDOT's Highway Occupancy Permit processes.

## Proposed Rewording

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





# No Proposed Changes



## Goal 1 - Objective

- Educate the public on future transportation projects and changes that may impact safety.

# Goal 1 – NEW OBJECTIVE



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

# Goal 2

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## Baseline Statement

**Maintain and improve the transportation system and services we enjoy today where financially feasible**

## Proposed Rewording

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



## Baseline Statement

**Improve the effectiveness of the existing transportation system and services.**



## Proposed Rewording

**Improve the efficiency of the existing transportation system and services.**

**Goal 2 -  
Objective**





Implement a variety of methods to improve the flow of traffic during peak travel times.



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.

## **Goal 2 Objectives**

## **No Proposed Changes**





## Baseline Statement

Minimize maintenance costs of roadways and bridges through proper routine maintenance planning utilizing PennDOT's Transportation Asset Management Plan.



## Proposed Rewording

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

**Goal 2 -  
Objective**





## **Goal 2 Objective**

### **Consider for Removal**

- Use available transportation funding to maintain a state of good repair for all systems.



# Goal 3

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## Baseline Statement

**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.**

## Proposed Rewording

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



## Baseline Statement

Study implementable solutions that will speed the movement of materials, goods, and people.



## Proposed Rewording

Study implementable solutions that will speed the movement of people and freight.

**Goal 3 -  
Objective**





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.



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

## Goal 3 Objectives

## No Proposed Changes



# Goal 3 - Objective

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## Baseline Statement

Provide multiple modes of convenient transportation to tourist destinations.

## Proposed Rewording

Promote multiple modes of convenient transportation to tourist destinations.





## Baseline Statement

Provide regional bicycle, pedestrian, bus, and rail routes (when feasible/available).



## Proposed Rewording

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

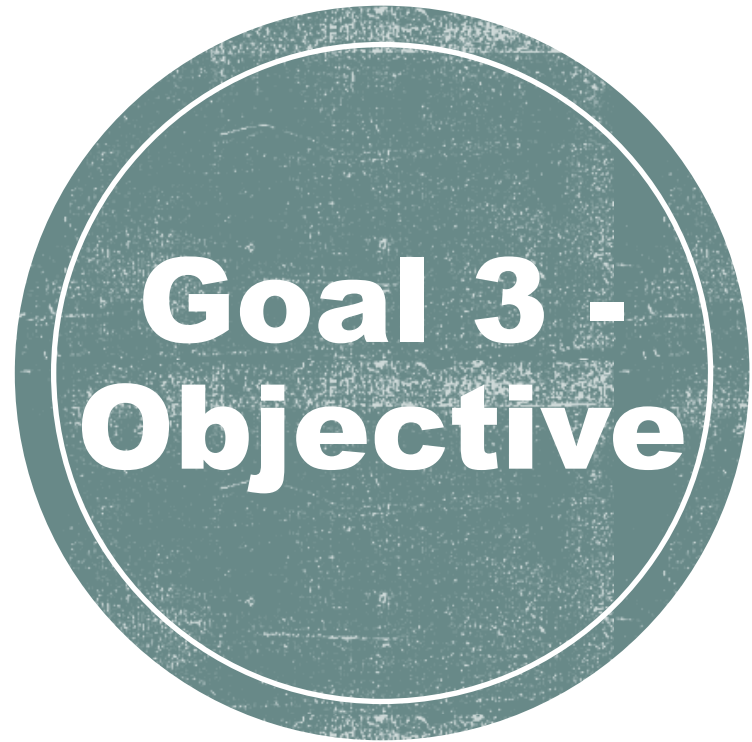
**Goal 3 –  
Objective**

**Propose  
move to  
Goal 4  
Objectives?**





# Goal 3 – NEW OBJECTIVE



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

# No Proposed Changes



- 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.

## **Goal 4 Objectives**

## **No Proposed Changes**



# Goal 5

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## Baseline Statement

**Enhance the performance of the County transportation system in environmentally sustainable ways that increase resiliency to both climate change and vulnerability.**

## Proposed Rewording

**Enhance the County transportation system in environmentally sustainable ways, identify transportation system assets that are vulnerable to climate changes, and develop plans to increase their resiliency to those threats.**





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.

## **Goal 5 Objectives**

## **No Proposed Changes**





# Goal 5 - Objective

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## Baseline Statement

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.

## Proposed Rewording

Continue coordination with appropriate agencies to identify vulnerable assets and develop protection and recovery strategies through hazard mitigation planning.





## Baseline Statement

Work with all local, regional, state, and federal organizations and agencies to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential negative impacts from planned projects.



## Proposed Rewording

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

**Goal 5 -  
Objective**



# Goal 5 - Objective

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## Baseline Statement

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.

## Proposed Rewording

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



## **Baseline Statement**

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



## **Proposed Rewording**

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

**Goal 5 -  
Objective**





# Continued Public Outreach Round #2

- **Regional Meetings (In-Person)**
  - Hawk Mountain
  - Oley Hills
  - Tulpehocken
  - Metro (2 at different locations)
  - Southern Highlands
- **Virtual using Microsoft Teams (1 morning, 1 evening)**



# Next Steps in Development Process

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1

**Review outcomes of round #2 public meetings with LRTP Steering Committee members**

2

## **Draft Sections for Review**

- **Freight / Rail Freight / Passenger Rail**
- **Aviation**
- **Non-motorized**

