



READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

c/o Berks County Planning Commission
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To: Reading Area Transportation Study Technical and Coordinating Committees

From: Michael D. Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler

Re: PM3 CMAQ Performance Plan, Reading PA Urbanized Area

Date: September 8, 2026

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Performance Plan documents the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)'s role in meeting federal CMAQ performance management requirements. These requirements were established under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), continued under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and continue to apply under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which continues the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program under 23 U.S.C. 149. MPOs serving a transportation management area with a population greater than 1 million that includes a nonattainment or maintenance area are required to prepare a CMAQ Performance Plan. This requirement applies to the Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD urbanized area. *Although the Reading MPO does not serve a transportation management area with a population greater than one million, portions of Berks County are located within the Philadelphia Urbanized Area. As a result, FHWA has determined that the Reading MPO is subject to CMAQ Performance Plan requirements.*

The Plan reviews, for both Urban Areas, updated Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) and Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (Non-SOV) Travel. These measures and draft targets look at how the overall transportation system functions in terms of traffic congestion in the Urbanized Area, and how many workers are driving alone vs. using alternative means of transportation. Additionally, On-Road Mobile Emissions Measures and Reduction Targets are reviewed for Pennsylvania statewide, the Philadelphia Urban Area, and the Reading Urban Area. As part of that review, CMAQ funded projects on the FFY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program in the Reading Area that contribute to meeting emissions reductions are included. It should be noted that, if targets are not met, there are no negative repercussions.

Staff is requesting action at the September 17th Joint Committee Meeting to approve the CMAQ Performance Plan for the Reading Urban Area and forward to PennDOT. PennDOT will be forwarding all Performance Plans to FHWA by the October 1, 2026, deadline.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

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