

Reading Area Transportation Study

Long Range Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives Survey

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS), the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Berks County, is updating its current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP helps direct transportation and land use decisions over a 20-year horizon. As part of the initial process, we are asking for your input on the goals and objectives identified in the current plan ([County of Berks - 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan \(berkspa.gov\)](https://berkspa.gov/County-of-Berks-2045-Long-Range-Transportation-Plan)). The goals and objectives provide the framework for the plan and provide insight on future issues and needs of the Berks County transportation network. Your responses will help us adapt our goals and objectives to the needs of Berks County residents and travelers.

1. What is your zip code?
2. Do you telework (work from home)?
 - a. All of the time
 - b. Some of the time
 - c. Never, I travel to my place of work
3. What transportation issues does your neighborhood currently experience? (Select all that apply)
 - a. Congested roads
 - b. Lack of connectivity (limited number of ways to get to where I want to go)
 - c. Lack of sidewalks or poorly maintained sidewalks
 - d. No bicycle lanes or paths
 - e. Lack of public transportation options
 - f. Other
4. What roadways or bridges in your area do you currently consider problematic and tell us why?
5. What is your primary way to travel?
 - a. Drive alone
 - b. Walking
 - c. Biking
 - d. Public transit
 - e. Carpooling
 - f. Aviation
 - g. Other
6. Your decision on your primary way to travel is determined by: (Select all that apply)
 - a. Reliability
 - b. Accessibility
 - c. Location

- d. Cost
 - e. Availability
 - f. Other
7. **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.** Do you agree that the Vision Statement accurately identifies what we should be trying to achieve for our transportation system over the course of this plan?
- a. Agree
 - b. Neutral
 - c. Disagree
 - i. Why do you disagree with the Vision Statement?
8. **Goal 1: Keep travelers safe and secure, no matter the mode of transportation.** Do you agree that goal 1 is a good goal for our transportation system?
- a. Agree
 - b. Neutral
 - c. Disagree
 - i. Why do you disagree with goal 1?
9. What should we do to achieve goal 1? (Select all that apply)
- a. 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 (PM1).
 - b. Work closely with municipalities, PennDOT and SCTA/BARTA to ensure the safe interaction of vehicles, transit, and bicyclists/pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.
 - c. Increase public awareness of construction zone safety hazards for workers and users.
 - d. Evaluate proposed development plans for transportation safety issues during both the county review and PennDOT's Highway Occupancy Permit processes.
 - e. Educate the public on future transportation projects and changes that may impact safety.
 - f. Other
10. **Goal 2: Maintain and improve the transportation system and services we enjoy today where financially feasible.** Do you agree that goal 2 is a good goal for our transportation system?
- a. Agree
 - b. Neutral
 - c. Disagree
 - i. Why do you disagree with goal 2?
11. What should we do to achieve goal 2? (Select all that apply)
- a. Minimize maintenance costs of roadways and bridges through proper routine maintenance planning utilizing PennDOT's Transportation Asset Management Plan (PM2).

- b. Improve the effectiveness of the existing transportation system and services.
- c. Implement a variety of methods to improve the flow of traffic during peak travel times.
- d. Use available transportation funding to maintain a state of good repair for all systems.
- e. 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.
- f. Reduce congestion, improve air quality, and increase the reliability of the transportation system (PM3).
- g. Develop a full range of public transportation options using available funding.
- h. Other

12. **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.** Do you agree that goal 3 is a good goal for our transportation system?

- a. Agree
- b. Neutral
- c. Disagree
 - i. Why do you disagree with goal 3?

13. What should we do to achieve goal 3? (Select all that apply)

- a. Provide multiple modes of convenient transportation to tourist destinations.
- b. Provide regional bicycle, pedestrian, bus, and rail routes (when feasible/available).
- c. Study implementable solutions that will speed the movement of materials, goods, and people.
- d. Ensure that major activity centers are designed to accommodate a range of transportation modes.
- e. Increase the region's global and national competitiveness by improving and enhancing regional freight infrastructure.
- f. Support the Reading Regional Airport Authority in strengthening the use of the airport for both business and commercial aviation activities.
- g. Support the efforts of the newly created Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority to reestablish passenger rail service between Reading and Philadelphia.
- h. Coordinate with agricultural community to identify and address obstructions to the movement of equipment and products.
- i. Other

14. **Goal 4: Give travelers a variety of well-designed transportation choices that are in good condition.** Do you agree that goal 4 is a good goal for our transportation system?

- a. Agree
- b. Neutral
- c. Disagree
 - i. Why do you disagree with goal 4?

15. What should we do to achieve goal 4? (Select all that apply)

- a. Support projects that expand the county trail and sidewalk network.
- b. Support projects that expand the public transportation network.

- c. When designing roadways, include bicycle and pedestrian paths and transit stops where applicable and feasible.
- d. Support Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs such as ridesharing, using public transportation, walking, biking, or working from home.
- e. Other

16. **Goal 5: Enhance the performance of the county transportation system in environmentally sustainable ways that increase resiliency to both climate change and vulnerability.** Do you agree that goal 5 is a good goal for our transportation system?

- a. Agree
- b. Neutral
- c. Disagree
 - i. Why do you disagree with goal 5?

17. What should we do to achieve goal 5? (Select all that apply)

- a. Maintain the county's air quality attainment status for both ozone and fine particulates.
- b. Work closely with federal, state, municipal and private entities to implement alternative fuels use (i.e. electric, natural gas) throughout our region.
- c. 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.
- d. Work with all local, regional, state, and federal organizations and agencies to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential negative impacts from planned projects.
- e. 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.
- f. Work with PennDOT to implement best management practices and mitigation strategies on transportation projects.
- g. Other

18. Are there other goals in addition to the first five goals that you would like to see considered for inclusion in the LRTP?

19. 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?

20. Any additional comments?

Questions 21-24 will help us to understand more about our residents' opinions based on differing demographic data. These questions are optional.

21. What is your age?

- a. Under 25
- b. 25-34

- c. 35-44
- d. 45-54
- e. 55-64
- f. 65-74
- g. 75+
- h. Prefer not to answer

22. What is your gender?

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Prefer not to answer

23. What is your race/ethnicity?

- a. White
- b. Black or African American
- c. Hispanic/Latino
- d. Asian
- e. American Indian and Alaskan Native
- f. Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- g. Two or more races
- h. Prefer not to answer

24. What is your annual household income?

- a. Less than \$30,000
- b. Between \$30,000 and \$50,000
- c. Between \$50,000 and \$100,000
- d. Between \$100,000 and \$250,000
- e. Above \$250,000
- f. Prefer not to answer

Thank you for your time and participation!