

DRAFT
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
MINUTES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND
VIRTUALLY JULY 16, 2026

ATTENDANCE

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Tom McKeon, Berks County Planning Commission, Acting Chair*
Jennifer Ruth, PennDOT 5-0, (representing Chris Kufro) (V)
Nick Raio, PennDOT Central (representing Raymond Green) (V)
Lisha Rowe, 1st Class Townships (Cumru Township)
Arthur Lambert, 2nd Class Townships (Upper Bern Township)
Commissioner Michael Rivera, County of Berks (V)
Dante Santoni, Jr., Reading Regional Airport Authority
Donna Reed, City of Reading
Brian Hoffa, Boroughs (Sinking Spring) (V)
Keith Boatman, South Central Transit Authority (representing Greg Downing) (V)

*Tie-breaking vote only
(V) Attended Virtually

OTHERS

Scott Vottero, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Michael Donchez, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Lawrence Peterson, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Nyomi Nonnemaker, PennDOT Central (V)
Alan Piper, Berks County Planning Commission, MPO Secretary
Michele Scribbick, CommutePA (V)
Devon Hain, Berks County Planning Commission (V)
Michael Golembiewski, Berks County Planning Commission
Leo Scott, Berks County Planning Commission (V)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman McKeon called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no public comment.

3. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 21, 2026 COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Acting Chairman McKeon asked if there were any questions or comments on the May 21, 2026 Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. There were no questions or comments.

MOTION: Ms. Reed made a motion to approve the May 21, 2026 Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Santoni seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. COMMUTEPA UPDATE

Ms. Scribbick 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.

Ms. Scribbick also presented that she has met with Amber Columbo, the director of Berks County Workforce Development and through her was able to make a connection with the senior director of learning and organizational development for East Penn Manufacturing. East Penn being one of the largest employers in Berks County it was important to make them aware of the program and partner with them and their employees. Ms. Scribbick also informed the committee of the various other businesses and higher education providers that she is collaborating with regarding the program and its available transportation resources for employees.

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.
 - 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 construction cost increase to match estimate.

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

MOTION: Ms. Reed made a motion to recommend approval of the three (3) amendments. Mr. Santoni seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Piper presented that staff has updated and made the final changes to the T.I.P., L.R.T.P., the Community Demographic Assessment, and Air Quality Conformity documents and sent them to PennDOT for their review. Currently they are under review by staff at PennDOT. Once PennDOT's review is complete, and staff makes any required changes, should there be any, the next step is for PennDOT to combine the T.I.P. and related documents with the T.I.P.s from other regions and submit them to the State Transportation Commission (S.T.C.) for their meeting on August 5th. After S.T.C.'s approval it will be forwarded to the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations and EPA for their approval.

7. DISCUSSION OF REP. MALONEY LETTER DATED 6/4/2026 RE SR 1020 (OYSTERDALE ROAD) REQUEST

Mr. Piper started his presentation describing the area / corridor and showing the committee a map of the area in question. He stated that Oysterdale Road is a four digit state route (SR 1030) and it runs primarily through Pike and District Townships between the villages of Pikeville and Landis Store. It is in a rural part of Berks County and a two-lane road that runs through a valley.

Mr. Piper described that the issue is the road in its current state has narrow to non-existent shoulders and there are flooding issues that turn into ice issues during winter months. Safety issues exist as people leave the road and get into wet areas. The request from Rep. Maloney and community members is to have a project to add shoulders along this road added to the T.I.P. or the L.R.T.P.

The safety considerations take into account the number of crashes, some severe, where a vehicle leaves the roadway and winds up in a drainage area or ditch and rolls over. Currently, PennDOT is working on a maintenance project to replace about ten pipes under the road and are also working in conjunction with the Berks County Conservation District to relocate a portion of Oysterville Creek that runs through the valley. This project will hopefully alleviate flooding by moving water away from the roadway and prevent water from overtopping the road during flooding situations.

Mr. Piper informed the committee that all of the work currently being done is under an existing environmental permit that PennDOT maintenance staff has. 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 meaning that any improvements would have to be funded using all state money. Also, not being a large project, it does not currently have state capital budget authorization. This means that PennDOT does not have the authority to use anything other than routine maintenance funds for any improvements. Mr. Piper added that if PennDOT proceeded with more extensive work such as major re-grading and improving the shoulders along the entire corridor it would trigger additional higher order environmental permits than what is currently needed for the work being performed now.

Based on discussions with PennDOT, the Technical Committee's recommendation is to have PennDOT continue with their current efforts to install the new drainage and stream relocation, as well as make minimum shoulder repairs where there were washouts and also to add the project to the list of unmet / unfunded needs in the L.R.T.P.

Mr. Piper stated that by no means does he want to belittle this project / proposal but when you evaluate Berks County as a whole, the mountainous topography of the area, drainage, and streams, this is not an isolated incident. There are many places

both on state and local roads that this condition is likely to occur and it is certainly something we want to keep an eye on. Based on the resources we receive it is extremely difficult to make every one of these types of projects a major project on the T.I.P.

MOTION: Mr. Santoni made a motion for PennDOT to continue the maintenance project, evaluate the need for more maintenance afterward, if warranted; adding the project to the unmet/unfunded list of the L.R.T.P.; and for PennDOT to investigate getting state capital budget authorization for the project. Ms. Rowe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. REPORT / DISCUSSION ON PA LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO MANDATE M.P.O. BOARD STRUCTURE PA HB 532

Mr. Piper presented that HB 532 was first introduced back in February of 2025. The proposal is still in the State House of Representatives Transportation Committee. Several weeks ago, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania circulated a list of pending legislation in the state that was still under review. There were some members of MPOs that saw the legislation but not much credence was given to it at the time because it was not out of committee yet and it was from over a year and a half ago.

Last Wednesday (7-8-26) Mr. Piper stated that he was on a call with some of the adjacent M.P.O.s who informed him that the house committee had given notice that they wanted comment on this legislation by close of business on Monday July 13, 2026. At that time, Mr. Piper informed the cohorts on the call that he will not write comments to the legislative committee without first presenting the issue to both the Technical and Coordinating Committees for their discussion and input.

The legislation as written relates specifically to membership on the metropolitan planning organizations (M.P.O.s) Technical and Coordinating committees. Specifically, it recognizes that M.P.O.s are federally created organizations and that in the State of Pennsylvania there are things called rural planning organizations (R.P.O.s) and M.P.O.s. The legislation would mandate that elected officials, or individuals appointed by elected officials shall constitute the majority of membership on an M.P.O. or R.P.O. This legislation would impact both Coordinating Committee membership as well as Technical Committee membership. Within one year of the effective date of this legislation all M.P.O.s / R.P.O.s would have to update their bylaws to address the new legislation.

Mr. Piper informed the committee that there are a couple issues that agencies have with this proposed legislation. One of which is when the legislation refers to an "elected official" they are referring to a mayor or member of the governing body of a city, borough, incorporated town, or township. But not counties. In terms of our local M.P.O. it would be easier to adopt this legislation but other M.P.O.s, ones that cover

multiple counties and jurisdictions will have problems filling seats with the amount of elected officials needed to conduct business under this proposed new legislation. The other issue lies with the fact that technical committees are made up of individuals who have knowledge or background in transportation planning and programming. It would be extremely hard to find elected officials that have that type of background to serve on technical committees. There would be no guarantee that elected officials have the technical competence necessary to make technical recommendations.

Mr. Piper provided some background of where this proposed legislation came from. One of the other things that is concerning about this proposed legislation is that even though this proposal has been out there none of the M.P.O.s or R.P.O.s Mr. Piper has been in contact with had advanced knowledge or were approached about it prior to the proposal. Some of the M.P.O.s and R.P.O.s have drafted letters to the PA House of Representative detailing their concerns.

Mr. Piper stated that his initial reaction to this is to inform the committees that this proposed legislation is out there but he is still not sure of the particular timeframe if and when this legislation would be enacted.

Mr. Santoni made comment that he would be happy to contact some people to find out more about this proposal and get some background on how, why and when it originated.

9. L.T.A.P. PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Piper stated that the first half of the year was completed and Mr. McGough is looking to schedule a few more classes for the remainder of the year. Mr. Piper stated that Mr. McGough was waiting for coordination with the Local Technical Assistance Program (L.T.A.P.) since it is the beginning of the new State fiscal year. Once more classes are scheduled Mr. McGough will update the board.

10. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Other Business:

- Ms. Reed brought up her continued concerns about the issues the City is having with Hampden Boulevard and other surrounding roads regarding safety because of speeding and increased crashes. The City's engineer is currently working with PennDOT on some projects to implement in order to alleviate some of the issues happening on Hampden Boulevard. Ms. Reed said she wanted to address this again to reiterate that there are many needs across the city regarding safety on the roadways. It's imperative to keep working with PennDOT to alleviate these issues.

- Mr. Piper updated the committee on forthcoming items for the next meeting. One of them being the South Central Transit Authority's Transit Asset Management Plan (T.A.M.) and their performance measures and targets. We will also have the R.A.T.S. M.P.O. PM-3 performance targets and measures related to congestion and non-single occupancy vehicles (non-S.O.V.) as well as PM-3 items related to the Lehigh Valley and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission MPOs that overlap into Berks County..
- 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. Raio provided an update on state transportation funding. He informed the committee that he, along with other transportation representatives from PennDOT, were on a call from the state Secretary of Transportation, Mike Carroll, regarding funding that was just included in the approved state budget. Mr. Raio stated that, according to the call, this new state highway funding is mostly for pavement maintenance and preservation and some bridges. He has yet to confirm but based on the call it looks to be about \$250M will be distributed across the state in the first six months of next year (2026-2027 S.F.Y.) and about \$275M for the July to December period next year. Mr. Piper thanked Mr. Raio for the update and said once more information becomes available the committee will be updated accordingly.

b. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Santoni made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rowe seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 1:59 PM.

Date: _____

Alan D. Piper
(MPO Secretary)