

DRAFT
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
MINUTES OF THE JOINT TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY
MARCH 19, 2026

ATTENDANCE

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Chris Kufro, PennDOT District Executive, Chair*
Raymond Green, PennDOT Central (V)
Donna Reed, City of Reading
Tom McKeon, Berks County Planning Commission
Keith Boatman, South Central Transit Authority (V)
Dante Santoni, Jr, Reading Regional Airport Authority (V)
Lisha Rowe, 1st Class Townships (Cumru Township)
Commissioner Michael Rivera, County of Berks (V)
Arthur Lambert, 2nd Class Townships (Upper Bern Township)
Brian Hoffa, Boroughs (Sinking Spring) (V)

*Tie-breaking vote only
(V) Attended Virtually

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Scott Vottero, PennDOT 5-0, Chair* (V)
Nyomi Nonnemaker, PennDOT Central, Vice Chair (V)
Donald Edwards, City of Reading (V)
Alan Piper, Berks County Planning Commission, MPO Secretary
Michael Golembiewski, Berks County Planning Commission
Keith Boatman, South Central Transit Authority (V)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING

Zachary Tempesco, Reading Regional Airport Authority
Kyle Zeiber, City of Reading

*Tie-breaking vote only
(V) Attended Virtually

OTHERS

Michael Donchez, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Lawrence Petterson, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Jennifer Ruth, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Nick Raio, PennDOT Central (V)
Lynne Burns (V)
Matthew Boyer, CommutePA
Ashley Showers, Berks County Planning Commission (V)
Leo Scott, Berks County Planning Commission (V)
Amanda Timochenko, Berks County Planning Commission
Devon Hain, Berks County Planning Commission

Matthew McGough, Berks County Planning Commission (V)

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Piper stated that a couple of weeks ago he was contacted by Don Edwards, the new City Engineer for Reading, regarding placing the Museum Road bridge on the state's capital bridge bill. Mr. Piper explained that the state's capital bridge bill is a legislative function that identifies either state or municipal bridges in need of repair. By inclusion on the bill it makes the bridge eligible for state funding if and when state funding is authorized. Being included on the bill does not constitute any grant of funds, it just authorizes the expenditure of funds on bridges that are included on the list.

Mr. Piper explained that the MPO does not take formal actions on making recommendations to the state's bridge bill but the MPO is certainly willing to work with the City to help them fill in the forms that go to the legislature and then work with them to find potential funding sources. The legislature's deadline for submitting these is March 31, 2026. Mr. Piper stated that staff will work with the City on this issue.

There was no public comment.

3. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 8, 2026 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Kufro asked if there were any questions or comments on the January 8, 2026 Technical Committee meeting minutes. There were no questions or comments.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to recommend approval of the January 8, 2026 Technical Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Boatman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 15, 2026 COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Kufro asked if there were any questions or comments on the January 15, 2026 Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. There were no questions or comments.

MOTION (Coordinating): Ms. Reed made a motion to recommend approval of the January 15, 2026 Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Mr. McKeon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. COMMUTEPA UPDATE

Mr. Boyer presented CommutePA's February 2026 Monthly Activity Report to the Committee. Mr. Boyer explained that CommutePA has continued to meet with employers, including Albright and Alvernia colleges, Brentwood Industries, and Dieffenbach's Kettle Chips, just to name a few. During the month of February, 127 new members were signed up for the program. Over 7,200 trips were tracked, saving over \$99,714 for commuters and taking over 137,537 miles off the road because people are carpooling or using other forms of transportation as an alternative to driving alone to work.

6. UPDATE ON 2026 PENNDOT MUNICIPAL RESOURCES OUTREACH SESSIONS – DISTRICT 5-0 ON 3/26/26

Mr. Piper informed the committees, and anyone in attendance who is interested, about the upcoming 2026 PennDOT Municipal Outreach Session being held on March 26th from 1PM to 3PM. Attendance can be either in-person at PennDOT District 5-0 offices in Allentown, PA or virtually. Mr. Piper noted that this is an opportunity for municipalities to learn about free transportation planning resources that are available and to get updates on PennDOT activities and data resources. It also provides a great opportunity to network with staffs from PennDOT, MPOs and peer municipalities. The program is held annually.

7. PENNDOT REQUESTED AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS TO FFY 2025-2028 TIP

Mr. Donchez gave an update on PennDOT's requested Amendments/Modifications to the FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from November 6, 2025 to February 25, 2026.

- There were four (4) Administrative Actions – the adjustments address such things as advancing right-of-way phase from FFY 2027 to FFY 2026 due to obtaining categorical exclusion clearance and to account for recent 971 claim damage estimates, balancing to maintain fiscal constraint, aligning funds with need, advancing final design phases from FFY 2027 to FFY 2026 due to obtaining categorical exclusion clearance and negotiated agreement amount, and increases for preliminary engineering supplements.
- There was one (1) Amendment - Bellevue Avenue bridge over Reading and Blue Mountain Northern Railroad for construction cost estimate increase of \$5.8M – this is due to design changes made to the original proposal including changes to the proposed structure, the addition of a retaining wall, and design changes as a result of right-of-way impacts.
- There were no Statewide Administration Actions.
- There were no Interstate Management Administration Actions.

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

Mr. Donchez informed the committees that a vote will be needed to approve the one amendment as listed above.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of the Bellevue Avenue Bridge over Reading Blue Mountain Northern Railroad project amendment. Ms. Nonnemaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION (Coordinating): Ms. Reed made a motion to approve the Bellevue Avenue Bridge over Reading Blue Mountain Northern Railroad project amendment. Mr. Green seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. MPO PRESENTATION ON LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN, TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Mr. Piper began his presentation by informing the committees about the draft Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and associated documents (draft LRTP/TIP Appendix, draft TIP Amendment MOU, draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis report, and the draft Community Demographic Analysis) that staff has been undertaking for the last 18 months. The ultimate goal of the presentation is to inform the committees of the development process, review the draft plans and associated documents, and approve all materials for release for the required 30-day public review and comment period. Mr. Piper stated that to streamline the meeting the presentation will include information pertaining to items 9 through 14 on the agenda. At the culmination of the presentation staff will ask the committees for a vote to approve release of items 9 through 14 for the public review and comment period.

Ms. Timochenko presented a slide deck on the Draft FFY 2027-2050 LRTP. Ms. Timochenko explained that, subject to MPO approval, the formal comment period for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and related documents will begin with an advertisement in the Sunday, March 22nd Reading Eagle and will extend through April 24th. Four public meetings will be held during that period and all information will be available on the MPO's web pages.

Ms. Timochenko explained that the Long-Range Transportation Plan is a 20+ year strategic plan that guides how the region's transportation system will grow and evolve. The LRTP establishes a vision, goals, and objectives for the transportation system (safety, mobility, equity, economic development), incorporates current and projected population, land use, and economic forecasts, identifies major priorities and projects (highways, transit, non-motorized, and freight) to address those priorities. The LRTP must be financially constrained (projects must be realistically fundable) within anticipated resources.

New to the development process for this LRTP update was the creation of a Steering Committee which assisted staff in developing the plan and the creation of an online portal for

the plan development process. Fourteen public outreach meetings were conducted early in the development process to gather public input on the vision, goals, and objectives as well as provide an opportunity for input on the current and future transportation system issues and needs. An overview of the contents of each chapter of the plan was then given.

The plan anticipates that over \$2.3 billion will be available over the LRTP's 23-year life. The plan is divided into three periods – Short Range (4-years), Mid-Range (the following 8 years) and Long Range (the following 12 years). Specific projects and programs that address required performance measures are identified in the Short and Mid-Range periods. The majority of the Long Range period provides line items for potential use in projects or programs identified as priorities in future updates.

An explanation of the correlation between the LRTP and the TIP was given. Specifically, the LRTP sets the vision and priorities for the county's transportation network, and the TIP puts those priorities into action.

Mr. Piper then provided an overview of the Transportation Improvement Program. The TIP is the capital plan for transportation projects. Specifically, the Transportation Improvement Program is a short-term (typically 4-year) implementation document that programs specific transportation projects for funding and construction. The TIP is updated every two years. So, for every four years LRTP, the TIP is updated twice. He added that just because a project is listed in the TIP doesn't guarantee that project is going to be completed.

Mr. Piper provided an overview of the transportation projects identified in the TIP. There are 102 projects / programs planned for the FFY 2027-2030 TIP – 89 related to highway and bridges and 13 related to transit. The total budget for these projects is over \$464 million. Major projects include: extending improvements to US 222 North in Maiden creek and Richmond Townships; improvements to two areas on PA 12 in Alsace Township; completion of improvements to PA 61 in northern Berks County; a series of improvements to State Hill Road in the Borough of Wyomissing; and the beginning of the West Shore Bypass Reconstruction (Phase 1) in West Reading, Reading, and Cumru Township.

After discussing the various projects Mr. Piper went through remaining items that will be available for public review and comment. These including: the Draft LRTP / TIP Appendix, the Draft FFY TIP Amendment MOU (documents how the TIP may be amended); the Draft FFY 2027 Air Quality Conformity Analysis (documents LRTP and TIP consistency with required Air Quality standards) and the Draft FFY 2027 Community Demographics Assessment (documents impacts of plan implementation on various community populations throughout Berks County).

During the presentation Commissioner Dante Santoni, Jr. (Reading Regional Airport Authority representative to the Coordinating Committee) informed Mr. Piper that he would be leaving the meeting because of a scheduling conflict and will not be able to return.

At the culmination of the presentation Mr. Piper asked the committees for their recommendation and approval to release all of the above (Agenda Items 9-14) for the

required 30-day public review and comment period. He suggested that a single action be taken regarding Items 9 through 14 and the committee concurred.

9. REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION OF DRAFT FFY 2027-2050 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) FOR RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD
10. REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION OF DRAFT FFY 2027- 2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT
11. REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION OF DRAFT FFY 2027-2050 LRTP/FFY 2027-2030 TIP APPENDIX FOR RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD
12. REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION OF DRAFT TIP AMENDMENT MOU FOR RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD
13. REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION OF DRAFT AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS REPORT FOR FFY 2027-2030 TIP AND FFY 2027-2050 LRTP FOR RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD
14. REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION OF DRAFT FFY 2027-2030 COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS FOR RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend approval by the Coordinating Committee of agenda items 9 through 14 to release the Draft FFY 2027-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Draft FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Draft FFY 2027-2050 LRTP / FFY 2027-2030 TIP Appendix, Draft TIP Amendment MOU, Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report for FFY 2027-2030 TIP and FFY 2027-2050 LRTP, and the Draft FFY 2027-2030 Community Demographic Analysis for the public review and comment period. Mr. Golembiewski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION (Coordinating): Ms. Rowe made a motion to approve agenda items 9 through 14 for the release of the Draft FFY 2027-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Draft FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Draft FFY 2027-2050 LRTP / FFY 2027-2030 TIP Appendix, Draft TIP Amendment MOU, Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis Report for FFY 2027-2030 TIP and FFY 2027-2050 LRTP, and the Draft FFY 2027-2030 Community Demographic Analysis for the public review and comment period. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

15. PENNDOT UPDATES ON BRIDGE AND TASA/MTF PROJECTS

Mr. Piper informed the committees that this information is included in the packets for their review. If there are any questions related to these projects, staff would be happy to answer any of them.

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. The following courses have been scheduled:

- **Managing Utility Cuts** – Thursday, April 9, 2026 8:00AM-12:00PM at the Berks County South Campus Multi-Purpose Room, 400 East Wyomissing Ave, Mohnton, PA 19540
- **Asphalt Road Maintenance** – Wednesday, May 6, 2026 8:00AM-12:00PM at the Berks County South Campus Multi-Purpose Room, 400 East Wyomissing Ave, Mohnton, PA 19540
- **Pipe Culvert Installation and Replacement** – Wednesday June 10, 2026 8:00AM-12:00PM at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Rd, Leesport, PA 19533

Mr. McGough stated that it is the intent of staff to schedule four more courses for the remainder of the year.

15. OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Piper informed the committees about the recently received press release detailing the Governor's investment of \$9 Million in Federal National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funds to power electric vehicle (EV) chargers along select travel corridors in Pennsylvania. The press release announced awarded funding for 12 new projects to construct EV charging stations along

some major roadways in the Commonwealth. Included in this list of awarded projects was funding in the amount of \$825,958 to the Sheetz along US 222 North in Richmond Township for EV charger installation.

- Ms. Hain continued the presentation by describing the project and the future of the NEVI program. Ms. Hain also presented statistics regarding EV vehicle registrations in Berks County and how EV registrations are increasing over the years.
- Mr. Piper had one other item under Other Business related to the cancellation of the next RATS Technical Committee meeting scheduled for April 2, 2026. Mr. Piper stated that because the LRTP, TIP and related documents were approved to go out for the 30-day public review and comment period that there is no need to hold the April 2, 2026 RATS Technical Committee meeting. Therefore, Mr. Piper asked for a motion to cancel the April 2, 2026 RATS Technical Committee meeting.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to cancel the April 2, 2026 RATS Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Piper seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There was no public comment.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Coordinating): Ms. Rowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:31 PM.

Date: _____

Alan D. Piper