

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TITLE VI PROGRAM
ADOPTED MARCH 9, 2023
with
Administrative Updates (February, 2024)**

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of publication. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The Berks County/RATS website provides language translation software, offering translation between English, Spanish, and multiple other languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by RATS under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with RATS's Title VI Compliance Officer and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on RATS' Title VI program, or to obtain copies of RATS' Title VI Policies, Complaint Procedures, or Complaint Form, please contact the Title VI Compliance Officer at (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), RATS will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities based on disability in its services, programs, or activities. RATS' public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven (7) days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven (7) days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of RATS, or has complaints that a program, service, or activity of RATS is not accessible to persons with disabilities please contact the ADA Point of Contact at (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>

Documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610-478-6300.

Estos informes y/o documentos estarán disponibles en diversos lenguajes y formatos si es necesario. Personas que necesiten acomodo razonable o con preguntas pueden comunicarse l 610-478-6300.

English

ATTENTION: If you speak another language, language assistance is available to you FREE OF CHARGE. Call 610.478.6300

Español

Atención: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 610.478.6300

中文

注意：如果您講廣東話或普通話，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 610.478.6300

Tiếng Việt

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 610.478.6300

한국어

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 610.478.6300

Français

ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 610.478.6300

العربية

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم المبرقة الكاتبة: 610.478.6300

עברית

שים לב: אם אתה מדבר עברית, סיוע בשפה, ללא תשלום, זמינים עבורך. התקשר 610.478.6300

Hmoob

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 610.478.6300

Русский

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 610.478.6300

Tagalog

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong se wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 610.478.6300

ไทย

ความสนใจ: หากคุณพูดภาษาไทยคุณสามารถขอความช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาฟรีได้ โทร 610.478.6300

ភាសាខ្មែរ

ចំណាំ: ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកនិយាយជាភាសាខ្មែរ លោកអ្នកជំនួយផ្នែកភាសាមានផ្តល់ជូនសម្រាប់លោកអ្នកដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ។ សូមទំនាក់ទំនងតាមរយៈលេខ៖ 610.478.6300. ។

Deutsche

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हिंदी

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिन्दी बोलते हैं तो आपके लिए मुफ्त में भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। 610.478.6300 पर कॉल करें

日本人

注：日本語を話す人は、無料で言語サポートを利用することができます。電話番号 610.478.6300

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ATTENZIONE: se parli italiano, l'assistenza linguistica, a titolo gratuito, è a tua disposizione. Chiama il numero 610.478.6300

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POR FAVOR, OBSERVE: se você fala português, assistência linguística, grátis, está à sua disposição. Ligue para 610.478.6300

Nederlands

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Ελληνικά

ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ: αν μιλάτε ελληνικά, η υποστήριξη γλώσσας είναι διαθέσιμη δωρεάν. Καλέστε 610.478.6300

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Hrvatski

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Українська

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فارسی

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ગુજરાતી

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો 610.478.6300

বাঙালি

নোট: আপনি যদি বাংলা বলতে পারেন তবে আপনি বিনামূল্যে সহায়তা পেতে পারেন। কল করুন 610.478.6300

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

ਨੋਟ: ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਮੁਫਤ ਮਦਦ ਲੈ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ. ਕਾਲ 610.478.6300

नेपाली

नोट: यदि तपाईं नेपाली बोल्नुहुन्छ भने, तपाईं नि:शुल्क मद्दत प्राप्त गर्न सक्नुहुनेछ। फोन 610.478.6300

Română

Atenție: Dacă vorbești limba română, poți obține ajutor gratuit. Telefon 610.478.6300

Albanian

Kujdes: Nëse ju flisni gjuhën shqipe, mund të merrni ndihmë falas. Telefoni 610.478.6300

Laotian

ຂໍ້ຄວາມສໍາຄັນ: ຖ້າທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາລາວ, ທ່ານຈະໄດ້ຮັບການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຢູ່ພຣີ. ໂທ 610.478.6300

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తెలుగు

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മലയാളം

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தமிழ்

கவனம்: நீங்கள் தமிழ் பேசினால், இலவச உதவி பெறலாம். அழைப்புக்கு 610.478.6300

မြန်မာ

အာရုံစိုက်မှု: သင်မြန်မာစကားပြောဆိုလျှင်, သင်အခမဲ့အကူအညီလက်ခံရယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ 610.478.6300

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Perhatian: Jika Anda berbicara bahasa Indonesia, Anda dapat menerima bantuan gratis.
Hubungi 610.478.6300

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ማስጠንቀቂያ: በአማርኛ የሚናገሩ ስዞች, ነጻ እርዳታ ማግኘት ይችላሉ. በ 610.478.6300 ላይ ማድመል

Yorùbá

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Igbo

Ntị: O buru na i na-asu Igbo, inwere ike inweta enyemaka n'efu. Kpoo 610.478.6300

ગાઠ

પેઠણ: ઠાંઠાં થાં ગઠોવાસા ગાઠ, ગાઠપં વીં ગાઠઘંઘઠેઠોઠાંવાસા, ઠેઠપં' સેઠેઠાં, ઠેઠં ઠાં ઠેઠાં ઠેઠાં ઠેઠાં. ઠેઠ 610.478.6300

日本語

注意事項：日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。610.478.6300. まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

ગુજરાતી

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો 610.478.6300

READING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TITLE VI NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization (Reading MPO) hereby gives notice that it is the policy of the Reading MPO to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, E.O. 12898, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity administered by the Reading MPO.

Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by a discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Reading MPO. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the Reading MPO's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. A Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form can be obtained from the Reading MPO by:

- Dialing 610-478-6300
- [Online by clicking here](#)
- In Person at the Berks County Planning Commission
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR, READING PA 19601
- Language assistance is available by calling 610-478-6300

Overall responsibility for this policy is assigned:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY C/O
BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MICHAEL D GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR
READING PA 19601
PHONE: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
EMAIL: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

The person named above is appointed as the Title VI Compliance Officer and is responsible for the implementation the MPO's Title VI Program. Individuals with questions or requiring additional information relating to this policy or the implementation of the MPO's Title VI Program should contact the Title VI Compliance Officer.

ORGANIZACIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN METROPOLITANA DE READING AVISO AL PÚBLICO DEL TÍTULO VI

La Organización de Planificación Metropolitana de Reading (Reading MPO) notifica por la presente que es política de Reading MPO asegurar el pleno cumplimiento del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Restauración de Derechos Civiles de 1987, E.O. 12898, y estatutos y reglamentos relacionados en todos los programas y actividades. El Título VI requiere que ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos sea excluida de la participación, se le nieguen los beneficios o sea objeto de discriminación por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional en ningún programa o actividad administrada por la Reading MPO.

Cualquier persona que crea que ha sido agraviada por una práctica discriminatoria en virtud del Título VI tiene derecho a presentar una queja formal ante la Reading MPO. Cualquier queja de este tipo debe presentarse por escrito ante el Coordinador del Título VI de la Reading MPO dentro de los ciento ochenta (180) días posteriores a la fecha del supuesto hecho discriminatorio. Puede obtener un Formulario de queja por discriminación del Título VI en Reading MPO:

- Llamando al 610-478-6300
- [En línea, haciendo clic aquí](#)
- Personalmente, en la Comisión de planificación del condado de Berks, 633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR, READING PA 19601
- Hay asistencia lingüística disponible llamando al 610-478-6300

La responsabilidad general de llevar adelante a esta política está asignada a:

ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE EN EL ÁREA DE READING
A TRAVÉS DE LA COMISIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN DEL CONDADO DE BERKS
MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR
READING PA 19601
TELÉFONO: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

La persona mencionada anteriormente es nombrada Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI y es responsable de la implementación del Programa del Título VI de la MPO. Las personas que tengan preguntas o requieran información adicional relacionada con esta política o la implementación del Programa del Título VI de la MPO deben comunicarse con el Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI.

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I. INTRODUCTION TO RATS

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for all of Berks County and is responsible for regional transportation planning activities. Established on April 9, 1964, RATS carries out a transportation planning process in accordance with federal Metropolitan Planning Regulations for Berks County in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Under the By-Laws governing the MPO, RATS is comprised of two committees: The Technical Committee and the Coordinating Committee. The Technical Committee reviews items brought before the group and makes recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee is the policy body that formally adopts items reviewed by the Technical Committee. The eight member RATS Technical Committee consists of representatives from PENNDOT Central Office in Harrisburg (1), PENNDOT District 5-0 Office in Allentown (1), the City of Reading (2), the Berks County Planning Commission (2), the South Central Transportation Authority (SCTA) (1), and the Reading Regional Airport Authority (RRAA) (1). The ten-member RATS Coordinating Committee consists of one representative each from the PENNDOT Central Office, PENNDOT District 5-0, Berks County Board of Commissioners, Berks County Planning Commission, City of Reading, Boroughs, 1st Class Townships, 2nd Class Townships, SCTA and the RRAA. RATS is responsible for prioritizing approximately \$80 million annually to advance transportation improvement projects throughout the county. PennDOT, SCTA and municipalities are responsible for project implementation. The transportation planning staff of the Berks County Planning Commission serves as the technical staff to RATS. The staff coordinates and administers these committees, their meetings and leads development of the package of federally required MPO products including: the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), associated transportation air-quality conformity determinations, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and the Congestion Management Process (CMP).

II. OVERVIEW OF TITLE VI REQUIREMENTS

As a recipient of federal funding for transportation-related projects and programs, RATS is subject to a variety of federal laws, statutes, and presidential Executive Orders. Specific to this document is Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act provides that,

“No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation is responsible for ensuring that federally supported transit services and related benefits are distributed by applicants, recipients, and sub-recipients of FTA assistance in a manner consistent with Title VI.

Its requirements are defined in FTA Circular 4702.1B, dated October 1, 2012. As stated in this Circular, the objectives of the FTA Title VI program are as follows:

- Ensure that the level and quality of public transportation service is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner.
- Promote full and fair participation in public transportation decision-making without regard to race, color, or national origin.
- Ensure meaningful access to transit-related programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency.
- Ensure that decisions on the location of transit services and facilities are made without regard to race, color, or national origin.

RATS is a designated sub-recipient of the FTA funds allocated to the Berks urbanized area from PennDOT. As a sub-recipient of federal funds, RATS certifies that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. As required by FTA Circular C4702.1B, dated October 1, 2012, RATS shall maintain and submit to PennDOT and the FTA the following general requirements as part of its Title VI Program:

- A. Title VI Notice to the Public, including a list of locations where the notice is posted.
- B. Title VI Complaint Procedures.
- C. Title VI Complaint Form.
- D. List of transit-related Title VI investigations, complaints, and lawsuits.
- E. Public Participation Plan.
- F. Language Assistance Plan for providing language assistance to persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).
- G. A table depicting the membership of non-elected committees and councils, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, broken down by race, and a description of the process the agency uses to encourage participation of minorities on such committees.
- H. Primary recipients shall include a description of how the agency monitors its subrecipients for compliance with Title VI, and a schedule of subrecipient Title VI Program submissions
- I. A copy of the board meeting minutes or resolution showing the board of directors reviewed and approved the Title VI Program.
- J. A Demographic Profile of the metropolitan area.
- K. A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations are identified and considered within the planning process.
- L. Demographic maps that show the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds in the aggregate for public transportation projects.

M. Analysis of the MPO's transportation system investments that identifies and addresses any disparate impacts.

The following pages include the requirements listed above.

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III. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

a. Title VI Notice to the Public

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopted the Title VI Notice to the Public on July 16, 2021. The Notice is available in hardcopy, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and is posted at the entranceway to the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the Notice to the Public (English and Spanish) is also available on the [RATS website](#).

Appendix A contains copies of the adopted TITLE VI Notice to the Public (English and Spanish versions).

b. Title VI Complaint Procedures

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO has an adopted *Title VI Complaint Procedures*. The *Complaint Procedures* are available in hardcopy, in English and Spanish, and are posted at the entranceway to the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the *Complaint Procedures* (English and Spanish) are also available on the [RATS website](#).

Appendix B contains copies of the adopted *Title VI Complaint Procedures*.

c. Title VI Complaint Form

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO has an adopted *Title VI Complaint Form*. The *Complaint Form* is available in hardcopy from any staff member in the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the *Complaint Form* is also available on the [RATS website](#).

Appendix C contains copies of the adopted *TITLE VI Complaint Form*.

d. Title VI Complaint Log

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO *Title VI Complaint Log* is available to all staff members in the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Staff are instructed to file any complaints received with the designated Title VI Officer.

Appendix D contains a copy of the *Title VI Complaint Log*.

e. Public Participation Plan

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO has an adopted *Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update*. The *PPP* is available in hardcopy, in English and Spanish, at the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the *Public Participation Plan* is also available at the [Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency section](#) on the [RATS website](#).

Appendix E contains copies of the adopted *Public Participation Plan*.

f. Language Assistance (Limited English Proficiency) Plan

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO has an adopted *Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan*. The *LEP* is available in hardcopy, in English and Spanish, at the Berks County Planning Commission offices. Additionally, the *Limited English Proficiency Plan* is also available at the [Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency section](#) on the [RATS website](#).

Appendix F contains copies of the adopted *Limited English Proficiency Plan*.

g. Committee Membership and Supporting Materials

Under the By-Laws governing the MPO, the Reading Area Transportation Study is comprised of two committees: The Technical Committee and the Coordinating Committee. The Technical Committee reviews items brought before the group and makes recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee is the policy body that formally adopts items reviewed by the Technical Committee. The eight member RATS Technical Committee consists of representatives from PENNDOT Central Office in Harrisburg (1), PENNDOT District 5-0 Office in Allentown (1), the City of Reading (2), the Berks County Planning Commission (2), the South Central Transportation Authority (SCTA) (1), and the Reading Regional Airport Authority (RRAA) (1). The ten-member RATS Coordinating Committee consists of one representative each from the PENNDOT Central Office, PENNDOT District 5-0, Berks County Board of Commissioners, Berks County Planning Commission, City of Reading, Boroughs, 1st Class Townships, 2nd Class Townships, SCTA and the RRAA.

The MPO does not self-appoint its membership. Members of the Technical Committee are appointed by their respective representative bodies. Members of the Coordinating Committee are also appointed by their respective representative bodies with the exceptions of those from Boroughs, 1st Class Townships and 2nd Class Townships. Candidates for these municipal representatives are solicited from their respective classification by the Berks County Board of Commissioners and appointed by the Berks County Board of Commissioners from the results of that solicitation.

There was recently one outside Advisory Committee informally convened for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Plan. Those 24 persons (not including staff) represented 13 male/11 female; 23 Caucasian/1 African American; 2 Latinos; 3 Disability Advocates; 3 Low Income Advocates; 1 College/University Advocate; 1 Community Health Advocate. In the past, advocates from the disabled and elderly communities have also served on the Human Services Transportation Coordination Committee.

Appendix G contains copies of:

- Reading MPO Board Membership (Committee Representation)
- Reading MPO Board Membership (Race/Gender Breakdown)
- Sample Letter soliciting Board Membership

h. Agency Monitoring of Subrecipients

The Reading Area Transportation Study MPO is both a direct recipient and a subrecipient of U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) funding. A portion of our Planning Funds are ‘passed-through’ to the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) for use with the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA), thus placing the RATS MPO in a primary recipient role. However, SCTA is also a direct recipient of FTA funding. According to FTA’s Title VI circular (4702.1B), Chapter III 12.b (page III-11),

“When a subrecipient is also a direct recipient of FTA funds, that is, applies for funds directly from FTA in addition to receiving funds from a primary recipient, the subrecipient/direct recipient reports directly to FTA and the primary recipient/designated recipient is not responsible for monitoring compliance of that subrecipient. The supplemental agreement signed by both entities in their roles as designated recipient and direct recipient relieves the primary recipient/designated recipient of this oversight responsibility.”

Accordingly, since SCTA is also a direct recipient of FTA funds, the Reading MPO is not responsible for monitoring SCTA’s compliance with Title VI.

i. Board Adoption of MPO Title VI Program

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopted the Title VI Program by voice vote on **July 9, 2021**.

Appendix I contains a copy of the approved meeting minutes that details the Board's adoption of the Title VI Program

j. Demographic Profile of the Metropolitan Area

With every adopted [Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#), The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopts an *Environmental Justice Summary*. A Demographics Background and Analysis specific to the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is included on pages 2-8.

Appendix J contains a copy of the adopted [Environmental Justice Summary](#).

k. Meeting the Public's Mobility Needs

The public's transportation needs vary depending on their age, economic status, educational attainment, physical and/or mental challenges, and employment opportunities. Many transportation challenges exist, including (but not limited to):

- Geographical mismatch between the locations of candidate workers and entry-level jobs.
- Access to employment centers, community activities, family and friends, medical facilities and shopping that may be located outside of residential areas.
- Commute by transit to any destination could be time-prohibited.
- Pedestrians may be exposed to inclement weather, automobile emissions from high volume traffic, and barriers such as freeways, buildings, and high-speed roads with multiple lanes
- Bus stops along roads without sidewalks and/or the absence of curb cuts on paths leading to bus stops all pose barriers to riders with mobility limitations
- There could be a lack of alternative modes of transportation.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian transportation planning has shown a need for improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Throughout all the processes conducted by the Reading MPO, an attempt is made to ensure that

equal access is provided in planning programs and projects. This would include (but not be limited to) meeting access and public notifications, the PennDOT Connects process, Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Planning, Congestion Management Processes, coordination with transit providers, the Transportation Improvement Program, Long Range Transportation Plan, and Environmental Justice analyses. Additionally, MPO staff – in their capacity as staff of the Berks County Planning Commission – regularly offer comments regarding equal access in subdivision/land development plan reviews, local grant application reviews, local and county comprehensive plan reviews, zoning ordinance reviews, and throughout other regionwide planning efforts.

I. Demographic Maps showing Distribution of State and Federal Funds for Public Transportation Projects

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopted the current [FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary](#) on July 14, 2022. Maps showing the distribution of BARTA fixed-route service and Concentrations of Minority and Low-Income Populations in Berks County are shown on Pages 23 and 24 (respectively) of the *FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary*.

Appendix J. contains a copy of the adopted *FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary*.

Appendix L. contains:

1. A copy of MAP 2, Berks County Transportation Improvement Plan, Metro Region showing the distribution of TIP-funded Transit projects from the adopted FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and
2. Section 3 of the adopted FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with all transit projects identified.

m. Analysis of the MPO's Transportation System Investments that Identifies and Addresses any Disparate Impacts.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) MPO adopted the current [FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary](#) on July 14, 2022. A discussion of the MPO's Investments in the Transportation and that investment's impacts throughout Berks County is shown on Page 26 of the *FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary*.

Appendix J. contains a copy of the adopted *FFY 2023 Environmental Justice Summary*.

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APPENDIX A

Title VI Notice to the Public

READING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TITLE VI NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Reading Metropolitan Planning Organization (Reading MPO) hereby gives notice that it is the policy of the Reading MPO to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, E.O. 12898, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity administered by the Reading MPO.

Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by a discriminatory practice under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint with the Reading MPO. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with the Reading MPO's Title VI Coordinator within one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. A Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form can be obtained from the Reading MPO by:

- Dialing 610-478-6300
- [Online by clicking here](#)
- In Person at the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR, READING PA 19601
- Language assistance is available by calling 610-478-6300

Overall responsibility for this policy is assigned to:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
C/O BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MICHAEL D GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR
READING PA 19601
PHONE: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
EMAIL: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

The person named above is appointed as the Title VI Compliance Officer and is responsible for the implementation the MPO's Title VI Program. Individuals with questions or requiring additional information relating to this policy or the implementation of the MPO's Title VI Program should contact the Title VI Compliance Officer.

ORGANIZACIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN METROPOLITANA DE READING AVISO AL PÚBLICO DEL TÍTULO VI

La Organización de Planificación Metropolitana de Reading (Reading MPO) notifica por la presente que es política de Reading MPO asegurar el pleno cumplimiento del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, la Ley de Restauración de Derechos Civiles de 1987, E.O. 12898, y estatutos y reglamentos relacionados en todos los programas y actividades. El Título VI requiere que ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos sea excluida de la participación, se le nieguen los beneficios o sea objeto de discriminación por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional en ningún programa o actividad administrada por la Reading MPO.

Cualquier persona que crea que ha sido agraviada por una práctica discriminatoria en virtud del Título VI tiene derecho a presentar una queja formal ante la Reading MPO. Cualquier queja de este tipo debe presentarse por escrito ante el Coordinador del Título VI de la Reading MPO dentro de los ciento ochenta (180) días posteriores a la fecha del supuesto hecho discriminatorio. Puede obtener un Formulario de queja por discriminación del Título VI en Reading MPO:

- Llamando al 610-478-6300
- [En línea, haciendo clic aquí](#)
- Personalmente, en la Comisión de planificación del condado de Berks, 633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR, READING PA 19601
- Hay asistencia lingüística disponible llamando al 610-478-6300

La responsabilidad general de llevar adelante a esta política está asignada a:

ESTUDIO DE TRANSPORTE EN EL ÁREA DE READING
A TRAVÉS DE LA COMISIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN DEL CONDADO DE BERKS
MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI, TITLE VI COMPLIANCE OFFICER
633 COURT STREET 14TH FLOOR
READING PA 19601
TELÉFONO: 610-478-6300 Ext. 6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

La persona mencionada anteriormente es nombrada Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI y es responsable de la implementación del Programa del Título VI de la MPO. Las personas que tengan preguntas o requieran información adicional relacionada con esta política o la implementación del Programa del Título VI de la MPO deben comunicarse con el Oficial de Cumplimiento del Título VI.

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APPENDIX B

Title VI Complaint Procedures

**READING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (READING MPO)
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES UNDER TITLE VI / ADA / OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION**

Purpose:

The Reading MPO Discrimination Complaint Procedures are written to specify the process employed by the Reading MPO to investigate complaints, while ensuring due process for Complainants and Respondents. The process does not preclude the Reading MPO from attempting to informally resolve complaints.

This procedure applies to all external complaints relating to any program or activity administered by the Reading MPO and/or its subrecipients, consultants and contractors, filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, (including Disadvantage Business Enterprise and Equal Employment Opportunity components), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1955, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other related laws and statutes that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, sexual preference, age, low income, nationality or Limited English Proficiency.

These procedures are part of an administrative process that does not provide for remedies that include punitive damages or compensatory remuneration for the Complainant. Intimidation or retaliation of any kind is prohibited by law.

Process:

An individual, or his or her representative, who believes that he or she has been subject to discrimination or retaliation prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, (including Disadvantage Business Enterprise and Equal Employment Opportunity components), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and other related laws and statutes that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, sexual preference, age, low income, nationality or Limited English Proficiency, has the right to file a complaint. Complaints need to be filed within 180 calendar days of alleged occurrence, when the alleged discrimination became known to the Complainant, or when there has been a continuing course of conduct, the date on which the conduct was discontinued or latest instance of the conduct.

Complaints may be mailed to:

Title VI / ADA Coordinator
Reading Area Transportation Study
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601
610-478-6300

Title VI Coordinator
Bureau of Equal Opportunity
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
PO Box 3251
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1720

Equal Opportunity Specialist
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
228 Walnut Street; Room 508
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105-1720

Civil Rights Officer
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1760 Market St, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19103-4124

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main
Washington, D.C. 20530

[Complaints shall be in writing](#) and signed by the Complainant(s). If complaints are received by telephone or in person, the Title VI / ADA Compliance Manager or other authorized representative shall formally interview the person to provide the basis for the written complaint. If necessary, the authorized person will assist the Complainant in writing the complaint. The written complaint must include the following information:

- Name, address and telephone number of Complainant
- Basis of the complaint (e.g., Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, Age, Disability or Retaliation)
- A detailed description of the circumstances of the incident that lead the Complainant to believe discrimination occurred.
- Names address and phones numbers of people who may have knowledge of the alleged incident or are perceived as parties in the complained-of-incident.
- Date or dates on which the alleged discrimination occurred.
- Other agencies where the complaint was filed.
- As an investigation moves forward, additional information may be required.

If the Reading MPO receives a complaint, the Reading MPO will acknowledge receipt of the complaint by notifying the Complainant and immediately transmitting the complaint to the proper state and federal agency (e.g. Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and PennDOT) for investigation and disposition pursuant to that agency's specified complaint procedures.

The Reading MPO Title VI / ADA Compliance Manager will maintain a log of all complaints received by the Reading MPO.

For more information on the Web about Title VI / ADA and other Civil Rights issues:

<https://highways.dot.gov/civil-rights>

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APPENDIX C

Title VI Complaint Form

**READING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (READING MPO)
TITLE VI / ADA / DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT FORM**

Please Print All Information Below

Complainant Name:

Name of Individual assisting Complainant:

Complainant Address:

Assisting Individual Address

Complainant Phone #

Assisting Individual Phone #

Basis of Complaint: (e.g., Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, Age, Disability, Retaliation)

Date(s) of alleged discrimination:

Please provide a detailed description of the circumstances of the incident(s), including any additional information supporting your complaint (please use additional pages as necessary):

Please provide the name(s), title and address of the person who discriminated against the Complainant.

Please provide, if applicable, names and contact information of people who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or are perceived as parties in the complained-of incident(s):

Please list any other agency where complaint has been filed:

Complainant Signature:

Today's Date:

Next Action:

Complaints may be mailed to:

Title VI / ADA Coordinator
Reading Area Transportation Study
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601
610-478-6300

Equal Opportunity Specialist
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
228 Walnut Street; Room 508
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105-1720

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main
Washington, D.C. 20530

Title VI Coordinator
Bureau of Equal Opportunity
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
PO Box 3251
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1720

Civil Rights Officer
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1760 Market St, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19103-4124

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APPENDIX D
Title VI Complaint Log

APPENDIX E

Public Participation Plan

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

C/o

Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court St. FL 14

Reading, PA 19601-4302

Ph: 610-478-6300

FAX: 610-478-6316

Email: planning@countyofberks.com

Web: <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of publication. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The Berks County/RATS website provides language translation software, offering translation between English, Spanish, and multiple other languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by RATS under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with RATS's Title VI Compliance Officer and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on RATS' Title VI program, or to obtain copies of RATS' Title VI Policies, Complaint Procedures, or Complaint Form, please contact the Title VI Compliance Officer at (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), RATS will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities based on disability in its services, programs, or activities. RATS' public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven (7) days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven (7) days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of RATS, or has complaints that a program, service, or activity of RATS is not accessible to persons with disabilities please contact the ADA Point of Contact at (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>

Documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. Persons requiring additional accommodations or those with questions should call 610-478-6300.

Estos informes y/o documentos estarán disponibles en diversos lenguajes y formatos si es necesario. Personas que necesiten acomodo razonable o con preguntas pueden comunicarse al 610-478-6300.

English

ATTENTION: If you speak another language, language assistance is available to you FREE OF CHARGE. Call 610.478.6300

Español

Atención: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 610.478.6300

中文

注意：如果您講廣東話或普通話，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 610.478.6300

Tiếng Việt

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 610.478.6300

한국어

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 610.478.6300

Français

ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 610.478.6300

العربية

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم المبرقة الكاتبة: 610.478.6300

עברית

שים לב: אם אתה מדבר עברית, סיוע בשפה, ללא תשלום, זמינים עבורך. התקשר 610.478.6300

Hmoob

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 610.478.6300

Русский

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 610.478.6300

Tagalog

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong se wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 610.478.6300

ไทย

ความสนใจ: หากคุณพูดภาษาไทยคุณสามารถขอความช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาฟรีได้ โทร 610.478.6300

ភាសាខ្មែរ

ចំណាំ: ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកនិយាយជាភាសាខ្មែរ សេវាកម្មជំនួយផ្នែកភាសាមានផ្តល់ជូនសម្រាប់លោកអ្នកដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ។ សូមទំនាក់ទំនងតាមរយៈលេខ៖ 610.478.6300. ។

Deutsche

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, erhalten Sie kostenlose sprachliche Unterstützungsdienste. Telefonnummer 610.478.6300

हिंदी

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिन्दी बोलते हैं तो आपके लिए मुफ्त में भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। 610.478.6300 पर कॉल करें

日本人

注：日本語を話す人は、無料で言語サポートを利用することができます。電話番号 610.478.6300

Italiano

ATTENZIONE: se parli italiano, l'assistenza linguistica, a titolo gratuito, è a tua disposizione. Chiama il numero 610.478.6300

Português

POR FAVOR, OBSERVE: se você fala português, assistência linguística, grátis, está à sua disposição. Ligue para 610.478.6300

Nederlands

LET OP: als u Nederlands spreekt, is taalondersteuning gratis. Bel 610.478.6300

Ελληνικά

ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ: αν μιλάτε ελληνικά, η υποστήριξη γλώσσας είναι διαθέσιμη δωρεάν. Καλέστε 610.478.6300

Polskie

UWAGA: jeśli mówisz po polsku, obsługa języków jest dostępna bezpłatnie. Zadzwoń 610.478.6300

Српски

ПАЖЊА: Ако говорите српски, на располагању вам је бесплатна помоћ. Позив 610.478.6300

Hrvatski

Pažnja: Ako govorite hrvatski, besplatna vam je pomoć dostupna. Nazovite 610.478.6300

Українська

Увага: якщо ви розмовляєте по-українськи, ви можете отримати безкоштовну допомогу. Зателефонуйте за номером 610.478.6300

فارسی

توجه: اگر حرف فارسی رایگان رایگان دریافت کمک. تماس 610.478.6300

ગુજરાતી

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો 610.478.6300

বাঙালি

নোট: আপনি যদি বাংলা বলতে পারেন তবে আপনি বিনামূল্যে সহায়তা পেতে পারেন। কল করুন 610.478.6300

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

ਨੋਟ: ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਮੁਫਤ ਮਦਦ ਲੈ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ. ਕਾਲ 610.478.6300

नेपाली

नोट: यदि तपाईं नेपाली बोल्नुहुन्छ भने, तपाईं नि:शुल्क मद्दत प्राप्त गर्न सक्नुहुनेछ। फोन 610.478.6300

Română

Atenție: Dacă vorbești limba română, poți obține ajutor gratuit. Telefon 610.478.6300

Albanian

Kujdes: Nëse ju flisni gjuhën shqipe, mund të merrni ndihmë falas. Telefoni 610.478.6300

Laotian

ຂໍ້ຄວາມສໍາຄັນ: ຖ້າທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາລາວ, ທ່ານຈະໄດ້ຮັບການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຢູ່ພຣີ. ໂທ 610.478.6300

Türk

Dikkat: Türkçe konuşursanız, ücretsiz yardım alırsınız. 610.478.6300 'i arayın

తెలుగు

శ్రద్ధ: మీరు తెలుగు మాట్లాడితే, మీకు ఉచిత సహాయం లభిస్తుంది. కాల్ చేయండి 610.478.6300

മലയാളം

ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുക: നിങ്ങൾ മലയാളം സംസാരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് സ്വതന്ത്ര സഹായം ലഭിക്കും. കോൾ ചെയ്യുക 610.478.6300

தமிழ்

கவனம்: நீங்கள் தமிழ் பேசினால், இலவச உதவி பெறலாம். அழைப்புக்கு 610.478.6300

မြန်မာ

အာရုံစိုက်မှု: သင်မြန်မာစကားပြောဆိုလျှင်, သင်အခမဲ့အကူအညီလက်ခံရယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ 610.478.6300

Bahasa Indonesia

Perhatian: Jika Anda berbicara bahasa Indonesia, Anda dapat menerima bantuan gratis. Hubungi 610.478.6300

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Yorùbá

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ગાઠ

પેઠણ: ઠાંઠાં થાં ગઠોવાસા ગાઠ, ગાઠપં વીં ગાઠઘંઘઠેઠોઠાંવાસા, ઠેઠપં' સેઠેઠાં, ઠેઠં ઠાં ઠેઠાં ઠેઠાં ઠેઠાં. ઠેઠ 610.478.6300

日本語

注意事項：日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。610.478.6300. まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

ગુજરાતી

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો 610.478.6300

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction to the *Public Participation Plan*

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for all of Berks County and is responsible for regional transportation planning activities. RATS communicates with interested parties to ensure effective and innovative transportation planning that is representative of and responsive to the needs of the entire region. To achieve this goal, RATS provides the public with an active role in the development of transportation plans, programs, and projects, beginning in the early stages of and throughout the planning processes.

This *Public Participation Plan* (PPP) provides a framework to ensure that the RATS transportation planning process includes a proactive participation process and complies with federal participation plan requirements. This PPP identifies current and previous outreach efforts and outlines steps to be taken to improve.

1.2 Background

Public participation processes involve the timely notification of information to the public to provide input early in and throughout the planning and programming processes. RATS provides interested parties with opportunities to comment on those processes, including this *Public Participation Plan*. The *Public Participation Plan* ensures that the public involvement activities of RATS transportation planning processes comply with the proactive public involvement requirements of Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The requirements for public involvement are set forth primarily in 23 CFR Section 450.316(a)(1)(2)(3) and (b) which addresses elements of the metropolitan planning process. The requirements pertaining to the *Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP) (23 CFR 450.322) also include provisions addressing public outreach [450.322(f)(7), 450.322(g), 450.322(i), and 450.322(j)]. The process that addresses public involvement in the *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) (CFR 450.32) is described in Section 450.316(a). Additionally, regulations require an opportunity for at least one public meeting in air quality nonattainment Transportation Management Areas (TMA's) should be addressed through the PPP described in 450.316(a). A TMA is designated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as an urbanized area with a population greater than 200,000 as determined by the most recent Decennial Census.

The PPP details strategies and procedures RATS will use to achieve its long-standing commitment to participation in regional transportation planning efforts. The PPP applies to transportation planning activities for which participation by interested parties is a required component, and outlines RATS transportation planning activities that comply

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with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and other applicable standards for collecting and addressing public comments.

1.3 Federal Certification Review Recommendations

Pursuant to 23 United States Code (USC) Section 134(k) and 49 USC 5303(k), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must jointly certify the metropolitan transportation planning in Transportation Management Areas (TMA's) every four years. A TMA is an urbanized area, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, with a population of over 200,000. The latest Certification Review conducted for RATS occurred in November 2020, with the final report of that Review released on March 3, 2021. The review did not make any formal recommendations for improvements to this PPP. There were several subject areas within the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan where the MPO was encouraged to make improvements. Those areas will be addressed within that LEP Plan but are noted here for consistency.

1. The Review Team finds that RATS did not address the recommendations using the specific techniques identified in the 2017 report; however, the Team finds that the MPO addressed the intent of most of the recommendations. Specifically, the Review Team finds the MPO has made certain documents available to the region's largest LEP population in its native language; and, provided notices to that language group concerning the availability of language assistive services in its native language as a foreword to the document. Nonetheless, the Review Team finds that based on demographic data provided in the LEP Plan, the region has other LEP language groups that need to be made aware of the language assistive services the MPO provides. Accordingly, the Team encourages the MPO to add language Tag Lines for its current "front piece", relevant to its linguistic population, for inclusion in vital documents. Examples of language Tag Lines can be found in Pennsylvania's 2021 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance document.
2. The Review Team found that the recommendation concerning the website, although addressed in the MPOs LEP Plan, is not readily observable on the website. The Team found that the reason that changes have not been made to the website as indicated is that the website is not within the MPOs direct authority and control to address. During the virtual review discussion, the MPO revealed that the website is administered and maintained by Berks County. As a result, RATS is unable to unilaterally alter the website:
3. To improve the overall process, the Review Team encourages RATS to revisit the language in the LEP Plan, and anywhere else that it appears, concerning the availability of translation of the website. This information should be revised to accurately reflect how the MPO communicates information contained on its website to LEP language groups.

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1.4 RATS Contact Information

For more information on this *Public Participation Plan* or on RATS regional transportation planning activities, please contact us through the Berks County Planning Commission using the information shown on the front cover of the document.

Section 2: Public Participation Goals:

2.1 Overview

RATS recognizes the obligation to provide adequate information to persons regarding transportation plans and programs. It also seeks out and encourages participation in the development of these plans and programs as well as any substantial amendments to them. Therefore, RATS will ensure that adequate information is provided to individuals and groups to evaluate various proposals. RATS will also provide forums to obtain views on transportation planning and project related issues.

RATS recognizes that persons affected by public action should have a voice in policy formulation. Although the various transportation planning and programming activities are designed to have long term beneficial effects on the community, these activities may also have an adverse impact on some individuals. Therefore, it is important that everybody knows what is being planned and is given every opportunity to present their views.

RATS recognizes the need to consult and coordinate with appropriate public and private agencies such as federal and state departments, local municipalities, county departments, and private organizations. It will also confer with social service agencies regarding the needs of their clients including the elderly, persons with disabilities, low income, and those of minority and/or Limited English Proficient groups.

To comply with the various requirements, RATS sets forth these Public Participation Goals, including:

- Ensure that interested parties in Berks County have an active and ongoing role in the regional transportation planning process
- Guarantee an established and dependable process with open meetings and public access to technical data and non-technical information
- Increase the level of understanding of the transportation planning process in the region and identify how interested parties can become more involved
- Provide interested parties with multiple opportunities for meaningful involvement in the regional transportation planning process
- Identify, seek out and engage minority populations, low-income populations, Limited English Proficient populations, persons with disabilities, and all groups and organizations listed in Section 4.1 as Interested Parties
- Employ effective techniques for outreach and communication

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- Serve as a guide to RATS / BCPC staff for outreach and participation activities and efforts for transportation and other planning activities
- Document what we learn from interested parties in a format for consideration and use by the MPO Board ('the Board'), Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC), BCPC staff, and others to improve our outreach and participation efforts.

Section 3: Outreach Techniques and Strategies

3.1 Overview

RATS uses a wide range of communication mechanisms and community engagement techniques to provide for meaningful participation from interested parties, including:

- Communication by mail, phone, fax, email, or person-to-person contact
- BCPC's website containing documents, meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, transportation-related announcements, and educational tools
- Input at public meetings, public hearings, and workshops that are held at convenient and accessible locations and times
- Partnering with community, civic, and business groups to produce forums and input sessions when requested
- Distribution of planning documents, brochures, fact sheets, and maps documenting planning efforts
- Distribution of public notices and press releases
- Internet and direct mailed surveys
- Using the BCPC's *eFlash* electronic notifications of important events
- Using the BCPC's Facebook page
- Exploring the creation of a separate RATS Facebook page, along with other social media
- Visualization techniques to help board members and the public understand potential outcomes of transportation plans and/or programs
- Consultation with agencies and officials responsible for planning activities within the county that are affected by transportation
- Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish and made available digitally and in print
- Including notices on all documents and on the website that certain translated documents are available, and other translations are available on request
- Incorporating virtual public outreach and input

3.2 Contact Lists

RATS staff continually develops and maintains databases of stakeholders, media and interested organizations and parties. These lists are updated regularly to reflect current information. Contact lists expand throughout the transportation planning process as

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people, organizations and agencies become involved and offer their opinions or just want more information. To establish new contacts, RATS uses a range of strategies, such as:

- Mailing list registration is available at all public meetings / hearings
- Mailing list registration is available via the BCPC website or email
- Announcements of public meetings, public hearings, workshops, and other project-specific opportunities made available online, through news releases, email notification, targeted mailings, social media (Facebook), or announced at public meetings
- Working with existing stakeholders to suggest potential participants or encourage participation
- Working with professional, civic and community organizations to provide representatives, suggest participants, and encourage participation
- Making special efforts to engage social service providers who work with transportation-challenged clients

3.3 Visualization Techniques

RATS uses a wide range of accessible information resources to help participants understand different proposals, impacts and possible outcomes related to regional transportation programs and plans. Visualization techniques used to illustrate these concepts may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following materials and practices:

- Printed small and large scale maps
- Aerial photographs, alone or with GIS mapping overlays
- Photographs, sketches, artist renderings, images, diagrams, charts, and other graphics
- Printed maps that allow comparison of proposals
- Scenario planning discussions
- Online maps
- Virtual public engagement that includes visual aids and voice descriptions
- Internet web based content that is:
 - Easy to read (sans serif fonts)
 - Does not require extensive page scrolling or multiple 'click-throughs'
 - No advertising
 - Documents available for download in standard software formats, i.e., Adobe .PDF, Microsoft products

3.4 Virtual Public Involvement

The COVID-19 Pandemic forced public meetings to go from in-person gatherings to virtual environments for many months. RATS staff adapted to these challenges and continues to improve where possible. Since all online processes are controlled by

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County of Berks Information Services Department policies and procedures, RATS staff uses the following products and techniques:

- Microsoft Teams Live, Facebook Live, and YouTube for live meeting broadcasts
- Incorporation of screen-shared agendas, attachments, documents, and presentations
- Ensuring the public is aware that meetings are recorded for transcription purposes
- Allowing for Public Comment at the beginning and end of all meetings
- Posting agendas and meeting links on the Berks County, Planning Commission, and RATS websites at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting
- Posting all meeting materials at least 48 hours prior to the meeting

Section 4: Consultation with Interested Parties

4.1 Overview

Federal guidance originally from SAFETEA-LU legislation dictates that:

“The MPO shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan planning process”. [§ 450.316(a) Interested parties, participation and consultation]

4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies

MPO’s must consult with federally recognized Tribes and Nations to provide opportunities for review and comment on key planning documents. PennDOT maintains their Tribal Consultation Guide which describes which Tribes and Nations have interests throughout the Commonwealth, specifies which are to be included in review activities and how they are to be addressed. Many Tribes and Nations accept electronic submissions however there are still some who require hardcopies of all draft documents.

Regulations also require coordination with Federal Land Management agencies in the development of the TIP and LRTP. There are two (2) federal lands in Berks County: Hopewell Furnace National Historic Park, administered by the National Park Service, and Blue Marsh Lake, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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4.3 Consultation in Developing this *Public Participation Plan*

The Reading Area Transportation Study develops all plans and programs in consultation with the interested parties defined above. To develop this *Public Participation Plan*, RATS first assembled a draft list of participation strategies and ideas based on a review of the existing Public Involvement Process Resolution, past experiences, and guidance from federal transportation planning legislation. All activities undertaken during the Public Comment Period are documented in the Appendix.

Section 5: Title VI and Environmental Justice

5.1 Overview

RATS *Environmental Justice Summary* serves as a guide for RATS to use to identify concentrations of Title VI and Environmental Justice populations, including minorities and low-income populations. This Summary is updated with every TIP and LRTP update; at a minimum of every two (2) years. The foundation for these efforts is stated in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program receiving Federal financial assistance.” --Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000)

The President’s 1994 Executive Order on Environmental Justice states:

“Each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” --Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 1994

As concentrations of these groups are located, RATS will work with agencies and organizations that encompass these groups to ensure they are aware of draft Plans and Programs and have opportunities to provide input.

5.2 Target Outreach Areas

RATS uses its data collection and analysis capabilities within the *Environmental Justice Summary* process to support participation efforts and help ensure meaningful access to its public participation opportunities. RATS uses the *Environmental Justice Summary* to analyze the relationship between the region’s populations and its regional investments, plans and programs.

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Geographic analysis assists RATS to identify environmental justice communities and target outreach to these areas as necessary. Using the Environmental Justice Summary, RATS will specifically:

- Identify the locations of environmental justice communities throughout Berks County
- Where possible, host public meetings in accessible locations and times within these communities, and
- Identify one or more organizations that serve these communities and proactively share information with the organizations to disseminate throughout their respective networks and communication channels.

Additionally, staff will work with PennDOT officials to help guide their public outreach efforts when project-specific meetings are being planned. RATS will develop and maintain an updated listing of accessible locations that may be used for public meetings in environmental justice communities.

Section 6: Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

6.1 Overview

“Limited English Proficient” or “LEP” persons are those individuals who do not speak English as their primary language, and who also have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. The key commonality among LEP persons is their inability to communicate effectively in the English language, regardless of their native tongue. Persons who are multi-lingual, in that they speak one or more other languages in addition to being proficient in English, are not considered to be Limited English Proficient.

6.2 LEP Assessment

As a recipient of federal financial assistance, RATS has an obligation to reduce language barriers that can preclude meaningful access to RATS’ programs, information and services by LEP individuals. An integral part of this effort is the completion of a “Limited English Proficiency Self-Assessment” or LEP Assessment, which is designed to balance four factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or service.
2. The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter the program and/or activities.
3. The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided to people’s lives, and
4. The resources available to the federal financial recipient and costs.

This assessment along with detailed reviews of the latest Census data examines the most prevalent non-English speaking populations and their geographic dispersion

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throughout Berks County. That analysis is detailed in a separate Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan that accompanies this PPP. Presently, under LEP guidelines, translation of 'vital documents' is provided in Spanish only. However, the front piece of all RATS documents will include language taglines in over 30 different languages stating that assistance will be provided in those languages on request.

6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals

RATS will take reasonable steps to endure that LEP persons have meaningful access to key transportation planning decisions and have opportunities to become involved in the regional transportation planning processes. RATS will use one or more of the following tools to reasonably accommodate LEP individuals:

- Provide on request, with seven (7) days advanced notice (based on document size and complexity), translated copies of materials in Spanish as well as other languages if requested. RATS, through the County of Berks, has an active contract with a firm that provides translation services.
- Provide on request, with seven (7) days advanced notice, oral interpretation services for public meetings. RATS, through the County of Berks, has an active contract with a firm that provides interpretation services.
- To actively engage LEP persons, meeting announcements, press releases and public notices will be distributed to organizations that target these groups in appropriate languages.
- RATS will provide notices to local minority media outlets and community service organizations regarding the availability of language translation services. Those outlets and organizations currently include the Daniel Torres Hispanic Center, WFMZ-Spanish Edition (television), Rumba 92.3 (WRAW) FM (radio), WXAC 91.3 FM Albright College (radio), and Palo (monthly subscription print magazine).
- RATS' vital documents will include statements in Spanish, the most common non-English language identified by Census data, that translations are available free on request. RATS, through the County of Berks, has an active contract with a firm that provides translation services.
- The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, as well as translation between multiple other languages. RATS will continually make efforts to develop points of contact with representatives of non-English speaking communities.
- RATS will make available vital documents and Executive Summaries, where appropriate, in Spanish.
- RATS will Include notices on all documents and on the website that certain translated documents are available, and other translations are available on request.
- BCPC staff will undergo periodic training in products and procedures provided through Berks County contracts to be used to communicate with individuals needing language assistance.

6.4 'Vital' Documents

RATS considers vital documents to be those that convey critical information to the public or are required by law or federal regulation. Based on this definition, the MPO will consider vital documents to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Title VI Policy*
- Title VI Complaint Procedures*
- Title VI Complaint Forms*
- Annual Meeting Schedule*
- Notices for special Public Meetings*

Additionally, the following documents will be either condensed into 'Executive Summary' formats and will have those Executive summaries translated into Spanish, or will be translated in their entirety (based on document size and complexity):

- Long Range Transportation Plan*
- Transportation Improvement Program*
- Environmental Justice Summary*
- Public Participation Plan*
- Limited English Proficiency Plan*

These documents will be made available in print and online. Vital documents will be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. Other documents may also be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested.

Section 7: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

7.1 Overview

To ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), RATS' Public Meeting Notices and comment opportunities provide multiple input methods. Public meetings and hearings are always held at ADA-accessible locations on established public transportation routes. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of RATS, or has complaints that a program, service, or activity of RATS is not accessible to persons with disabilities should call the ADA Point of Contact at (610) 478-6300 x6304, email planning@countyofberks.com, or visit our website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/reading-area-transportation-study-2023-meeting-schedule>

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7.2 Meaningful Access for Persons with Disabilities

RATS staff coordinates with local disability advocacy groups to ensure information is readily available to all. RATS may use one or more of the following tools to reasonably accommodate people with disabilities:

- Provide on request, with advanced notice, copies of materials in larger, sans-serif type
- Provide on request, with reasonable advanced notice (based on document size and complexity), Braille or raised-print notices and materials
- Provide on request, with advance notice, sign language interpreters
- Record materials to audio/visual media
- Verbalize information provided through visual presentations or written materials
- On request, structure seating to provide visibility for participants who lip-read or cannot adequately hear deliberations
- When necessary, mount microphones at wheelchair height
- When necessary, provide hand-held microphones to participants
- Ensure that persons who speak during virtual meetings can be heard
- Provide on request, with reasonable advanced notice, Closed Captioning services for virtual public meetings

7.3 Web Access for Persons with Disabilities

The County of Berks instituted web content for departments of county government. The County uses the same web content administration software provided by the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). One of the many reasons behind that decision included the accessibility options within the software. Those options, along with countywide website design standards, include:

- Minimal use of images
- Those images that exist must have an “ALT-TEXT” option
- Image maps must have a text equivalent
- A ‘text-only’ web page browser option that removes all images
- No ‘roll-overs’
- Use of easily readable Sans-Serif fonts
- Pages and content designed for the least number of click-throughs
- Pages designed to minimize scrolling
- Documents designed for download are created in standard software packages i.e., Microsoft products and Adobe PDF; and

7.4 Notifications and Services

Representatives of the disabled have been included on our mailing lists and were forwarded surveys (Section 4.2) to garner their input. At all in-person meetings hosted

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by RATS, accommodations will be made for wheelchair access and, with four (4) days advanced notice, American Sign Language interpretation services. Documents in Braille or large print type and audio recordings can be made available with appropriate notice, depending on the size and complexity of the document. The availability of these services is detailed in Public Notices. Any questions, concerns, requests for accommodations or complaints should be made to the ADA Point of Contact listed in Section 7.1.

Section 8: Public Participation in Meetings

8.1 Overview

RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area as well as adjacent counties/MPO's as applicable. There are many opportunities and levels of involvement for persons related to the regional planning process, and for those who wish to address the Board directly. Except for those meetings that are appropriate Executive Sessions, all meetings of the Reading Area Transportation Study Technical and Coordinating committees are open to interested parties and include opportunities to comment on both agenda and non-agenda items.

8.2 Public Comments at Board Meetings

All those in attendance will be asked to sign-in at the meeting location or, if virtual, to announce their presence for the record. Those wishing to comment will be asked to indicate those wishes at their signature or in the Chat feature. Individuals may be requested to limit the length of their comments, and individuals may also be requested not to duplicate like or similar comments of others preceding them.

Proceedings of meetings of the Boards are made available as meeting minutes or meeting summaries, which are posted on the Berks County Planning Commission's website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, and also for review at the Berks County Planning Commission's offices. Please call the BCPC at 610-478-6300 for more information.

8.3 RATS Committees

RATS has several committees that meet on an as-needed basis in which citizens, advocates, private sector representatives and others can obtain the same information given to the representatives of the professional planning and transportation agencies involved in RATS activities. Committee meetings give interested parties an opportunity to learn the pertinent facts surrounding an issue. All committee meetings are advertised and open to the public.

Section 9: Public Notices

9.1 Overview

To ensure that the public has ample opportunity to take part in the regional planning process, RATS is committed to providing timely notification, complete information, and full public access to key decisions. This section describes the procedures that RATS will use for all public notices.

9.2 Public Notice Requirements

RATS uses public notices to announce the following types of events and participation opportunities:

- The Boards' annual meeting schedules – advertised annually through the Berks County Commissioners and on the RATS website
- Special, rescheduled, or cancelled Board meetings – advertised according to PA Sunshine Law requirements
- Comment Periods – advertised at least 30 days prior to the date the Board is scheduled to take formal action on any major decisions (45 days for the PPP, see Section 10); and
- Meetings related to Comment Periods – advertised at least seven (7) days in advance (see Section 10.2).

Public Notices for these events and participation opportunities will be:

- Advertised in the form of paid legal advertisements. One paid advertisement will be placed in a newspaper of general circulation in the region (*Reading Eagle*) and, if available, one in a newspaper with circulation targeted to minority communities
- Public notices for special public meetings or major forums may be advertised in the form of paid display advertisements
- Distributed to other media outlets or organizations that serve targeted outreach groups identified in this document
- Posted on the agency's web pages at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>;
- Sent electronically through the BCPC's eFlash electronic mail system
- Posted on the BCPC's Facebook page
- Sent to libraries with a request for posting
- Sent to SCTA/BARTA (transit provider) with a request for posting

Public Notices will provide the following information (where applicable):

- Type or name of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- Subject of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- The date, time, and location of meeting/participation event/activity
- The web link for a virtual meeting

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- Start and end dates for public comment periods
- Contact information (Address, Telephone Number, E-mail address and/or website)
- ADA Point of Contact information
- Brief summary of the proposed action, plan, program or amendment
- Where to obtain copies of the plan or materials
- How to provide formal public comments
- If formal action on a major decision will be taken by the Board, the date, time and location of the meeting where that action will be taken
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with Limited English Proficiency; and
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with disabilities; and
- Directions on how to file complaints under Title VI and other nondiscrimination statutes

Section 10: Public Review and Comment Periods at Key Decision Points

10.1 Overview

RATS values the efforts stakeholders and the public make to participate in the regional planning process. RATS will provide at least 30 days for public review and comment before taking formal action on any major decisions (45 days for PPP). This *Public Participation Plan* defines a major decision as the official adoption of:

- the *Regional Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP)
- the *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP)
- *Air Quality Conformity Determination*
- *Public Participation Plan* (PPP)
- A Major Amendment to the regional plan or TIP

10.2 Public Comment and Review Period Requirements

RATS will inform the public and interested parties of Public Comment Periods, using the Public Notice procedures described above, at least 30 days prior to the date scheduled for Board adoption or major amendment of a Regional LRTP, TIP, *Air Quality Conformity Determination*, or major amendment (45 days for PPP).

Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be made available to stakeholders, other interested parties, and the public at locations throughout the County. These locations include BARTA offices, BCPC offices, PennDOT District 5-0 offices, and the BCPC website <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the Public Notice.

~~Prior to formal action by the Board on the adoption of a regional LRTP, TIP, *Air Quality*~~

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Conformity Determination, Public Participation Plan, or major amendment, at least one public meeting will be held for the purpose of providing information to and obtaining comment from the public. The public meeting may be held as part of a regular meeting of the Board or held as a separate public meeting. Public Notice for this meeting can be combined with the Public Notice issued for the related Public Comment Period described in Section 10.2.

10.3 Additional Public Review and Comment Periods

If the draft regional LRTP, TIP, *Air Quality Conformity Determination*, or major amendment differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the initial public involvement effort, an additional 15-day Public Comment period will be offered.

If the draft *Public Participation Plan* changes appreciably during the review and comment period, an additional 30-day public review and comment period is provided prior to the Board taking formal action.

Additional Public Review and Comment periods will be conducted in accordance with procedures for regular Public Review and Comment periods listed in Section 11.2.

10.4 The Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

The regional LRTP is a long range (20+ years) strategy and capital improvement program developed to guide the effective investment of public funds in multi-modal transportation facilities in the context of the regional vision. The regional plan provides the context from which the region's *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP), a short-range capital improvement program for implementing transportation projects, is drawn. The LRTP is updated every four years in consultation with interested parties.

RATS' early and ongoing public participation process in developing the LRTP will follow these steps:

- Step 1: Public Participation Surveys, through the internet and targeted mailing, will be used to gather initial input (when update cycles correspond, this can occur in concert with the TIP update). When available, staff will also use input gathered as part of any of PennDOT's public input processes
- Step 2: At the same time, Public Officials Surveys sent to local officials and the legislative delegation, will be used to gather governmental input.
- Step 3: Initial input, including at least one (1) Public Meeting/Workshop, will be compiled, and used in the design of the next phase of outreach and participation, such as workshops and other public meetings. This Public Meeting/Workshop may be held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled RATS MPO Technical or Coordinating Committee meeting.

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- Step 4: Ongoing input will be used to develop draft regional plan materials in consultation with interested parties.
- Step 5: Draft regional plan materials will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 30-day public comment period. Draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices, and local libraries. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the Public Notice with Information to be included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form. Vital draft regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*. During this stage, two (2) Public Meetings will be held. These generally include one during the day in a hybrid format that includes both in-person and electronic access in a downtown Reading location, and a second meeting held in the evening in a rural location that is generally in-person only. Staff strives to accommodate requests for presentations at other meetings.
- Step 6: All comments received will be considered and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft regional plan materials
- Step 7: The Board takes formal action on the regional plan
- Step 8: A Public Participation Report for the regional plan will be developed. The Report will document all comments received and the response to comments and will also document all public participation and outreach activities. This Report may take the form of a Chapter or Appendix in the L RTP
- Step 9: Adopted final regional plan materials will be made available on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Vital regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*. Information will be included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form.

10.5 The *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP)

The regional *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) identifies the region's highest priority transportation projects, develops a multi-year program of implementation, and identifies available federal and non-federal funding sources for the identified projects. The TIP covers a four-year period of investment and is updated every two years through

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a cooperative effort of local, state and federal agencies including participation by the general public and consultation with interested parties. Transportation projects included on the TIP are to be consistent with the regional LRTP. The entire range of projects included in the TIP must conform to federal air quality standards.

RATS early and ongoing public participation process in developing the TIP will follow these steps:

- Step 1: Public Participation Surveys, through the internet and targeted mailing, will be used to gather initial input. When update cycles correspond, this can occur in concert with the regional LRTP update and /or any PennDOT public input processes
- Step 2: At the same time, Public Officials Surveys sent to local officials and the legislative delegation, will be used to gather governmental input
- Step 3: Initial input will be compiled and used in the design of the next phase of outreach and participation, such as workshops and other public meetings
- Step 4: Ongoing input will be used to develop draft TIP materials in consultation with interested parties
- Step 5: Draft TIP materials will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 30-day public comment period. Draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, PennDOT District 5-0's offices, and local libraries. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the Public Notice with information included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form. Vital draft regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*. Information will be included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form. During this stage, two (2) Public Meetings will be held. These generally include one during the day in a hybrid format that includes both in-person and electronic access in a downtown Reading location, and a second meeting held in the evening in a rural location that is generally in-person only. Staff strives to accommodate requests for presentations at other meetings.
- Step 6: All comments received will be considered and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft TIP materials
- Step 7: The Board takes formal action on the TIP
- Step 8: A Public Participation Report for the TIP will be developed. The Report will document all comments received and the response to comments, and will also document all public participation and outreach activities
- Step 9: Adopted final regional plan materials will be made available on the

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BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, BCPC's offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Vital regional plan documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*. Information will be included that details how to access documents electronically or in printed form.

10.6 Major Amendments to the Regional LRTP or TIP

Once a TIP or LRTP has been developed and approved the program is subject to revisions as the budgeted transportation program experiences changes in project scheduling and estimated costs. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will only authorize projects and approve grants for projects where the total cost is programmed in the current approved TIP. RATS must modify the TIP or regional LRTP to adjust to the changing cost and schedule if a planning partner or the Commonwealth would like to continue to advance the project.

The definition of a major amendment varies by the type and/or cost of program to be amended. Definitions and procedures for regional LRTP and TIP major amendments are included in the respective regional LRTP and TIP documents and are available on the BCPC's website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>. **If a proposed revision to the TIP or regional LRTP adds a project, deletes a project, or impacts the schedule or scope of work to an air quality significant project, RATS will review the proposal and determine if a new *Air Quality Conformity Determination* is required prior to formal approval of the change. If the revision requires that a new *Air Quality Conformity Determination* is necessary, an amendment to the regional LRTP shall also be developed.**

RATS' public participation and comment for major amendments to the regional LRTP or TIP will follow these steps:

- Step 1: RATS will inform the public and interested parties of the comment period for the proposed major amendment using the Public Notice procedures described in Section 10.2, at least 30 days prior to the date scheduled for Board action on the proposed major amendment
- Step 2: Proposed major amendment information will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 30-day Public Comment Period described in Section 10.2. Proposed major amendment information will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website, at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the public notice

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- Step 3: All comments received and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the proposed major amendment
- Step 4: The Board takes action on the major amendment
- Step 5: After federal and state approval of the requested changes, RATS will update the appropriate TIP or regional LRTP documents on the BCPC website. Updated documents will also be available at the BCPC offices, BARTA offices, and PennDOT District 5-0 offices.

10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report

The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is a companion document to the regional LRTP and to the TIP. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report documents the process used by RATS for making the transportation-related conformity determination for the regional LRTP and TIP for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The Conformity Determination is required by the federal Clean Air Act. RATS conformity finding is based on criteria and procedures in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93) and satisfies all applicable conformity requirements. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is developed as part of the regional LRTP or TIP update, in which case public participation and public comment procedures for the regional LRTP or TIP update will be followed as described in Sections 10.4 and 10.5, respectively. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is also updated as required by certain amendments to the TIP or regional LRTP, in which case public participation and comment procedures for major amendments to the regional LRTP or TIP will be followed as described in Section 10.6.

10.8 The Public Participation Plan

This *Public Participation Plan* describes the various objectives, strategies, and tools to engage the public and encourage participation in the development of transportation plans and programs. RATS will periodically update the *Public Participation Plan*. This may be due to new official planning regulations and procedures, or after any public or Board evaluations of the Plan's effectiveness.

RATS' public participation and public comment process for updating the *Public Participation Plan* will follow these steps:

- Step 1: Revisions to the *Public Participation Plan* are developed in consultation with interested parties before the draft document is submitted for the public review and comment process
- Step 2: The draft *Public Participation Plan* will be presented for review and comment by the public and interested parties using the Public Review and Comment procedures for a 45-day Public Comment Period described in Section 10.2. The draft *Public Participation Plan* will be made available during the 45-day public comment period on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning->

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[commission/transportation-reading-mpo](https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo), at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. Information on where and how to access public comment documents will be included in the public notice. The draft *Public Participation Plan* will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*

- Step 3: All comments received and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft *Public Participation Plan*
- Step 4: The Board acts on the draft *Public Participation Plan*
- Step 5: A *Public Participation Plan* will be produced and made available on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, at the BCPC offices, BARTA's offices, and PennDOT District 5-0's offices. The *Public Participation Plan* will be made available in and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities contained in this *Public Participation Plan*.
-

Section 11: Access to Information

11.1 Overview

RATS will provide reasonable access to public information, including technical information and meeting notices:

- In electronically accessible formats on the BCPC website at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>;
- Links to the website will be provided on the BCPC Facebook page
- Links will also be advertised digitally through the BCPC eFlash service
- In print at the Berks County Planning Commission office in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court St., 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601; and
- BARTA's offices located at 1700 N. 11th St., Reading, PA 19604; and
- at PennDOT District 5-0 offices located at 1002 Hamilton St, Allentown, PA 18101.

11.2 Response to Special Request

To facilitate public involvement while also using limited staff resources efficiently, RATS will make information available to interested parties on a regular basis through the various processes and activities outlined in this *Public Participation Plan*.

When RATS receives special requests to perform an analysis that is not considered as part of the planning process, or other special data or information, the agency will

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determine the reasonableness of the request. Parameters for determining the reasonableness (as used in this document) will evolve around the preparation time and costs to respond, as well as the relevancy to the transportation planning process and the agency mission. RATS will determine reasonableness of and respond to all requests on an individual basis.

Section 12: Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings

- The Board will review and revise the *Public Participation Plan* and processes based on input from the public, interested parties, and the Document Review Network in terms of their effectiveness in providing full and open access to all.
- Public Meetings, Public Hearings and special workshops scheduled for the public and interested parties will include a means of providing feedback on the effectiveness of the process of communication and meeting format.
- The *Public Participation Plan* will be reviewed at a minimum every two years, in the year prior to a TIP update, to ensure effectiveness and completeness.

Section 13: Applicability

This *Public Participation Plan* and any subsequent amendments shall be effective immediately upon the adoption by the Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee (the Board). This *Public Participation Plan* replaces any previously adopted Public Involvement Process resolutions.

Section 14: Future Efforts

14.1 Overview

RATS recognizes the need to continuously enhance our outreach efforts and periodically update this Public Participation Process. The following activities will take place to fulfill these goals:

- Further identify and consult with interested parties (ongoing)
- Continue to seek out EJ/LEP organizations, resources, and points of contact in the various communities (ongoing)
- Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the *Public Participation Plan* (every two years in year prior to updating TIP)
- Continue to review and, if necessary, update Limited English Proficiency Assessment every two years consistent with the *Public Participation Plan* evaluation
- Conduct review of ADA accessibility features of meeting spaces and the website (annually)
- Continue working with disability advocates to continuously make online materials easier to access using electronic methods.

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- Consider the formation of a Public Participation Panel or Subcommittee, with appointment opportunities extended to the public and interested parties (on adoption of this Process).

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN and LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN
UPDATE PERIOD ACTIVITIES**

The following activities occurred prior to and during the *Public Participation Plan / Limited English Proficiency Plan* update period, which took place between June 4, 2023 and July 18, 2023:

1. Online Survey Monkey survey created, in both English and Spanish, along with printed surveys in English and Spanish. Copies of first page of online surveys attached, along with copies of printed surveys.
2. Initial email, including Public Notice and electronic links to surveys and documents, forwarded to over 250 groups, organizations and individuals. Copy of email attached.
3. Links to documents and surveys added to Berks County Planning Commission website. Images attached.
4. 6/4/2023, Legal Advertisement run in the Reading Eagle. Advertisement attached.
5. 6/5/2023, information included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Image attached.
6. 6/5/2023, Article/Notices included on the Berks Community Television (BCTV) website. Images attached.
7. 6/14/2023, Evening (7:00 p.m.) Public Meeting held at Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium facility. Meeting held in rural area. Meeting survey created and made available; 0 returned. There were no attendees from the public and one (1) Berks County Planning Commission staff member (presenter). Meeting materials, including PowerPoint discussion, attached.
8. 6/23/2023, Follow-up email sent as a reminder of the second Public Meeting and to complete surveys. Copy of email attached.
9. 6/23/2023 and 6/26/2023, information regarding second Public Meeting included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Images attached.
10. 6/27/2023, Second Public Meeting held at Berks County Services Center (Commissioner's Boardroom, 13th Floor). Afternoon (2:00 p.m.) meeting held in facility that is transit accessible, located in City of Reading. Meeting also held virtually to allow for non-in-person attendance. Meeting survey created and made available; none returned. Four (4) in-person attendees total, including Berks County Planning Commission staff (2 persons), Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person) and

- one (1) Berks County Commissioner. Three (3) persons attended virtually, including SCTA/BARTA staff (1 person), Western Berks Ambulance Assn. staff (1 person) and Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person). Only one (1) comment germane to the PPP/LEP update was from SCTA/BARTA staff noting their experiences reaching out to the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and various faith-based organizations have been helpful. Meeting materials including image of virtual meeting attached.
11. Comments were received via two separate emails (07/14/2023) from Michael Donchez, PennDOT District 5-0 staff. Comments germane to the LEP were limited to text formatting and two date corrections. Comments germane to the PPP include spelling, grammar, and formatting corrections. Additionally, recommendations for minor text additions/corrections were made. MPO staff concurs and will make those corrections. Both emails attached.
 12. Comments were received via email (07/17/2023) from Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff. These comments were substantive enough that staff chose to delay adoption of the draft PPP and LEP to further review and respond to these comments. A copy of Ms. Shamberg's email along with MPO staff responses is attached.
 13. As of the close of the Public Comment Period (07/18/2023), a total of ten (10) online surveys and no (0) written surveys were returned. All responses received were English; no Spanish responses to the Surveys were received. The summary of responses is attached.
 14. Staff submitted (8/23/2023) revised documents to Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff per her previously submitted comments for additional review. Staff also included Khan Mitchell (FHWA Civil Rights Specialist) along with Stacey Waters and Debra Allen (both PennDOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity). On 8/28/2023, staff received documents with embedded comments from both FHWA officials (unable to reproduce for this document). Staff reviewed and incorporated changes suggested by those comments.
 15. Both documents set for review/recommendation by RATS Technical Committee 9/7/2023. If a favorable recommendation is received, the RATS Coordinating Committee (Reading MPO) should adopt on 9/21/2023. Minutes from both meetings to be attached upon approval.

1. Online Survey Monkey survey created, in both English and Spanish, along with printed surveys in English and Spanish. Copies of first page of online surveys attached, along with copies of printed surveys.

Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

In one way or another, our transportation system affects our daily lives. We travel back and forth to work, school, shopping, medical appointments, and recreation activities. The goods we buy are shipped between factories, warehouses, and stores. People and goods travel in cars, trucks, trains, or busses; we also walk, bicycle, carpool, take a taxi or an Uber/Lyft, or telecommute. Over time, our transportation needs outgrow the current transportation system and changes are needed.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is a committee of local officials that engage in transportation planning for Berks County. It reviews the transportation needs of our area and prepares several required plans and programs. One of those, called the Public Participation Process, outlines the policies and methods used by RATS to gather and use meaningful public input as part of the transportation planning process. Please help us improve this Process by answering the questions below. Thanks!

1. Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

Yes

No

2. Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County?

Yes

No

3. Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

Yes

No

4. Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements?

Yes

No

Next

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)
Public Participation Plan Survey**

(Take this survey online! <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>)

In one way or another, our transportation system affects our daily lives. We travel back and forth to work, school, shopping, medical appointments, and recreation activities. The goods we buy are shipped between factories, warehouses, and stores. People and goods travel in cars, trucks, trains, or busses; we also walk, bicycle, carpool, take a taxi or an Uber/Lyft, or telecommute. Over time, our transportation needs outgrow the current transportation system and changes are needed.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is a committee of local officials that engage in transportation planning for Berks County. It reviews the transportation needs of our area and prepares several required plans and programs. One of those, called the *Public Participation Process*, outlines the policies and methods used by RATS to gather and use meaningful public input as part of the transportation planning process. Please help us improve this Process by answering the questions below. Thanks!

Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)? Yes No

If you checked 'No' above,

- Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County Yes No
- Are you familiar with the transportation planning process? Yes No
- Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements? Yes No

If you checked 'Yes' above, where have you seen or heard about RATS?

- Print Media (specify) _____
- Television (specify) _____
- Social Media (specify) _____
- Municipal Newsletter (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____

As we develop plans and projects that may impact you, what would be the best ways for us to get information to you? (Check all that apply)

- Direct notification (by postal mail or email) of meetings and documents
- BCTV Programs and BCTV Community Calendar notices
- Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups
- Newspaper articles and press releases
- Legal Advertisements and/or block ads in newspaper
- Website information, including downloadable documents
- Documents on file at libraries and other community organizations
- Municipal Newsletters
- Paper notices posted on bulletin boards
- Social Media (Specify) _____
- Advertising-type newspapers (the *Merchandiser*)
- Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)

If you have concerns as we develop those plans or about transportation projects, which of the following methods are effective ways for you to get information to us? (Check all that apply)

- Public meetings, special presentations & workshops
- Paper Surveys returned by postal mail
- Electronic Surveys completed online
- Social Media (Specify) _____
- Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups
- Small group meetings (community organizations, agencies, & individuals)
- Telephone or fax
- Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)

What obstacles prevent you from attending a meeting about transportation planning? (Check all that apply)

- Not an interesting subject
- No specific project that directly affects me
- Need special accommodations (please explain below)
- Fear/distrust of government
- Can't leave work to attend meetings
- Child / Elder care concerns
- Meeting time / location conflicts (please explain below)
- Language barrier (please explain language needed below)
- Lack of available transportation
- Other (please describe at the end of this survey)

Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

Yes No

If No, which challenges do you face? (Check all that apply)

- I don't use or have access to a computer or phone
- I'm not comfortable using technology
- I'd rather meet face-to-face
- Other reason (specify) _____

If Yes, which benefits do you receive? (Check all that apply)

- It saves me time
- I don't have to drive anywhere
- I don't have access to transportation
- I can view recorded meetings at a more convenient time
- I prefer virtual vs. face-to-face

Which types of platform(s) do you use regularly? (Check all that apply)

- Desktop Computer / Laptop
- Tablet / Mobile Phone
- Neither

Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading Encuesta del Plan de Participación Pública

De una forma u otra, nuestro sistema de transporte afecta nuestras vidas cotidianas. Viajamos de ida y vuelta al trabajo, a la escuela, para ir de compras, a las citas médicas y a las actividades recreativas. Los productos que compramos se transportan entre fábricas, almacenes y tiendas. Las personas y las mercancías viajan en automóviles, camiones, trenes o autobuses; también caminamos, pedaleamos, compartimos el automóvil, tomamos un taxi o un Uber / Lyft, o trabajamos desde la casa. A lo largo del tiempo, nuestras necesidades de transporte superan la oferta del sistema de transporte actual y se necesitan cambios.

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading, RATS por sus siglas en inglés) es un comité de funcionarios locales que participan en la planificación del transporte para Berks County (Condado de Berks). Revisa las necesidades de transporte de nuestra área y prepara varios planes y programas requeridos. Uno de estos, llamado Public Participation Process (Proceso de Participación Pública), describe las políticas y métodos utilizados por RATS para recopilar y usar aportes públicos significativos como parte del proceso de planificación del transporte. Ayúdenos a mejorar este proceso respondiendo a las siguientes preguntas. ¡Gracias!

1. ¿Alguna vez ha visto o escuchado sobre el Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

Sí

No

2. ¿Sabe quién lleva a cabo la planificación del transporte en Berks County?

Sí

No

3. ¿Está familiarizado con el proceso de planificación del transporte?

Sí

No

4. ¿Sabe de dónde provienen los fondos para mejoras en el transporte?

Sí

No

Sig.

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)
(Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading)**

**Public Participation Plan Survey
(Encuesta del Plan de Participación Pública)**

(¡Conteste esta encuesta en línea! <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>)

De una forma u otra, nuestro sistema de transporte afecta nuestras vidas cotidianas. Viajamos de ida y vuelta al trabajo, a la escuela, para ir de compras, a las citas médicas y a las actividades recreativas. Los productos que compramos se transportan entre fábricas, almacenes y tiendas. Las personas y las mercancías viajan en automóviles, camiones, trenes o autobuses; también caminamos, pedaleamos, compartimos el automóvil, tomamos un taxi o un Uber / Lyft, o trabajamos desde la casa. A lo largo del tiempo, nuestras necesidades de transporte superan la oferta del sistema de transporte actual y se necesitan cambios.

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading, RATS por sus siglas en inglés) es un comité de funcionarios locales que participan en la planificación del transporte para Berks County (Condado de Berks). Revisa las necesidades de transporte de nuestra área y prepara varios planes y programas requeridos. Uno de estos, llamado Public Participation Process (Proceso de Participación Pública), describe las políticas y métodos utilizados por RATS para recopilar y usar aportes públicos significativos como parte del proceso de planificación del transporte. Ayúdenos a mejorar este proceso respondiendo a las siguientes preguntas. ¡Gracias!

¿Alguna vez ha visto o escuchado sobre el Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)? Sí No

Si marcó “No” arriba,

- ¿Sabe quién lleva a cabo la planificación del transporte en Berks County? Sí No
¿Está familiarizado con el proceso de planificación del transporte? Sí No
¿Sabe de dónde provienen los fondos para mejoras en el transporte? Sí No

Si marcó “Sí” arriba, ¿dónde ha visto o escuchado sobre RATS?

- Medios impresos (especifique) _____
 Televisión (especifique) _____
 Redes sociales (especifique) _____
 Boletín municipal (especifique) _____
 Otro (especifique) _____

A medida que desarrollamos planes y proyectos que pueden impactarlo a usted, ¿cuáles serían los mejores métodos para brindarle información? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Notificación directa sobre documentos o reuniones (vía postal o correo electrónico)
- Programas de BCTV y anuncios del BCTV Community Calendar
- Reuniones públicas, reuniones de RATS, y presentaciones a grupos comunitarios
- Artículos de periódicos y comunicados de prensa
- Anuncios legales y/o bloqueo de anuncios en periódicos
- Información en la web, incluidos los documentos descargables
- Documentos archivados en bibliotecas y otras organizaciones comunitarias
- Boletines municipales
- Avisos impresos publicados en tabloneros de anuncios
- Redes sociales (especifique)_____
- Periódicos publicitarios (como el *Merchandiser*)
- Otros métodos (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

Si usted tuviera inquietudes a medida que desarrollamos los planes o sobre los proyectos de transporte, ¿cuáles de los siguientes métodos serían formas efectivas para que usted pueda brindarnos información? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Reuniones públicas, presentaciones especiales y talleres
- Encuestas impresas devueltas por correo
- Encuentros electrónicos completados en línea
- Redes sociales(especifique)_____
- Reuniones públicas, reuniones de RATS, y presentaciones a grupos comunitarios
- Reuniones en grupos pequeños (organizaciones comunitarias, agencias e individuos)
- Teléfono o fax
- Otros métodos (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

¿Qué obstáculos le impedirían asistir a una reunión sobre planificación de transporte? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- No es un tema interesante.
- No es un proyecto específico que me afecte directamente.
- Necesito acomodaciones especiales. (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Miedo/ falta de confianza en el gobierno
- No puedo ausentarme del trabajo para asistir a reuniones.
- Tengo preocupaciones con el cuidado de niños o envejecientes.
- Conflictos con el horario o localización (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Barreras con el idioma (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Falta de transportación disponible
- Otros (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

¿Participa usted en reuniones virtuales(en línea)?

Sí **No**

Si contestó “**No**”, ¿qué dificultades enfrenta? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- No uso o no tengo acceso a una computadora o teléfono.
- No me siento cómodo usando la tecnología.
- Prefiero reuniones presenciales.
- Otra razón (especifique) _____

Si contestó “**Sí**”, ¿qué beneficios recibe? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Me ahorra tiempo.
- No tengo que manejar a ningún sitio.
- No tengo acceso a transportación.
- Puedo ver las reuniones grabadas en un horario que me convenga.
- Prefiero las reuniones virtuales en lugar de las presenciales.

¿Qué tipo de plataforma(s) usa regularmente? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Computadora “desktop” (de escritorio) / “laptop” (portátil)
- Tableta/ teléfono celular
- Ninguno

Por favor, díganos sus sugerencias para mejorar la participación pública en el proceso de planificación del transporte.

Por favor, devuelva esta encuesta a:

Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Para más información sobre RATS y el proceso de planificación del transporte, por favor visite nuestro sitio web:

<https://countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>

Nos esforzamos constantemente por mantener listas de contactos precisas y actualizadas. Aunque tratamos de comunicarnos electrónicamente, entendemos que el correo postal sigue siendo la mejor manera para que algunos residentes escuchen sobre nosotros. Si usted desea estar en nuestras listas de correo para recibir avisos de reuniones y oportunidades para revisar documentos, provea **UN** (1) método para contactarlo, ya sea por correo electrónico **o** correo postal.

correo electrónico _____

o

Nombre _____

Dirección _____

Ciudad _____

Código postal _____

Gracias por completar nuestra encuesta. Su aportación se usará para crear el Public Participation Process(Proceso de Participación Pública), que asegurará una mejor comunicación entre el público y los responsables de tomar decisiones.

2. Initial email, including Public Notice and electronic links to surveys and documents, forwarded to over 250 groups, organizations and individuals. Copy of email attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan
Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 2:32:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_English.pdf](#)

Good afternoon, all!

Apologies for any multiple copies of this email you may receive. We ask that you please pass this information on to those who may be interested. Thank you!

PUBLIC NOTICE
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
And
DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the *Draft Public Participation Plan* and the *Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan* for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

Copies of the *Draft Plans* and links to online surveys are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

Berks County Planning 5-0 Commission Street	BARTA Executive Offices	PENNDOT District
633 Court St – 14 th Floor 18101 Reading, PA 19601	1700 North 11 th Street Reading, PA 19604	1002 Hamilton Allentown, PA

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler,

Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**

633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

This message and the attachment(s) are intended for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any retention, use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication including attachments is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone or reply to the original message at the above address and then delete all copies of the message.

3. Links to documents and surveys added to Berks County Planning Commission website. Images attached.

County of Berks - Planning Commission


countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

Government Services Community How Do I Search...

Welcome to the Office of County Planning

Our Mission


The Berks County Planning Commission serves as the area-wide planning organization for Berks County. The Commission provides a regional blueprint for land use, transportation and community facilities. It assists local units of government with development and preservation activities and provides guidance to the Berks County Board of Commissioners and other departments of county government. The Commission and its professional staff also serve as community advisors for modern planning practices and advocates for sound regional growth management. Finally, since the Commission is involved with a range of activities with a number of partners, it plays a very important coordinating role in community development issues and projects.




News / Announcements

About Us
 Planning Home
 Calendar
 Municipal Contacts
 Municipal Websites

Contact Information



David N. Hunter, AICP
Executive Director



RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan
 Public Comment Period Open

[View](#)

BCPC 2022 Annual Report
 See what the Planning Commission did in 2022

[View](#)

County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT P

countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/plans-and-programs/public-participation-pl...

Home About Us Select Language

Government Services Community How Do I Search...

2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited English Proficiency Plan

Back to Plans and Programs
 Back to Transportation/Reading MPO

[Survey \(English\) \(Print Version\)](#) [Survey \(Spanish\) \(Print Version\)](#)

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Español) and the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan (en Español) for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plans. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the Draft Plans: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.

Copies of the Draft Plans are available for public review at the links above and in print at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission 633 Court St - 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601	BARTA Executive Offices 1700 North 11th Street Reading, PA 19604	PENNDOT District 5-0 1002 Hamilton Street Allentown, PA 18101
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Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.

Si necesita servicios de traducción/interpretación, le pedimos que se comunique con nosotros a más tardar del 7 de junio del 2023 a las planning@countyofberks.com, o llame al 610-478-6300.

Quick Links

- County Buildings/Facilities
- County Park Locations

Resources

- Pennsylvania State Website

Looking for Information?
 If you are having trouble finding information Please contact *the Webmaster*.

County of Berks

4. 6/4/2023, Legal Advertisement run in the Reading Eagle. Advertisement attached.

To place a Classified ad
call 610-376-1527 #3 or
send an email to

CLASSIFIED@READINGEAGLE.COM

cla

C4

Sunday, June 4, 2023 » MORE UPDATES AT FACEBOOK.COM/READINGEAGLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auction vehicles
V&M Towing
81 Berkley Park Rd.
Reading, Pa 19605
610-926-3724
Auction on Monday 6/5/23 at
8:00 a.m.

2004 Sterling Tractor,
VIN 2FZHATDC34AN18669
2008 Chevy Malibu,
VIN 2G1WS553089277519

DICK HENRY
AUCTIONEER/REALTOR
610-858-3065

IT'S THE QUICK response
that keeps people coming back
to classifieds. Call today to
place your fast-action ad.

MERCHANDISE

MISCELLANEOUS

Beam scale - \$40; 2 Golf Bags
w/misc. clubs - \$50 ea. Golf
Hand Cart - \$30; Craftsman
Sabre Saw - \$35; Back mas-
sager - \$25; ConAir Bath Spa
- \$25; Revlon Hot Rollers - \$20.
610-375-7199

S & W 40 cal. handgun - \$350;
Mossburg Rifle slug gun w/
scope - \$350. 484-256-5993

MERCHANDISE

0BUYING-Antqs./collectibles
1 item to contents. Moving or
downsize. 484-529-0851

Vinyl Record Collections
Wanted, Cash paid for LPs and
45s. Rock/Soul/Jazz. Leave a
message. 484-655-2881.

MERCHANDISE

Wanted to Buy - Estate Jew-
elry, incl. costume & watches,
Vtg. clothing pre 80's, An-
tiques. 484-432-9770

ANIMALS

DOGS

AKC Golden Retriever Pups
8 wks. Shots & wormed:
\$900. Call 570-449-9147

PET SUPPLIES & SERVICES

Use Seal 'N Heal on dogs &
cats to seal wounds with
a bitter taste to prevent
gnawing, allow healing.
Weaver's Farm Supply
944-0593
(www.fleabeacon.com)

PUBLIC NOTICE READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN And DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan and the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plans. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the Draft Plans: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.

Copies of the Draft Plans are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St - 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

BARTA Executive Offices
1700 North 11th Street
Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.
RE June 4 A-1

5. 6/5/2023, information included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Image attached.

County of Berks - Planning Com | X Berks County Planning Commis | X +

facebook.com/berkscpc

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Email or phone Password Log In Forgot Account?

Berks County Planning Commission

Page · Public & Government Service

633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania


(610) 478-6300

countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

Open now

Berks County Planning Commission
June 2 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is obligated to have plans in place in order to ensure consistent public outreach and dialog throughout the transportation planning process. Now six years old, these documents have been updated to reflect changing demographics and communication methods. English and Spanish versions are available. A Public Review Period is now open until July 18th. For more information and to see the documents, click the link below:

 COUNTYOFBERKS.COM
County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited...
The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

2 1

Like Comment Share

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Log In or Create new account

6. 6/5/2023, Article/Notices included on the Berks Community Television (BCTV) website. Images attached.

Juneteenth Parade and Festival

Join the celebration on Saturday, June 10th, 2023, at...

COMMUNITY
JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)

Vice President & Provost

Alvernia University appoints Dr. Leamor Kahanov as the new...

EDUCATION
JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)

Transportation Program to Medical Care for Local Patients

South Central Pennsylvania Veterans are now able to participate...

HEALTH & WELLNESS
JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)


Explore Playlists by Local Creators

Upcoming Local Events

- JUN June 7 @ 9:00 am - July 16 @ 8:00 pm
7 LGBTQ+ Art Showcase
- JUN 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
10 Reading Juneteenth Day Parade & Festival
- JUN 9:00 am - 11:00 am
17 Safe Berks Celebration of Peace/Walk For NO MORE

[View Calendar](#)



Visions Celebrates 10 Years with Ty Muse, President/CEO

This May, Visions Federal Credit Union celebrated the 10th...

BUSINESS & ECONOMY
JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)



Reading Area Transportation Study Draft Public Participation Plan

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has...

ESPAÑOL
JUN 05, 2023
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Governor's Advisory Council Seeks Candidates for Fish & Boat Commission Board

The Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation...

ENVIRONMENT
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READING PARKING AUTHORITY

www.ReadingParking.com





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Reading Area Transportation Study Draft Public Participation Plan

by The County of Berks

Jun 05, 2023



The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the [Draft Public Participation Plan](#) and the [Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan](#) for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

Copies of the *Draft Plans* and links to [online surveys](#) are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission: 633 Court St – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601

BARTA Executive Offices: 1700 North 11th Street, Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District 5-0: 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**

El Comité Coordinador del Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading (RATS) ha preparado el [Borrador del Plan de Participación Pública](#) y el [Proyecto de Plan de Dominio Limitado del Inglés](#) para el Condado de Berks. Estos son documentos operativos que abordan métodos para difundir información y recopilar comentarios del público sobre diversos esfuerzos de planificación de transporte en el condado de Berks. Este anuncio está diseñado para dar a los ciudadanos, gobiernos locales y organizaciones interesadas la oportunidad de comentar sobre el *borrador del plan*. Se llevarán a cabo dos (2) reuniones públicas para recibir comentarios sobre el *borrador del plan*: miércoles 14 de junio, 2023, comenzando a las 7:00 p.m. en el auditorio del Centro Agrícola del Condado de Berks, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, y martes 27 de junio de 2023 a partir de las 2:00 p.m. en la Sala de Juntas del Comisionado del Condado de Berks ubicada en el Centro de Servicios del Condado de Berks, 633 Calle Corte Piso 13, Reading, PA 19601. La reunión del 27 de junio también estará disponible en línea a través de Microsoft Teams utilizando el enlace <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **Estas reuniones no son sobre proyectos o temas específicos; más bien, son sobre el intercambio de información y cómo involucrar mejor al público en el proceso de planificación del transporte.**

Las copias del *Borrador del Plan* están disponibles para su revisión pública en la página web de la Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks en <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> y en los siguientes lugares:

Comisión de Planificación Condado de Berks: 633 Calle Corte Piso 14, Reading, PA 19604

BARTA-Oficinas Ejecutivas: 1700 Norte, Calle 11, Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT Distrito 5-0: 1002 Calle Hamilton, Allentown, PA 18101

Por favor envíe comentarios por escrito a: Sr. Michael Golembiewski, Modelador de Transporte, Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks, 633 Calle Corte. Piso 14, Reading, PA 19601. Los comentarios se aceptarán a partir del 4 de junio de 2023, hasta el cierre de operaciones el martes 18 de julio, 2023. Los comentarios también pueden enviarse por fax al (610) 478-6316 o enviarse por correo electrónico a planning@countyofberks.com.

al 610-478-6300.

ALSO ON BCTV

<p>Many Threads, One Fabric: Vol. 10 – ...</p> <p>a month ago · 1 comment</p> <p>DO NOT BE CONFORMIST! Hi I'm Yuritzkiri Sixtos Medina, ...</p>	<p>Royals Announce Training Camp ...</p> <p>8 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>The Reading Royals, ECHL affiliate of the Philadelphia Flyers and Lehigh Valley ...</p>	<p>Muhlenberg Summer Style Program Cuts ...</p> <p>8 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>The Muhlenberg School District developed MSD Summer Style in the ...</p>	<p>Report: Child Pop Declines ...</p> <p>a month ago · 1 comm</p> <p>The population is m: of fewer children – ii Pennsylvania and ac</p>
--	--	--	---

BCTV Comment Policy

We welcome the sharing of ideas and feedback. Off-topic, spam, or harassing comments may be removed.

Got it

0 Comments

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Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

Name



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Best Newest Oldest

Be the first to comment.

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- [Pa. election 2022: Where the candidates for governor Mastriano, Shapiro stand on energy and the environment](#)
- [FTC Data Show Romance Scams Hit Record High](#)
- [Houlahan Delivers 3rd Annual State of the Sixth Address at Historic Colonial Theatre](#)

Share

7. 6/14/2023, Evening (7:00 p.m.) Public Meeting held at Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium facility. Meeting held in rural area. Meeting survey created and made available; 0 returned. There were no attendees from the public and one (1) Berks County Planning Commission staff member (presenter). Meeting materials, including PowerPoint discussion, attached.

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 14, 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY**

In an effort to ensure that public meetings serve their intended purpose, we're asking for your input. Kindly answer the following questions so we may improve our presentation formats.

- 1. Was the meeting time and place convenient for you? If not, what would be a better time and place?**

- 2. How did you hear about this meeting? Did the announcement or news story adequately describe the time, place, and purpose of the meeting? Did you see/hear the announcement in a reasonable amount of time for your planning purposes?**

- 3. Was the meeting space adequate for this size group? Could you clearly see the speaker and any visual aids? Could you clearly hear all discussions? Were the seating arrangements adequate? If you needed any accommodations, were they made for you in a respectful and useful manner?**

- 4. Did you understand the presentation? Was there any jargon used that you were unclear about?**

- 5. Were your questions answered and/or concerns addressed? Were you given adequate time to voice your opinion? In general, do you feel the meeting served its intended purpose?**

- 6. Are there any other questions/concerns you may have?**

If you would like to be added to our contact list for future transportation planning updates, please include your information below.

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP

EMAIL:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
c/o Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601-4309
610-478-6300; FAX: 610-478-6316

planning@countyofberks.com; www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**

Public Meeting #1
June 14, 2023
Berks County Agricultural Center

1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Why are we here?
 - To review the **Transportation Planning Process**
 - To discuss **Information Sharing**
 - To examine effective methods of **Communication**
 - To talk about **Process**
- Tonight is NOT about Projects!

2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.' ?
 - Born out of a legal agreement in 1964, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County
 - Required by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 in order to receive federal funding for transportation projects

3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.' ?
 - In other words, it is a group of officials appointed by various public agencies that specifically focus on transportation planning for all of Berks County
- Two separate Committees
 - *Technical Committee*
 - *Coordinating Committee*

4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Technical Committee
 - Advisory body only (8 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Planning Commission (2)
 - City of Reading (2)
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets Monthly

5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

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 - Policy Board (10 members)
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 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Commissioners
 - Berks County Planning Commission
 - City of Reading
 - Berks County Townships (2nd Class, 1st Class)
 - Berks County Boroughs
 - SCTA / BARTA
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 - Meets every other month

6

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Advisory Committees and Staff
 - Formed and meet as needed
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
 - Berks County Planning Commission staff serves as staff to RATS
 - Other Planning Partners
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Dept. of Environmental Resources (DEP)
 - Legislators, municipalities, non-profits, economic development

7

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What does RATS do?
 - Long- and Short-range planning
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP, 20+ years)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP, 4 years)
 - Congestion Management Process (CMP, ongoing and focused)
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2020, 2022 Update)
 - Other planning processes
 - Safety, Mobility, Transit
 - Coordination
 - Air Quality
 - Title VI / Environmental Justice / Executive Orders
 - **Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency**

8

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What doesn't RATS do?
 - Projects
 - Contracting, construction, management
 - Engineering
 - We are planners, not engineers
 - Financial Assistance
 - We don't provide direct grants/loans/financing; but...
 - We coordinate with PennDOT for project funding through the TIP
 - Accept applications for certain programs (TA-SA)
 - Contracts/contract management

9

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - 428,849 persons (2020 Decennial Census)
 - 17.7% Aged 65+
 - 29.2% Racial Minority
 - 23.9% Latino
 - 7.6% non-English speakers (aged 5+)
 - 85.7% Latino
 - 14.1% Disabled
 - 11.8% Below poverty level
 - 12.5% Less than High School graduate (aged 25+)
 - 3.2% No vehicles available (workers 16+)

10

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - Federal Guidance dictates that the process include:
 - Citizens
 - Affected public agencies
 - Representatives of public transportation employees
 - Representatives of users of public transportation
 - Freight shippers
 - Providers of freight transportation services
 - Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities
 - Representatives of the disabled
 - Other interested parties

11

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - We also include
 - Business and Industry representatives
 - Economic Development representatives
 - Local governments
 - Agricultural community
 - State and federal legislators

12

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- "HOW WELL ARE WE REACHING OUR AUDIENCE?"
- "IF WE'RE NOT REACHING OUR AUDIENCE, WHY?"

13

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Public Participation **throughout** the planning process is a key component of a successful process.
- The **Public Participation Plan (PPP)** and the **Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP)** guide RATS' efforts to successfully engage the public in a meaningful exchange of information.

14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **Public Participation Plan (May, 2023 Draft)**
 - Introduction
 - Public Participation Goals
 - Outreach Techniques and Strategies
 - Consultation with Interested Parties
 - Title VI and Environmental Justice
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Public Participation in Meetings
 - Public Notices
 - Public Review and Comment Periods
 - Access to Information
 - Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings
 - Future Efforts

15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)**
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data

16

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Our goal is to update the PPP and LEP to:
 - Update/analyze demographics
 - Improve current methods used to disseminate information and collect input;
 - Include better methods of reaching out to those who may not use 'mainstream' methods, including:
 - Print media
 - Television news
 - Websites
 - **Social Media**
 - **Virtual Public Engagement**

17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN!!!!**
 - Give us input as to how to better reach you / your neighbors / your clientele;
 - What can we do that we don't already do;
 - What can we improve on;
 - What works and What doesn't work?

18

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Please,
 - Stand up and speak up so everybody can hear you;
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Tonight is about information exchange, not about projects!*

19

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Next Steps?
 - Another meeting, June 27, 2:00 p.m., Commissioner's Boardroom and Virtual;
 - Survey online www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission, or paper available;
 - Formal 45-day Public Comment Period June 4 – July 18;
 - Adoption by RATS July 20th

20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Wrapping up this evening:
 - Please complete meeting survey before leaving
 - **THANK YOU FOR COMING AND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

21

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT ST FL 14
READING PA 19601
610-478-6300 X6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
Facebook: [facebook.com/berkspc](https://www.facebook.com/berkspc)

22

8. 6/23/2023, Follow-up email sent as a reminder of the second Public Meeting and to complete surveys. Copy of email attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: Reminder, RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan Public Meeting #2
Date: Friday, June 23, 2023 1:49:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_Draft_May2023_Spanish.pdf](#)
[LEP_Assesment_May2023_DRAFT_Spanish.pdf](#)
[LEP_ASSESSMENT-MAY2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)
[PPP_Draft_May2023.pdf](#)

Good Friday afternoon!

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. [The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams](#). There are online surveys in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) that we would ask you and your constituents to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

Mike



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

PUBLIC NOTICE
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
And
DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the *Draft Public Participation Plan* and the *Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan* for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

Copies of the *Draft Plans* and links to online surveys are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

Berks County Planning 5-0 Commission	BARTA Executive Offices	PENNDOT District 5-0
Street 633 Court St – 14 th Floor 18101 Reading, PA 19601	1700 North 11 th Street Reading, PA 19604	1002 Hamilton Allentown, PA

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**



**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com



Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

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Thank you.

9. 6/23/2023 and 6/26/2023, information regarding second Public Meeting included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Images attached.

County of Berks - Planning Comm | Berks County Planning Commis

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facebook

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Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania
 (610) 478-6300
countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
 Open now

Photos See all photos

Berks County Planning Commission 4d

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams. There are online surveys in both English and Spanish that we would ask you to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

For links to the survey, the meeting link, and more - click on the link below:

COUNTYOFBERKS.COM
County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited...
 The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

1

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Berks County Planning Commission

Intro

Mission
 The Berks County Planning Commission serves as the area-wide planning organization for Berks

Page - Public & Government Service

633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania
 (610) 478-6300
countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
 Open now

Photos See all photos

Berks County Planning Commission 1d

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams. There are online surveys in both English and Spanish that we would ask you to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

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 The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

Connect with Berks County Planning Commission on Facebook

Log In or Create new account

10.6/27/2023, Second Public Meeting held at Berks County Services Center (Commissioner's Boardroom, 13th Floor). Afternoon (2:00 p.m.) meeting held in facility that is transit accessible, located in City of Reading. Meeting also held virtually to allow for non-in-person attendance. Meeting survey created and made available; none returned. Four (4) in-person attendees total, including Berks County Planning Commission staff (2 persons), Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person) and one (1) Berks County Commissioner. Three (3) persons attended virtually, including SCTA/BARTA staff (1 person), Western Berks Ambulance Assn. staff (1 person) and Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person). Only comment germane to the PPP/LEP update was from SCTA/BARTA staff noting their experiences reaching out to the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and various faith-based organizations have been helpful. Meeting materials including image of virtual meeting attached.

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 27, 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY**

In an effort to ensure that public meetings serve their intended purpose, we're asking for your input. Kindly answer the following questions so we may improve our presentation formats.

- 1. Was the meeting time and place convenient for you? If not, what would be a better time and place?**

- 2. How did you hear about this meeting? Did the announcement or news story adequately describe the time, place, and purpose of the meeting? Did you see/hear the announcement in a reasonable amount of time for your planning purposes?**

- 3. Was the meeting space adequate for this size group? Could you clearly see the speaker and any visual aids? Could you clearly hear all discussions? Were the seating arrangements adequate? If you needed any accommodations, were they made for you in a respectful and useful manner?**

- 4. Did you understand the presentation? Was there any jargon used that you were unclear about?**

- 5. Were your questions answered and/or concerns addressed? Were you given adequate time to voice your opinion? In general, do you feel the meeting served its intended purpose?**

- 6. Are there any other questions/concerns you may have?**

If you would like to be added to our contact list for future transportation planning updates, please include your information below.

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP


EMAIL:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
c/o Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601-4309
610-478-6300; FAX: 610-478-6316

planning@countyofberks.com; www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**


Public Meeting #2
June 27, 2023
Commissioner's Board Room, Berks Co. Services Ctr.
&
Virtual



1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.'?
 - Born out of a legal agreement in 1964, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County
 - Required by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 in order to receive federal funding for transportation projects



3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- RATS Technical Committee
 - Advisory body only (8 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Planning Commission (2)
 - City of Reading (2)
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets Monthly



5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Why are we here?
 - To review the **Transportation Planning Process**
 - To discuss **Information Sharing**
 - To examine effective methods of **Communication**
 - To talk about **Process**
- Today is NOT about Projects!



2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.'?
 - In other words, it is a group of officials appointed by various public agencies that specifically focus on transportation planning for all of Berks County
 - Two separate Committees
 - *Technical Committee*
 - *Coordinating Committee*



4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Coordinating Committee
 - Policy Board (10 members)
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7

7

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- What doesn't RATS do?
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 - Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings
 - Future Efforts




15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)


Exhibit 1	
Limited English Proficient Population in RATS Region By Language Spoken	
Language	Estimated Number of Non-English Speakers Age 5+ Years
Spanish	26,401
Other Indo-European	877
German or Other West Germanic	865
French - Haitian or Cajun	499
Other and Unspecified Languages	465
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	462
Vietnamese	424
Russian, Polish or other Slavic	376
Other Asian and Pacific Island	243
Yagalog (incl. Filipino)	81
Korean	66
Arabic	53



17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Public Participation **throughout** the planning process is a key component of a successful process.
- The Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP) guide RATS' efforts to successfully engage the public in a meaningful exchange of information.



14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
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RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
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 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Today is about information exchange, not about projects!*



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RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Next Steps?
 - Survey online www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission, or paper available;
 - Formal 45-day Public Comment Period June 4 - July 18;
 - Adoption by RATS July 20th



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- **HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN!!!!**
 - Give us input as to how to better reach you / your neighbors / your clientele;
 - What can we do that we don't already do;
 - What can we improve on;
 - What works and What doesn't work?



20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Please, for those online:
 - Use the "Raise your Hand" feature and we will acknowledge you, or leave your comment in the "Chat"
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Today is about information exchange, not about projects!*
 - Be sure to mute yourself when you are finished



22

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Wrapping up this afternoon:
 - Please complete meeting survey before leaving (for those in-person)
 - **THANK YOU FOR COMING AND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**




24

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT ST FL 14
READING PA 19601
610-478-6300 X6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
Facebook: facebook.com/berkspcp



25

The video player displays a presentation slide with the following text:

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**

Public Meeting #2
June 27, 2023
Commissioner's Board Room, Berks Co. Services Ctr.
&
Virtual

Logos for BCPC (Berks County Planning Commission) and Berks County are visible at the bottom left of the slide.

Participant avatars on the right side of the player include:

- KB: Keith Boatman
- AT: Anthony T...
- MG: Golembie...
- CL: Long, Carl

At the bottom of the player, the name "Golembiewski, Michael" is visible. The video progress bar shows 0:12 / 25:28. Playback controls include a play button, 10-second rewind and fast forward buttons, a volume icon, and a 1x speed icon.

RATS Public Participation Plan Public Meeting

June 27, 2023 Expires in 120 days • 5 views • Commissioner Boardroom • ... > Documents > Recordings

Add a description to explain what this video is about.

11. Comments were received via two separate emails (07/14/2023) from Michael Donchez, PennDOT District 5-0 staff. Comments germane to the LEP were limited to text formatting and two date corrections. Comments germane to the PPP include spelling, grammar, and formatting corrections. Additionally, recommendations for minor text additions/corrections were made. MPO staff will make those corrections. Both emails attached.

From: [Donchez, Michael](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Cc: [Koenigkramer, Vanessa A](#); [Ruth, Jennifer](#); [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: RATS Public Participation Plan Public Review Comments
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:34:54 AM
Attachments: [Draft RATS PPP Review Comments 7-13-23.docx](#)

County of Berks Warning: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.

Mike

Attached are my review comments on the draft RATS Public Participation Plan for your consideration. Thanks for the providing an opportunity to review and comment.

Mike

Michael Donchez | Transportation Planning Specialist 1
PA Department of Transportation | District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street | Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610.871.4423 | Fax: 610.871.4124
www.penndot.pa.gov

File: Draft RATS PPP Review Comments 7/13/23

Thanks you for providing the opportunity to review an comment on the RATS Public Participation Plan (PPP). I offer the following comments:

Comment:

Section 3.1 Overview – 3rd last bullet – “Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish and made available digitally and in print” - may wish to revise to include “Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish **or other languages if applicable** and made available digitally and in print”.

Staff might consider providing T.V. (WFMZ Berks Edition) and radio stations with public service announcements to disseminate information regarding public review and comment periods on its various documents.

Section 3.2 Contact Lists – Staff might consider reaching out to PennDOT District 5 office to obtain and utilize the department’s contact list for use in RATS outreach efforts.

Section 5.2 Target Outreach Areas – “Specifically, RATS will use its geographic analysis of target outreach areas to ensure that public meetings are held at accessible locations within these communities...”. Staff may wish to consider expanding this to include: “Specifically, RATS will use its geographic analysis of target outreach areas to ensure that public meetings are held at accessible locations **and times** within these communities...”. Holding public meetings both during the day and evening provides more opportunities for public involvement.

Section 6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals – 6th bullet – “The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, along with over multiple other languages”. A suggested edit is “The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, **along with over as well as translation between** multiple other languages”.

Section 6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals – 8th bullet – “RATS will **include** notices on all documents and on the website that certain translated documents are available, and other translations are available on request” - Lower case i in Include.

Section 8.1 Overview – “RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area”. Planning related issues can be larger than just regional issues. Freight movement is one example that can affect multiple counties, MPOs, and states. As such I suggest the following revision – “RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area **as well as adjacent counties/MPOs as applicable**”.

Section 9.2 Public Notice Requirements – too many returns between bullets

Public Notices will provide the following information (where applicable):

- Type or name of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- Subject of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- The date, time, and location of meeting/participation event/activity
- The web link for a virtual meeting
- Start and end dates for public comment periods
- Contact information (Address, Telephone Number, E-mail address and/or website)
- Brief summary of the proposed action, plan, program or amendment
- Where to obtain copies of the plan or materials
- How to provide formal public comments
- If formal action on a major decision will be taken by the Board, the date, time and location of the meeting where that action will be taken
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with Limited English Proficiency; and
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with disabilities; and
- Directions on how to file complaints under Title VI and other nondiscrimination statutes

Section 10.2 Public Comment and Review Period Requirements – 2nd Paragraph – “Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be **make** available to stakeholders...”
revise to “Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be **made** available to stakeholders...”

Also, public libraries could provide another location for the general public to access and review documents during public review and comment periods. Berks County Public Libraries is made up of more than 23 public library sites throughout Berks County. Utilization of select libraries in areas traditionally underrepresented in the transportation planning process might help to increase input.

Section 10.5 The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – last bullet – remove double comma after “...PennDOT District 5-0’s offices,,...”

***Public Participation Plan
DRAFT 2023***

Report) will be produced and made available on the BCPC website <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, at the BCPC offices, BARTA’s offices, PennDOT District 5-0’s offices,, or by contacting the BCPC. Vital TIP documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities.

Section 10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report – last sentence – need space between asrequired.

10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report

The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is a companion document to the regional LRTP and to the TIP. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report documents the process used by RATS for making the transportation-related conformity determination for the regional LRTP and TIP for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The Conformity Determination is required by the federal Clean Air Act. RATS conformity finding is based on criteria and procedures in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93) and satisfies all applicable conformity requirements. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is developed as part of the regional LRTP or TIP update, in which case public participation and public comment procedures for the regional LRTP or TIP update will be followed as described in Sections 10.4 and 10.5, respectively. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is also updated **asrequired** by certain amendments to the TIP or regional LRTP, in which case public participation and comment procedures for major amendments to the regional LRTP or TIP will be followed as described in Section 10.6.

From: [Donchez, Michael](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Cc: [Koenigkramer, Vanessa A](#); [Ruth, Jennifer](#); [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: Draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan Review Comments 7-14-23
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 11:36:55 AM
Attachments: [Draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan Review Comments 7-14-23.docx](#)

County of Berks Warning: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.

Mike

Attached are my review comments on the draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan for your consideration. Thanks for the providing an opportunity to review and comment.

Mike

Michael Donchez | Transportation Planning Specialist 1
PA Department of Transportation | District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street | Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610.871.4423 | Fax: 610.871.4124
www.penndot.pa.gov

7/14/23

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and comment on the draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP). I offer the following comments:

Overall the plan was informative, well written, and concise. Otherwise, I have two minor specific comments:

On page 1, Four Factor Self- Assessment

This self-assessment is designed to balance four factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or service,
2. The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter the program and/or activities,
3. The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided to people's lives, and
4. The resources available to the federal financial recipient and costs.

Alignment of highlighted text on second row of the four factors.

On page 2, second full paragraph

The Review Team finds that RATS did not address the recommendations using the specific techniques identified in the 2017 report; however, the Team finds that the MPO addressed the intent of most of the recommendations. Specifically, the Review Team finds the MPO has made certain documents available to the region's largest LEP population in its native language; and, provided notices to that language group concerning the availability of language assistive services in its native language as a foreword to the document. Nonetheless, the Review Team finds that based on demographic data provided in the LEP Plan, the region has other LEP language groups that need to be made aware of the language assistive services the MPO provides. Accordingly, the Team encourages the MPO to add language Tag Lines for its current "frontpiece", relevant to its linguistic population, for inclusion in vital documents. Examples of language Tag Lines can be found in Pennsylvania's 2021 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance document.

Examples of Tag Lines may also be found in *Pennsylvania's 2025 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance* document. A copy of translated language taglines for inclusion in documents available for public comment is available in the Title VI folder on SharePoint.

12. Comments were received via email (07/17/2023) from Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff. These comments were substantive enough that staff chose to delay adoption of the draft PPP and LEP in order to further review and respond to these comments. A copy of Ms. Shamberg's email along with MPO staff responses is attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Vanessa Shamberg \(FHWA\)](#)
Cc: [Piper, Alan](#); [David Alas](#); [Mosca, James](#); [Mitchell, Khan \(FHWA\)](#); [Waters, Stacey](#); [Allen, Debra C.](#)
Subject: FW: REVISED RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and LEP Plan per FHWA Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 2:30:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[LEP_ASSESSMENT-SEPT2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)
[PPP_September2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)

All:

Over the last month, staff has been reviewing comments from Vanessa Shamberg (FHWA, received July 17, 2023) and incorporating her suggestions and necessary reformatting into our revised draft PPP and LEP. Below **in red** are our responses to her comments. Each comment will have an individual response. Her initial feedback was valuable and we look forward to additional comments and suggestions. Our goal is to have the revised documents out to the Technical Committee for their review no later than 2:00 p.m. next Thursday, August 31st. The revised draft documents are included with this email.

If anybody has any additional comments/concerns, please let us know prior to then so they may be considered. I am including Khan Mitchell (FHWA) and Stacey Waters & Debra Allen (both PennDOT BEO) in this response as well so they have opportunities to provide feedback. Thank you to all for taking the time to review these two revised drafts!

Mike



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**

633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

Good afternoon, Michael –

Thanks again for the opportunity to review the draft PPP and for all the great work that went into plan development. As I mentioned on our call a few minutes ago, I wanted to share a few comments for RATS' consideration. If you'd like to have a follow-up discussion on any of these, please don't hesitate to reach out.

- **Title VI Notice**

- On page 2, add ADA point of contact. We'll be covering this requirement in more detail during Wednesday's Bi-Monthly Planning Partners call with PennDOT.

ADA Point of Contact (POC) added. Per the Planning Partners call and subsequent email, my name has been added as POC.

- **Section 5 Title VI and Environmental Justice**

- On page 7, it mentions RATS has specific and explicit procedures to identify, seek out, and engage Title VI and EJ populations. I found it somewhat unclear where in the PPP those procedures were outlined. Generally, RATS seems to have a well-developed plan and approach for reaching Spanish speaking populations, but additional clarity on the approach for engaging other groups would be beneficial.

- Note that under EJ, the MPO should seek out and consider the needs of low income, minority, and other disadvantaged communities as identified in your EJ Analysis.

- Under Section 5.2, consider listing the accessible locations that will be used in target outreach areas, if already identified.

- **Section 5.1 Overview and Section 5.2 Target Outreach Areas have been revised to reference the RATS *Environmental Justice Summary* as the document that we use to identify concentrations of Title VI and EJ communities. Once those communities are identified, RATS will work with organizations that target these communities to identify possible accessible locations for public meetings as necessary. Additionally, a recommendation has been added that RATS develop and maintain a listing of accessible locations that may be used in targeted outreach areas.**

- **Section 6 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**

- In both the LEP Assessment and Section 6 of the PPP, recommend clarifying the text to clearly state for which languages translation and interpretations services will be provided for. Generally, I found it somewhat unclear if RATS is providing document translation and interpreters at public meetings for all languages upon request, or just Spanish, or Spanish and all Indo-European languages, etc. The text in some places says translation will occur "upon request" and in other places says key documents will be translated. To ensure compliance with Title VI, generally the MPO needs to:

- Provide translation and interpretation for any language upon request. For this reason, we encourage the use of taglines. It seems like RATS has this capability; I would just suggest finetuning the text in the LEP Assessment and PPP to more clearly/consistently describe it.
- The MPO has different procedures for Spanish (proactive translation of executive summaries). This is acceptable, however, we recommend providing a brief justification for why you have different procedures for this group. For example, a justification could be you previously received requests for documents to be translated into Spanish. **Language has been added to both the PPP (bottom of**

page 8) and LEP (top of page 5) that specifies Spanish is currently the only language translated into based on the analysis in the LEP (justification requested above). Language Taglines (provided by PennDOT) have been added to the front of these documents that tell of accommodations for many other languages.

- Under 6.3 Meaningful Access to LEP Individuals, suggest listing the local minority media outlet and community service organizations RATS provides notices to. **Local media outlets have been added to the fourth bullet point in this section.**

- **Section 7 American with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
 - 7.4 Notices and Services should reference the ADA point of contact. **The RATS ADA Point of Contact has been listed in Section 7.1. The requested reference has been added to Section 7.4.**

- **Section 9 Public Notice Requirements**
 - Consider libraries and SCTA (post notices on buses, bus stops, etc.) **Public Libraries and SCTA/BARTA (transit provider) have been added as separate bullet points.**
 - Add ADA point of contact. **ADA Point of Contact has been added as a separate bullet point.**

- **Section 10 Public Review and Comment Period at Key Discussion Points**
 - The PPP outlines the steps RATS will use to facilitate public participation for the LRTP and TIP (beginning on page 14 of 21).
 - In Step 3, consider stating that at least 1 public meeting/workshop will be held prior to the development of the draft LRTP/TIP or further elaborate on what the next phase of outreach and participation typically includes. **Language has been added in Step 3 that includes at least one (1) Public Meeting/Workshop which may be scheduled in conjunction with a regularly scheduled RATS Technical or Coordinating Committee meeting.**
 - Step 5 specifies that draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website, BCPC offices, BARTA offices, and PennDOT District 5-0 offices. Consider adding the local library system to this list, which presumably has higher foot-traffic from members of the public. In lieu of printed copies, a poster/banner that promotes public input and review, with details on how to access the online version (QR code) or to request a hardcopy, may be appropriate. **Language has been added in Step 5 that includes local libraries. Additionally language stating that details on how to access documents in printed or electronic forms will be included in the notice.**
 - Consider adding discussion on meeting format (in-person, virtual, or hybrid). MPOs should demonstrate meeting formats are effective in garnering feedback and are also accessible. **Language pertaining to meeting format / locations has been added to Step 5, along with a statement that staff strives to accommodate requests for presentations at other meetings.**
 - On page 17 of 21, it indicates that the definition of major amendment can be found in the LRTP and TIP documents at this [link](#). However, the URL does not directly link to the LRTP/TIP, which I think may be more helpful for members of the public. **Berks County government recently redid their entire web presence. The included links will be updated to take the viewer directly to [Appendix A: Procedures for TIP Administrative](#)**

Actions (TIP) and Chapter 7: Appendix (LRTP) that outlines what constitutes a 'Major Amendment'. Additionally, within Section 10.6, the definition of a Major Amendment has been highlighted in bold text. Going through the LRTP documents, I could not find "major amendment" using a Word search function. **LRTP Amendment procedures are contained in Chapter 7: Appendix, starting on Page 57.** Could you clarify what constitutes a major amendment for which you would go through additional public participation as outlined? **See link provided in previous response.**

- In Section 10.3, suggest using the regulatory language here and consider shortening the review period to 15 days (it does not need to be 30): **Review period shortened to 15 days**
 - 23 CFR 450.316(1)(viii) - Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan transportation plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement effort.
- In Section 10.4
 - Step 5 - Add public meeting during public comment period **Language pertaining to Public Meetings has been added**
 - Step 6 - Language should be revised to read, "All comments received will be considered and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft regional plan materials." **Additional language has been added**
 - Step 9 - Recommend clarifying, as it seems to repeat the public participation process. Where will the final version be posted? **Final versions will be posted to the BCPC website and will be available in print at BCPC offices, BARTA's offices and PennDOT District 5-0 office in Allentown.**
- In Section 10.5
 - Same comments as above on Steps 5, 6, and 9. **Same amendments added.**
- **Other Considerations**
 - Tribal consultation requirements should be added. MPOs/RPOs must consult with federally recognized Tribes and Nations to provide opportunities for review and comment on key planning documents. The updated list for tribal consultation in planning is found [here](#) (see pages 4-7). Many Tribes and Nations accept electronic submissions. If a Tribe or Nation requests hardcopy submissions, RATS should provide a hardcopy of the draft document. **A new Section 4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies has been added. The first paragraph references PennDOT's Tribal Consultation Guide which describes which Tribes and Nations have interests throughout the Commonwealth, specifies which are to be included in review activities and how they are to be addressed.**
 - The regulations require coordination with Federal land management agencies in the development of the LRTP and TIP when the MPO's area includes Federal public lands. Based on our records, there are Federal lands in Berks County (Hopewell Furnace). I would recommend adding resource agency coordination in the PPP. Generally, we are encouraging more collaboration between MPOs/RPOs and state and federal resource

agencies in the early stages of LRTP and TIP development. **A new Section 4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies has been added. The second paragraph references the two Federal lands in Berks County (Hopewell Furnace National Historic Park administered by the National Park Service, and Blue Marsh Lake administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).**

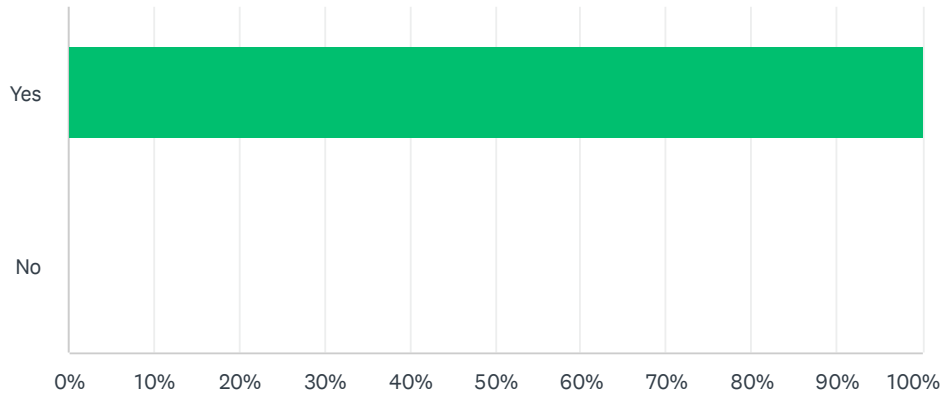
Thanks so much,
Vanessa

Vanessa Shamberg, AICP
Senior Community Planner
USDOT | FHWA | Pennsylvania Division
30 North Third Street, Suite 700
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 221-4406 | vanessa.shamberg@dot.gov

13. As of the close of the Public Comment Period (07/18/2023), a total of ten (10) online surveys and no (0) written surveys were returned. All responses received were English; no Spanish responses to the Surveys were received. The summary of responses is attached.

Q1 Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

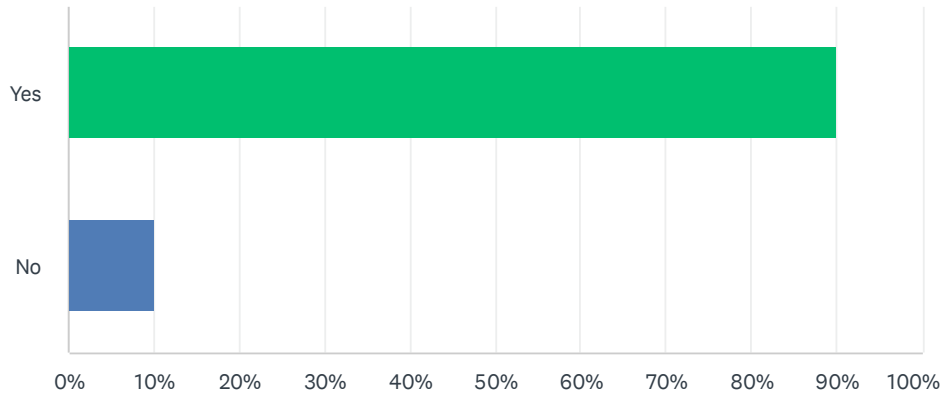
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	10
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		10

Q2 Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County?

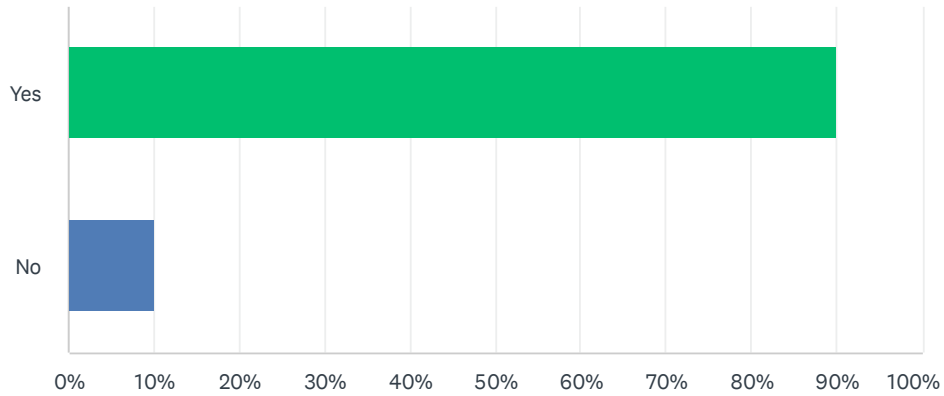
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q3 Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

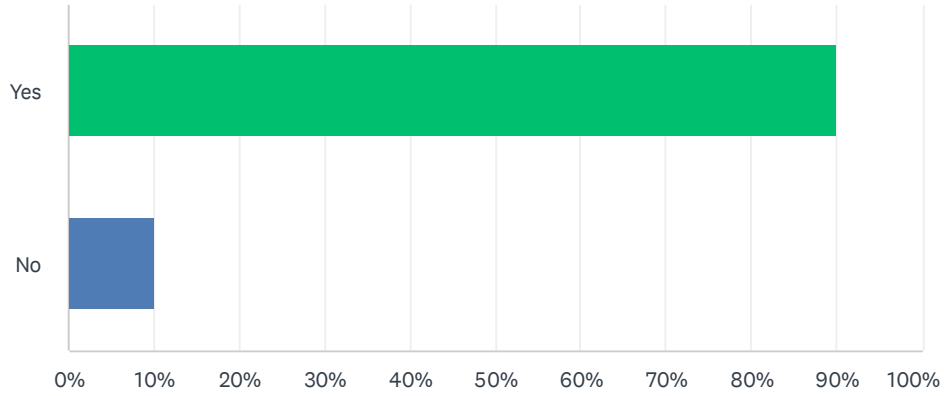
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q4 Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements?

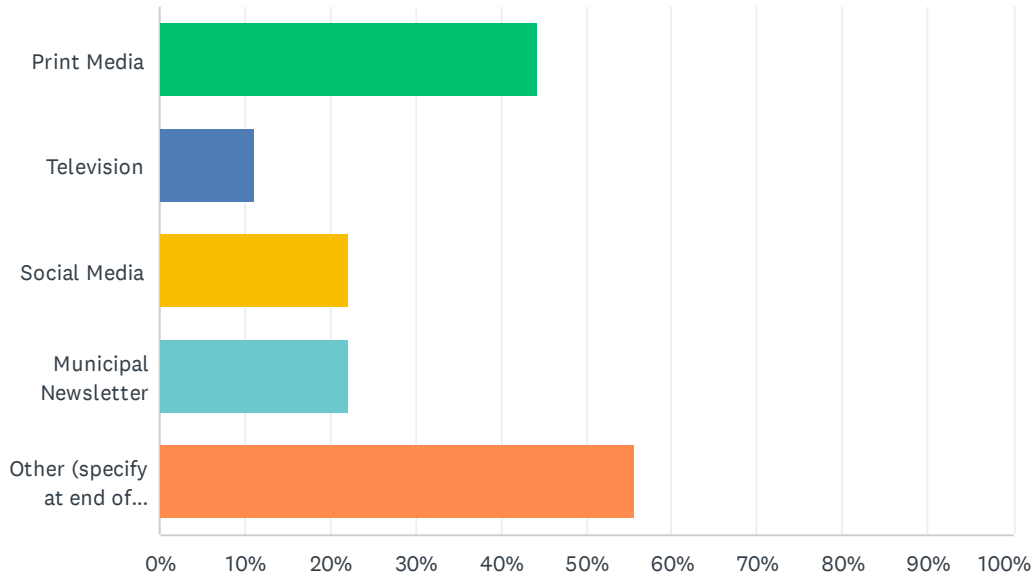
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q5 If you checked 'Yes' above, where have you seen or heard about RATS?

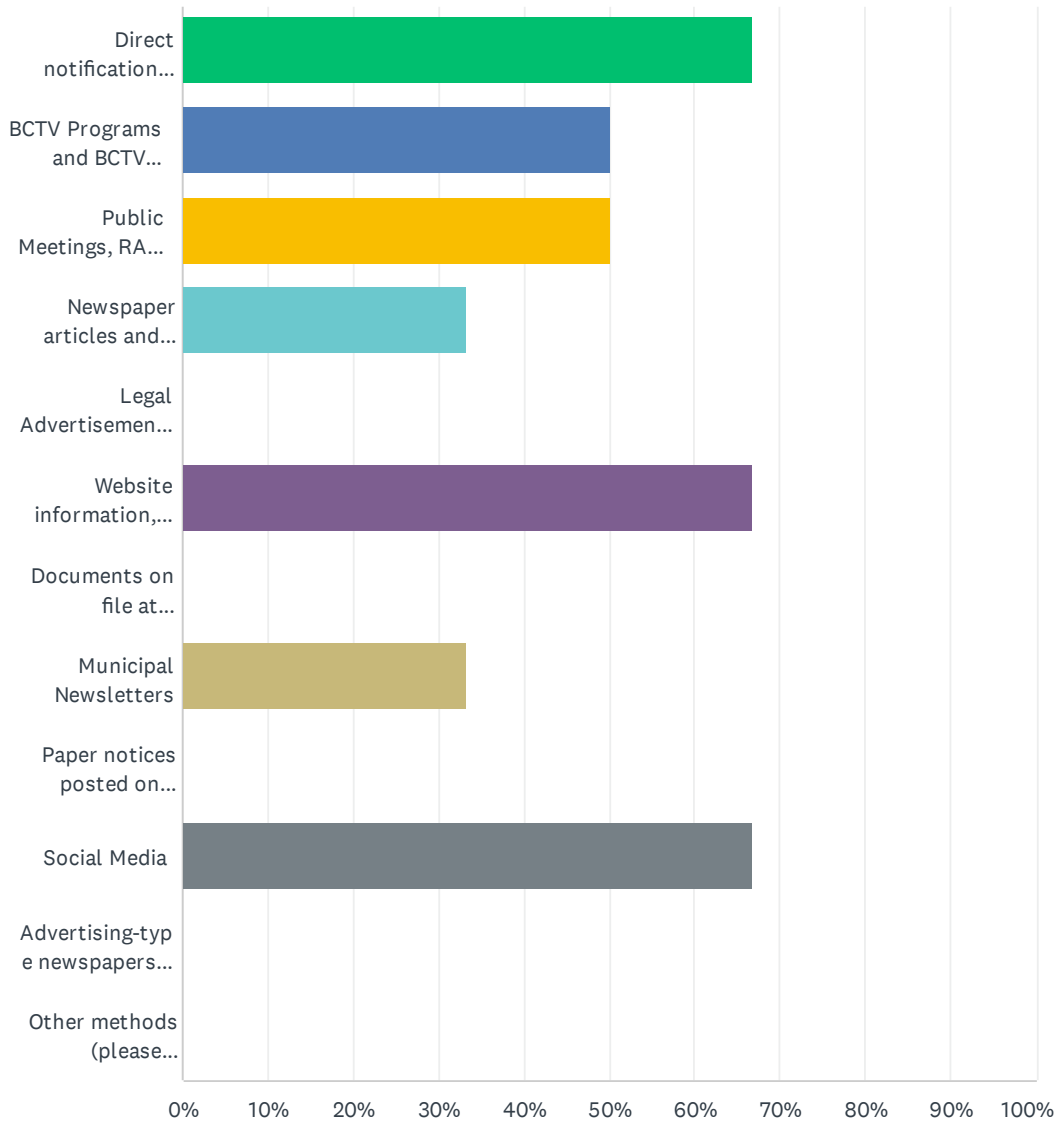
Answered: 9 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Print Media	44.44% 4
Television	11.11% 1
Social Media	22.22% 2
Municipal Newsletter	22.22% 2
Other (specify at end of Survey)	55.56% 5
Total Respondents: 9	

Q6 As we develop plans and projects that may impact you, what would be the best ways for us to get information to you? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4

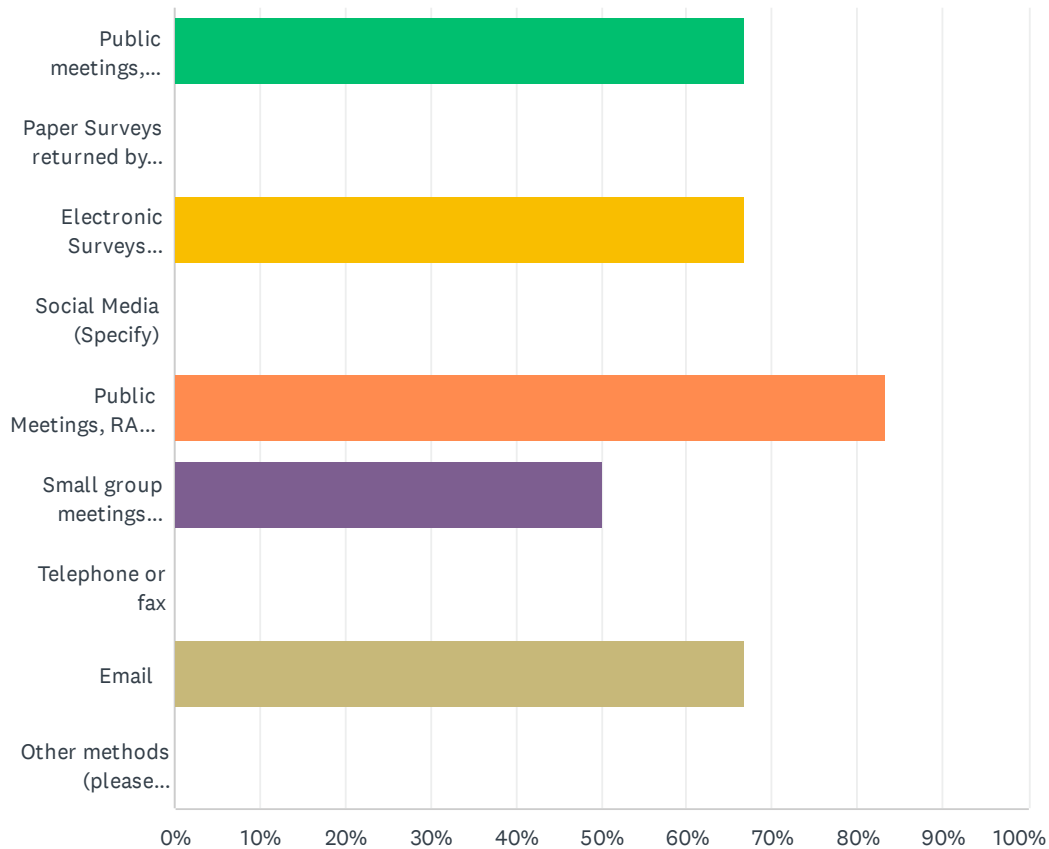


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Direct notification (by postal mail or email) of meetings and documents	66.67%	4
BCTV Programs and BCTV Community Calendar notices	50.00%	3
Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups	50.00%	3
Newspaper articles and press releases	33.33%	2
Legal Advertisements and/or block ads in newspaper	0.00%	0
Website information, including downloadable documents	66.67%	4
Documents on file at libraries and other community organizations	0.00%	0
Municipal Newsletters	33.33%	2
Paper notices posted on bulletin boards	0.00%	0
Social Media	66.67%	4
Advertising-type newspapers (the Merchandiser)	0.00%	0
Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q7 If you have concerns as we develop those plans or about transportation projects, which of the following methods are effective ways for you to get information to us? (Check all that apply)

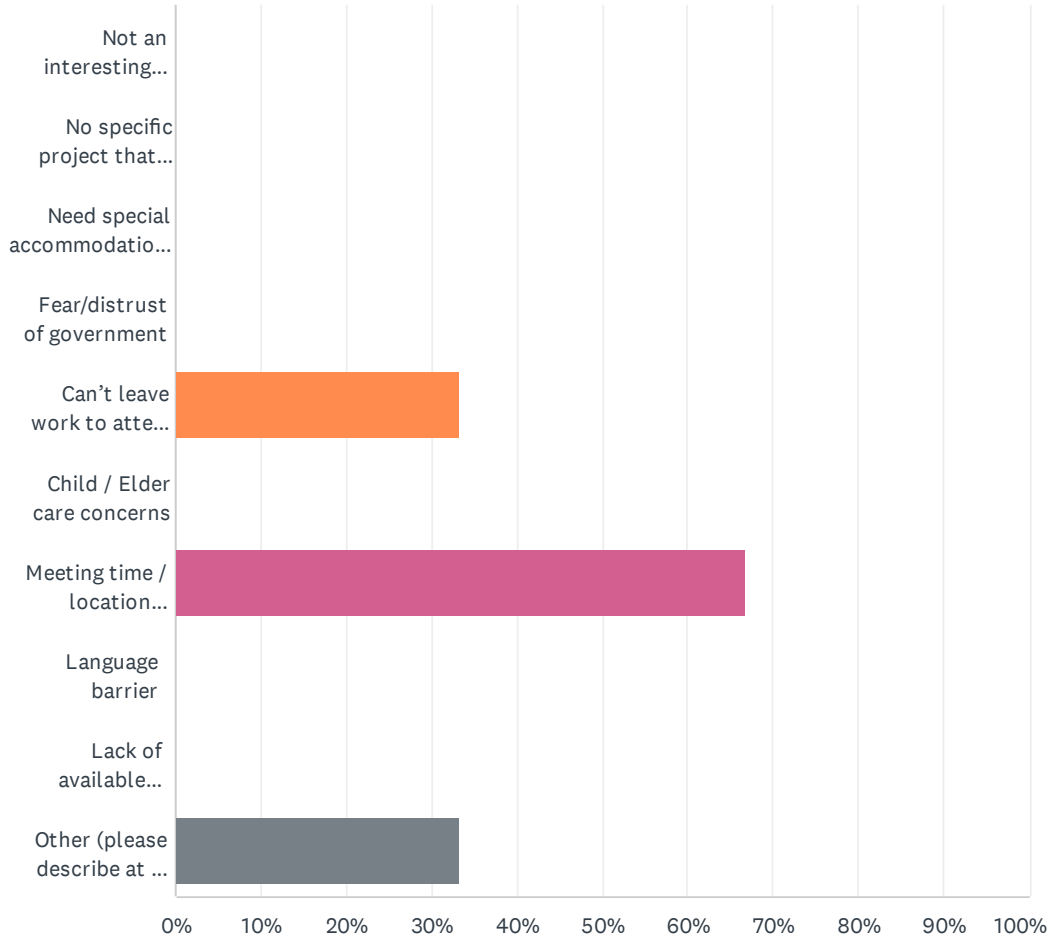
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public meetings, special presentations & workshops	66.67%	4
Paper Surveys returned by postal mail	0.00%	0
Electronic Surveys completed online	66.67%	4
Social Media (Specify)	0.00%	0
Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups	83.33%	5
Small group meetings (community organizations, agencies, & individuals)	50.00%	3
Telephone or fax	0.00%	0
Email	66.67%	4
Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q8 What obstacles prevent you from attending a meeting about transportation planning? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 3 Skipped: 7

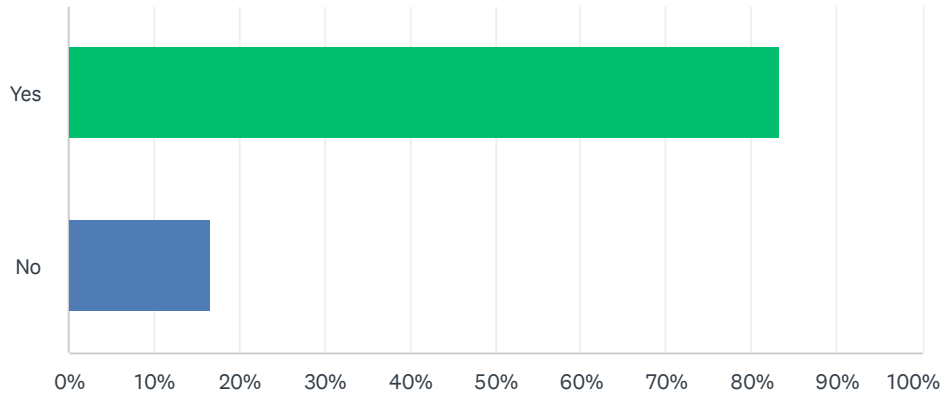


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not an interesting subject	0.00%	0
No specific project that directly affects me	0.00%	0
Need special accommodations (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Fear/distrust of government	0.00%	0
Can't leave work to attend meetings	33.33%	1
Child / Elder care concerns	0.00%	0
Meeting time / location conflicts (please describe at the end of this survey)	66.67%	2
Language barrier	0.00%	0
Lack of available transportation	0.00%	0
Other (please describe at the end of this survey)	33.33%	1
Total Respondents: 3		

Q9 Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

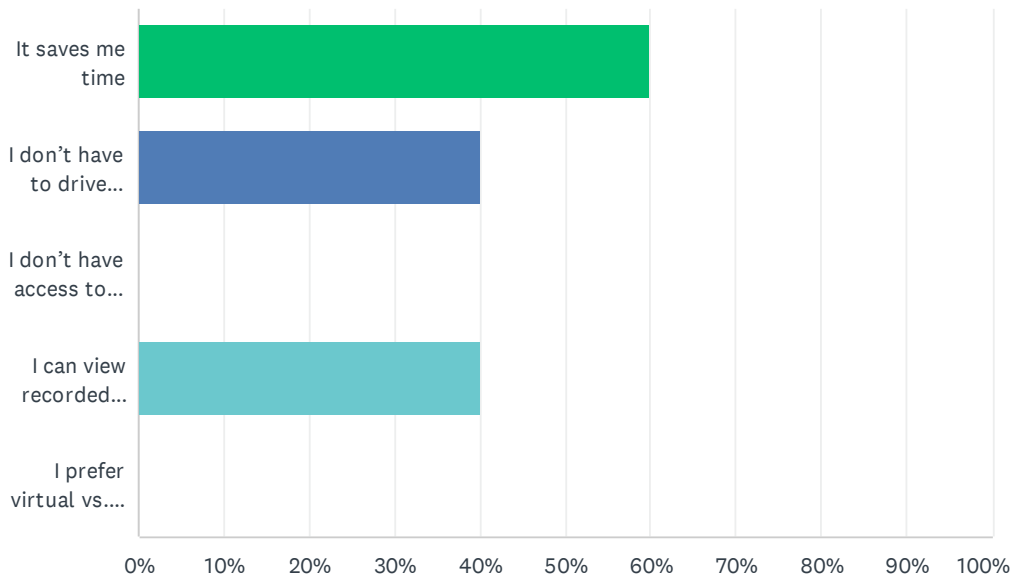
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.33%	5
No	16.67%	1
TOTAL		6

Q10 If Yes, which benefits do you receive? (Check all that apply)

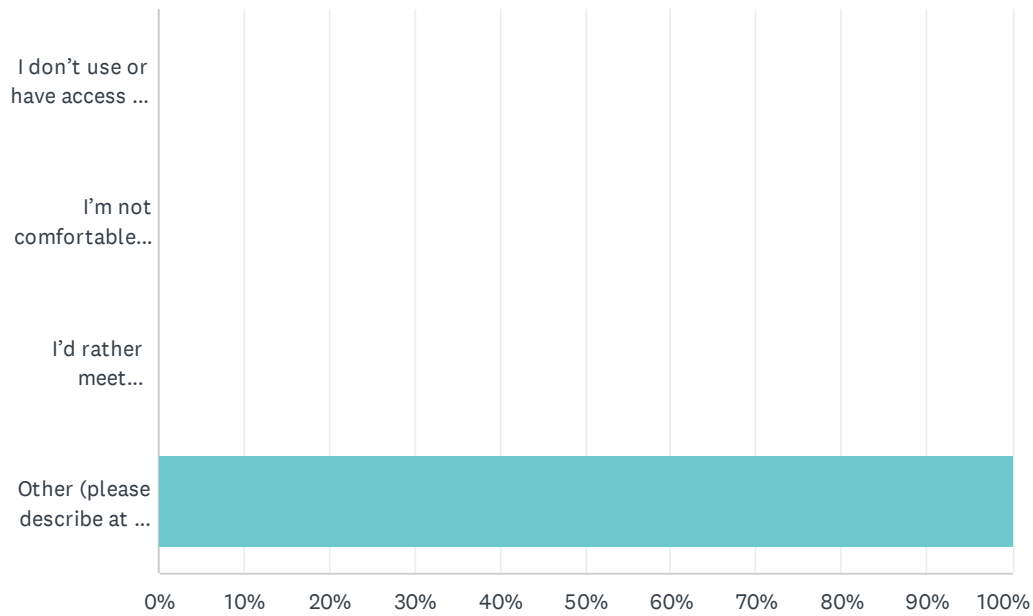
Answered: 5 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
It saves me time	60.00%	3
I don't have to drive anywhere	40.00%	2
I don't have access to transportation	0.00%	0
I can view recorded meetings at a more convenient time	40.00%	2
I prefer virtual vs. face-to-face	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 5		

Q11 If No, which challenges do you face? (Check all that apply)

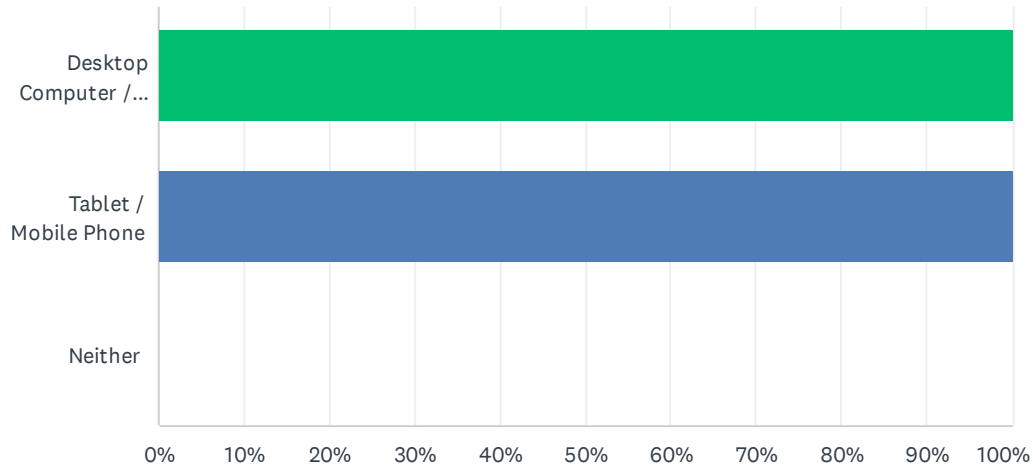
Answered: 1 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't use or have access to a computer or smart phone	0.00%	0
I'm not comfortable using technology	0.00%	0
I'd rather meet face-to-face	0.00%	0
Other (please describe at the end of this survey)	100.00%	1
Total Respondents: 1		

Q12 Which types of platform(s) do you use regularly? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Desktop Computer / Laptop	100.00%	6
Tablet / Mobile Phone	100.00%	6
Neither	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q13 Please tell us below any ideas you have for improving public participation in the transportation planning process.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Targeted business group presentations	7/14/2023 6:12 PM
2	I think RATS is providing various ways the public can participate in the the transportation planning process in Berk County. The issue is that the public will not get involved unless the transportation issue affects them directly in their daily lives. The planning process is long and involves the TYP, LRTP, etc, funding for projects slip or are directed to other projects that require additional funding and the public may not fully understand why the project they were interested in moving forward was delayed or removed from the TYP due to funding issues. It is difficult to explain to the average citizen what steps are necessary for a project to be placed on a planning document, receive the necessary funding in the years required to design and fully fund the construction to complete the project. I think RATS should approach the municipalities in Berks and offer to attend either a Planning Commission Meeting or a Township/Borough Supervisor meeting and explain the ins and outs of the transportation planning process.	7/14/2023 9:25 AM
3	Ed Granger egranger@abilitiesinmotion.org	7/14/2023 9:08 AM
4	Do lots of advertising and social media so that people know when meetings will be. Give a virtual option for meetings.	6/5/2023 9:53 AM

14. Staff submitted (8/23/2023) revised documents to Vanessa Shamborg, FHWA staff per her previously submitted comments for additional review. Staff also included Khan Mitchell (FHWA Civil Rights Specialist) along with Stacey Waters and Debra Allen (both PennDOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity). On 8/28/2023, staff received documents with embedded comments from both FHWA officials (unable to reproduce for this document). Staff reviewed and incorporated changes suggested by those comments.

15. Both documents set for review/recommendation by RATS Technical Committee 9/7/2023. If a favorable recommendation is received, the RATS Coordinating Committee (Reading MPO) should adopt on 9/21/2023. Minutes from both meetings to be attached upon approval.

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APPENDIX F

Limited English Proficiency Plan

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN**

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

C/o

Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court St. FL 14

Reading, PA 19601-4302

Ph: 610-478-6300

FAX: 610-478-6316

Email: planning@countyofberks.com

Web: <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of publication. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.

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Reading Area Transportation Study
Limited English Proficiency Assessment

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act states that “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Federal Executive Order 13166 of 2001 “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency” directed federal agencies to: a) publish guidance on how their recipients can provide access to persons with limited English proficiency; b) improve the language accessibility of their own federal programs; and c) break down language barriers by implementing consistent standards of language assistance across federal agencies and amongst all recipients of federal financial assistance.

“Limited English Proficient” or “LEP” persons are those individuals who do not speak English as their primary language, and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English. The key commonality among all LEP persons is their inability to communicate effectively in the English language, regardless of their native tongue. Persons who are multi-lingual, in that they speak a language *in addition to English*, are not considered to be Limited English Proficient.

As a recipient of federal financial assistance, the Reading Area Transportation Study has an obligation to reduce language barriers that can preclude meaningful access to RATS’s programs, information, and services by non-English speakers. The first step is the completion of a “Limited English Proficiency Self-Assessment” or LEP Assessment.

This self-assessment is designed to balance four factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or service,
2. The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter the program and/or activities,
3. The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided to people’s lives, and
4. The resources available to the federal financial recipient and costs.

2020 Federal Certification Review

In the last RATS TMA Certification Review, the Review Team made two recommendations based on the MPOs administration of its LEP Plan. Specifically, the Review Team recommended the MPO create and distribute executive summaries of its vital documents in Spanish to organizations with Spanish speaking constituents. Additionally, the Team recommended the MPO revisit its outreach methods to ensure

that LEP individuals were provided meaningful access to information. The method recommended included reviewing and providing language assistive services availability notices in vital documents and on the MPOs website.

RATS adopted its LEP Plan in August 2017. According to the Plan, the MPO will provide “written translations of its planning documents upon request.” The LEP Plan assures the notice of availability of translation services is included as a “front piece” to its documents in Spanish. Notices of public comment periods for vital documents will also be translated. Additionally, the Plan provides that the website provides on-demand translation. Oral translation services are provided by contract. In addition, the LEP Plan provides that RATS outreach efforts will be targeted based on project level or neighborhood meeting needs.

The Review Team finds that RATS did not address the recommendations using the specific techniques identified in the 2017 report; however, the Team finds that the MPO addressed the intent of most of the recommendations. Specifically, the Review Team finds the MPO has made certain documents available to the region’s largest LEP population in its native language; and, provided notices to that language group concerning the availability of language assistive services in its native language as a foreword to the document. Nonetheless, the Review Team finds that based on demographic data provided in the LEP Plan, the region has other LEP language groups that need to be made aware of the language assistive services the MPO provides. Accordingly, the Team encourages the MPO to add language Tag Lines for its current “front piece”, relevant to its linguistic population, for inclusion in vital documents. Examples of language Tag Lines can be found in Pennsylvania’s *2025 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance* document.

The Review Team found that the recommendation concerning the website, although addressed in the MPOs LEP Plan, is not readily observable on the website. The Team found that the reason that changes have not been made to the website as indicated is that the website is not within the MPOs direct authority and control to address. During the virtual review discussion, the MPO revealed that the website is administered and maintained by Berks County. As a result, RATS is unable to unilaterally alter the website.

To improve the overall process, the Review Team encourages RATS to revisit the language in the LEP Plan, and anywhere else that it appears, concerning the availability of translation of the website. This information should be revised to accurately reflect how the MPO communicates information contained on its website to LEP language groups.

1. LEP Population

The LEP self-assessment begins with the identification of the potential LEP population through a demographic analysis to determine the number or proportion of LEP persons from a particular language group served or likely to be encountered in the eligible service area. The greater the number or the higher the proportion of LEP persons served or encountered, the more likely language services are needed.

American Community Survey (ACS) Information

The resulting American Community Survey is a monthly nationwide survey taken of roughly 3 million households per year, with data aggregated for time frames based on geographic populations. Areas with populations over 65,000 persons (i.e., Berks County, Reading City) receive their data aggregated to a one-year time span, while areas with less than 65,000 persons (boroughs, most townships, plus 1-year areas) receive their data aggregated over five years.

Since information needs to be reviewed at the municipal level and we need to maintain consistency between measures, the most recent data to be used is from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. Users are cautioned that ACS data represent an estimation over a longer period versus a ‘snapshot’ of a single point in time and should be viewed appropriately. Additionally, though not shown in this document, these data are subject to margins-of-error equivalent to a 90-percent confidence interval.

The RATS Region

The “service area” for the Reading Area Transportation Study is all of Berks County. According to the 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS), the number of persons aged 5-years and over was approximately 402,848 persons.

Information on the ability of residents of the RATS region to speak English was also obtained from the Census Bureau’s 2017-2021 ACS. The language information obtained lists the number of speakers of more than one language other than English. The data are based on responses to the question, “Does this person speak a language other than English at home?” on the ACS questionnaire, which was distributed annually to approximately 1-in-46 households nationwide. Respondents who answered in the affirmative were then asked to name the language they spoke.

County level data indicate that approximately 325,565 persons speak only English, leaving approximately 77,283 persons who speak a language other than English. Most of these individuals were *multi-lingual* in that they indicated that they spoke English or “Very Well” in addition to speaking another language. These persons are not Limited English Proficient, or LEP, and were excluded from further analysis based on their ability to communicate effectively in English.

The region’s LEP persons speak many languages though the ACS only reports on a certain number of ‘major’ language groups with Spanish, French/Haitian/Cajun, Other West Germanic, Other Indo-European, and Chinese being the five most spoken. Exhibit 1 identifies the number individuals in the region speaking these languages. Out of a total of approximately 30,812 total LEP persons, the language most spoken by LEP persons is Spanish, with 26,401 speakers or 85.7 percent of the region’s total LEP population.

All languages most frequently spoken by non-English speakers in the region, according to the ACS information are identified in Exhibit 1, Limited English Proficient Population in RATS Region, below.

Exhibit 1	
Limited English Proficient Population in RATS Region By Language Spoken	
Language	Estimated Number of Non-English Speakers Age 5+ Years
Spanish	26,401
Other Indo-European	877
German or Other West Germanic	865
French, Haitian or Cajun	499
Other and Unspecified Languages	465
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	462
Vietnamese	424
Russian, Polish or other Slavic	376
Other Asian and Pacific Island	243
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	81
Korean	66
Arabic	53

SOURCE: 2017-2021 5-year American Community Survey, Table C16001

Analysis of the concentrations of non-English speakers in the region reveal that more non-English speakers live in Reading City (69.9%) than any other municipality, where 24.9% of the City's population identifies themselves as speaking English “less than well” or “not at all.” Regionally, 7.6% of the region’s residents speak English “less than very well”. This 7.6% of the regional population represents the Limited English Proficient population in the RATS region. Of that 7.6% regional LEP population, 71.6% reside within the Reading City limits.

More specifically, of the 26,401 non-English Spanish speakers in Berks, 20,396 (77.3%) resided in the City. Conversely, Berks’ next largest group of non-English speakers (Other Indo-European) were more distributed throughout the county. Only 185 (18.6%)

were estimated to have resided in the City. Appendix A contains language data for each of the Census-specified language groups and their municipal distributions. Based on the foregoing RATS has determined that Spanish is the most prevalent language spoken among both LEP and non-LEP individual in the region.

2. Frequency of Contact

The more frequent the contact with a particular language group, the more likely that enhanced language services are needed. If an LEP person from a specific language group contacts or accesses a program or service daily, the federally funded agency has greater language assistance requirements than if the same person's frequency of contact with the program or service is unpredictable or infrequent. However, federal aid recipients must bear in mind the possibility that the frequency of contact with LEP populations could increase when appropriate outreach to those LEP populations is enhanced.

The next factor to be considered in the LEP Assessment is the frequency with which LEP persons encounter the services and programs of the Reading Area Transportation Study.

The Reading Area Transportation Study provides transportation planning and programming services on behalf of all of Berks County and serves as the regional forum for transportation decision making. Decisions made by RATS affect all residents of the service area. As residents of the region, LEP persons may be affected by the decisions, services, and programs of RATS. Public input is routinely sought in the development and advancement of key planning processes, including the Long Range Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Public Participation Plan and other key plans, programs, and initiatives. During these public comment periods, comments are solicited from any interested party. To date, no comments or requests for information have been received in a language other than English, nor has any advocacy group informed RATS of the need for expanded outreach in any language other than English.

3. Importance of Services Provided

Once the languages spoken by LEP persons in the service area have been identified, and the frequency of contact has been analyzed, the nature and importance of the services provided must be assessed. As a rule of thumb, the more important the activity, service, or program, or the greater the possible consequences of the contact to the LEP individuals, the more likely language services are needed. The key question to be addressed is "will the denial or delay of access to services have serious implications for the LEP individual?"

The nature of the programs and services provided by RATS affect the mobility and quality of life for area residents. No element of the RATS program requires the compulsory participation of area residents, nor does RATS administer or oversee any programs or services that impose involuntary restrictions on area residents. Finally, the delay or denial of RATS services or participation in any RATS program is unlikely to result in a detrimental effect on the health or well-being of any individual.

4. Resource Availability and Cost

Finally, the assessment of language service provisions must assess the costs of providing such services, and the resources available to the agency. RATS has assessed its available resources that could be used for providing language assistance. Through contracts administered by the County of Berks, services available to RATS include both document translation and oral interpretation, along with on-demand website translation. Annual budget planning includes reviews of past expenditures and potential upcoming needs. Through this process RATS staff determines which documents will be translated in full vs. Executive Summaries, and also estimates interpretive needs for public meetings.

Language Assistance Obligations by RATS

RATS will take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to key transportation planning decisions and have opportunities to become involved in the regional transportation planning process.

Language Assistance Measures

There are two language assistance services that RATS will provide: translation and interpretation. These terms are often used interchangeably; however, they are quite distinct and there are different rules for each.

- **Translation** refers to the process of transferring information expressed in writing from one language to another language.
- **Interpretation** is the process by which the spoken word is used when transferring meaning between languages.

To determine in which languages these assistance measures will be provided by RATS depends on the results of data that was analyzed as part of the 4-Factor LEP Assessment. The results of this assessment are shown in Exhibits I and II and indicate that there are approximately 30,812 residents of the region that speak English “less than very well” and that these non-English speakers are fluent in many different languages.

Given the number and percentage of non-English speakers in Berks County, the potential need to provide services in so many languages could become cost

prohibitive. However, to help agencies such as RATS who serve large areas with multiple language needs, the Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation have guidance on serving LEP populations that identify “safe harbor” provisions that recommend that language assistance be provided when the LEP population reaches five percent (5%) of the population in the service area, or when the number of non-English speakers with a common native language reach 1,000 persons, whichever is less. At these levels, the federal guidance recommends that written translation of vital documents be available upon request, and that the agency have plans to address the potential need for oral translation services.

Review of ACS data for the region’s LEP analysis shows that Spanish language speakers are estimated at approximately 26,401 LEP persons, thus meeting the thresholds. Other Indo-European speakers are estimated at 877 (0.2%); Other West Germanic speakers are estimated at 865 (0.2%); French, Haitian or Cajun are estimated at 499 (0.1%); and Other Unspecified speakers are estimated at 465 (0.1%). These language groups contain the four next-highest number of LEP persons but fall below "safe harbor" thresholds.

RATS Limited English Proficient Policy

RATS has completed its assessment of Limited English Proficient Population in the Berks County region and has identified Spanish and Other Indo-European languages as the languages most frequently spoken by non-English speakers in the region.

RATS is identifying and will implement mechanisms for the translation of vital documents and program information into the most frequently spoken language in the region, as well as additional languages. RATS has also identified a mechanism for the oral interpretation of telephone inquiries via a third party interpretation service capable of providing interpretation services in more than 80 languages 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

RATS will issue press releases to local minority media outlets, including television and radio stations and newspapers with information regarding RATS’s language translation services when those services are identified. In addition, RATS has made contact with the Daniel Torres Hispanic Center and will continue to inform them of these language translation services. In our outreach to organization, RATS will continue to monitor language needs among the residents of the region and revise this plan accordingly.

Written Translation

Through contracts administered by the County of Berks, RATS will provide written translations of its planning documents upon request. In addition, On-Demand translators are available on the Berks County-administered RATS website, thus allowing digital translations of web pages. RATS will also translate notices of public

comment periods for the vital documents identified in the Public Participation Plan: The Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and Public Participation Plan. In addition, RATS, through the County of Berks, has a contract in place for the provision of document translation services as necessary.

The front piece of RATS documents will include language in English and Spanish that the document is available in other languages upon request. Additionally, language taglines are added to written documents to provide availability for non-threshold language speakers to obtain written translations upon request. RATS will provide language translations of its website, which will have the capability of translating any RATS web page instantly into several languages.

Oral Interpretation

Oral interpretation services are appropriate for several situations, including routine inquiries from citizens who call RATS or come into our offices, as well as public meetings and events. Through contracts administered by the County of Berks, RATS will use interpretation services to provide oral interpretation assistance to LEP individuals.

Telephonic Interpretation Service

Through the County of Berks, RATS has services available to provide telephonic interpretation services to assist LEP callers, walk-ins, and in cases where requests for an in-person interpretation were either not made or where insufficient notice was given to allow RATS to arrange for an interpreter.

In-Person Interpretation Services

Through the County of Berks, RATS has services available to provide in-person interpretation to respond to requests for language assistance. Meeting notices for public meetings include language requesting that RATS be notified in advance of any specialized services. If a qualified interpreter cannot be identified in a timely fashion, efforts will be made to work with the LEP individual(s) to identify a family member or community member capable of assisting with their language needs, in compliance with FHWA Guidance on outreach to LEP individuals.

Outreach to LEP Populations

ACS data identifying the geographic location (by municipality) of non-English speaking residents have been created. These tables will be used to assess the need for non-English meeting materials and interpretation services during project level or neighborhood level community meetings.

RATS will provide Press Releases to local media outlets and community service

organization regarding the availability of language translation. The front piece of RATS documents will include language in English and Spanish that language translation services are available.

APPENDIX A

**BERKS COUNTY
AND
MUNICIPAL LANGUAGE DATA**

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 5-year American Community Survey, Table C16001

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY

Label	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	402,848	±58
Speak only English	325,565	±2,007
Spanish:	62,789	±1,688
Speak English "very well"	36,388	±1,686
Speak English less than "very well"	26,401	±1,550
French, Haitian, or Cajun:	1,192	±360
Speak English "very well"	693	±219
Speak English less than "very well"	499	±191
German or other West Germanic languages:	3,461	±452
Speak English "very well"	2,596	±363
Speak English less than "very well"	865	±256
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:	1,361	±529
Speak English "very well"	985	±340
Speak English less than "very well"	376	±263
Other Indo-European languages:	3,793	±793
Speak English "very well"	2,916	±761
Speak English less than "very well"	877	±211
Korean:	132	±72
Speak English "very well"	66	±47
Speak English less than "very well"	66	±50
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	788	±267
Speak English "very well"	326	±147
Speak English less than "very well"	462	±230
Vietnamese:	702	±262
Speak English "very well"	278	±144
Speak English less than "very well"	424	±159
Tagalog (incl. Filipino):	421	±167
Speak English "very well"	340	±130
Speak English less than "very well"	81	±65
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:	700	±241
Speak English "very well"	457	±194
Speak English less than "very well"	243	±100
Arabic:	307	±145
Speak English "very well"	254	±122
Speak English less than "very well"	53	±44
Other and unspecified languages:	1,637	±432
Speak English "very well"	1,172	±348
Speak English less than "very well"	465	±211

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Total:				
		Speak only English	Spanish:		
Label				Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	61	61	0	0	0
Albany township	1,756	1,679	3	0	3
Alsace township	3,711	3,680	31	31	0
Amity township	1,864	1,738	66	46	20
Bally borough	1,132	1,056	51	48	3
Bechtelsville borough	838	838	0	0	0
Bern township	3,933	3,584	222	85	137
Bernville borough	808	775	17	15	2
Bethel township	3,863	3,730	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	4,796	4,749	0	0	0
Boyetown borough	2,965	2,927	18	0	18
Brecknock township	3,504	2,896	48	16	32
Caernarvon township	4,052	3,696	292	292	0
Centerport borough	309	309	0	0	0
Centre township	3,569	3,452	105	76	29
Colebrookdale township	4,939	4,850	0	0	0
Cumru township	20,711	16,396	3,499	2,205	1,294
District township	1,287	1,270	3	3	0
Douglass township	1,442	1,312	95	71	24
Earl township	1,333	1,255	52	27	25
Exeter township	14,863	12,808	1,237	796	441
Fleetwood borough	3,963	3,677	230	230	0
Greenwich township	1,910	1,736	112	50	62
Hamburg borough	3,848	3,695	121	102	19
Heidelberg township	1,697	1,584	92	51	41
Hereford township	7,259	6,795	356	201	155
Jefferson township	2,084	1,958	38	36	2
Kenhorst borough	3,999	3,191	750	436	314
Kutztown borough	7,315	6,542	217	175	42
Laureldale borough	3,944	3,225	375	154	221
Leesport borough	12,674	11,836	604	517	87
Lenhartsville borough	150	145	1	1	0
Longswamp township	3,160	2,891	196	113	83
Lower Alsace township	2,133	2,037	56	52	4
Lower Heidelberg township	1,401	1,285	39	26	13
Lyons borough	493	478	6	6	0
Maidencreek township	5,700	5,133	301	228	73
Marion township	2,193	2,152	17	11	6
Maxatawny township	2,058	1,952	60	33	27
Mohnton borough	4,545	4,042	458	286	172
Mount Penn borough	4,248	3,943	62	32	30
Muhlenberg township	26,758	21,536	2,761	2,159	602
New Morgan borough	103	83	17	17	0
North Heidelberg township	1,113	1,025	48	48	0
Oley township	3,534	3,534	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	7,079	6,753	231	215	16
Penn township	2,754	2,434	247	81	166
Perry township	3,349	3,292	7	0	7
Pike township	1,540	1,511	0	0	0
Reading city	86,613	40,804	43,435	23,039	20,396
Richmond township	6,549	5,493	771	556	215
Robeson township	4,344	4,148	40	19	21
Robesonia borough	1,888	1,810	30	30	0
Rockland township	3,452	3,379	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	3,855	3,800	0	0	0
Shillington borough	8,887	8,267	374	193	181
Shoemakersville borough	3,313	3,130	58	0	58
Sinking Spring borough	10,535	9,538	522	343	179
South Heidelberg township	4,262	2,973	849	685	164
Spring township	24,122	21,767	1,422	1,029	393
St. Lawrence borough	4,988	4,231	692	465	227
Tilden township	4,192	3,988	45	31	14
Topton borough	2,387	2,333	24	17	7
Tulpehocken township	1,543	1,439	11	7	4
Union township	2,768	2,253	475	366	109
Upper Bern township	2,943	2,809	43	14	29
Upper Tulpehocken township	3,586	3,547	39	22	17
Washington township	3,134	2,641	419	253	166
Wernersville borough	2,544	2,448	27	27	0
West Reading borough	5,183	4,852	86	59	27
Windsor township	3,959	3,737	194	180	14
Womelsdorf borough	2,737	2,698	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	2,324	1,954	92	82	10

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	French, Haitian, or Cajun:			German or other West Germanic languages:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	62	51	11
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	3	3	0	23	23	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	19	19	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	19	19	0	14	14	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	121	81	40
Birdsboro borough	35	35	0	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	4	4	0	16	0	16
Brecknock township	0	0	0	385	195	190
Caernarvon township	0	0	0	12	12	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	24	24	0
Cumru township	10	0	10	24	24	0
District township	0	0	0	11	8	3
Douglass township	0	0	0	8	6	2
Earl township	0	0	0	21	21	0
Exeter township	3	0	3	30	23	7
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	56	28	28
Greenwich township	0	0	0	17	17	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	17	8	9
Heidelberg township	3	3	0	3	3	0
Hereford township	37	37	0	46	46	0
Jefferson township	6	6	0	46	44	2
Kenhorst borough	27	0	27	16	16	0
Kutztown borough	10	10	0	441	313	128
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	41	41	0
Leesport borough	16	0	16	71	39	32
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	2	2	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	73	52	21
Lower Alsace township	4	4	0	16	10	6
Lower Heidelberg township	0	0	0	16	14	2
Lyons borough	9	9	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	20	10	10	52	37	15
Marion township	0	0	0	20	11	9
Maxatawny township	0	0	0	3	0	3
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	10	10	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	63	63	0
Muhlenberg township	166	128	38	106	98	8
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	3	3	0	27	27	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	1	1	0	94	66	28
Penn township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0	42	42	0
Pike township	0	0	0	21	18	3
Reading city	571	246	325	253	133	120
Richmond township	19	19	0	84	74	10
Robeson township	0	0	0	132	128	4
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	48	42	6
Rockland township	0	0	0	49	49	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	55	31	24
Shillington borough	0	0	0	22	22	0
Shoemakersville borough	66	66	0	39	39	0
Sinking Spring borough	53	39	14	42	42	0
South Heidelberg township	4	0	4	49	49	0
Spring township	38	22	16	159	119	40
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	6	0	6	49	49	0
Topton borough	0	0	0	25	25	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	86	15	71
Union township	0	0	0	9	9	0
Upper Bern township	2	2	0	55	52	3
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	7	0	7
Wernersville borough	0	0	0	27	27	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	189	172	17
Windsor township	0	0	0	9	9	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	57	27	30	4	4	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:			Other Indo-European languages:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	9	9	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	25	12	13	9	0	9
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	41	41	0	34	0	34
Bernville borough	16	1	15	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	165	86	79	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	12	12	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	35	35	0
Cumru township	80	74	6	241	146	95
District township	0	0	0	3	3	0
Douglass township	0	0	0	4	4	0
Earl township	0	0	0	3	3	0
Exeter township	230	230	0	216	175	41
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	5	2	3
Hamburg borough	8	8	0	7	7	0
Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson township	5	5	0	5	5	0
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	9	0	9
Kutztown borough	20	19	1	21	10	11
Laureldale borough	37	28	9	189	148	41
Leesport borough	0	0	0	51	51	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	2	2	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	4	0	4	16	0	16
Lower Heidelberg township	8	6	2	46	41	5
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	19	0	19	105	78	27
Marion township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	15	15	0	12	10	2
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	35	20	15
Mount Penn borough	66	66	0	15	0	15
Muhlenberg township	269	88	181	1,315	1,174	141
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	3	3	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	7	7	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	19	19	0	4	0	4
Perry township	1	1	0	6	6	0
Pike township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading city	66	51	15	396	207	189
Richmond township	90	81	9	10	10	0
Robeson township	0	0	0	8	8	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0	8	8	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	27	27	0	105	69	36
Shoemakersville borough	20	20	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	14	14	0	130	96	34
South Heidelberg township	0	0	0	227	216	11
Spring township	57	57	0	288	186	102
St. Lawrence borough	13	13	0	26	26	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	15	15	0
Topton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	7	0	7
Union township	0	0	0	22	22	0
Upper Bern township	10	0	10	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	13	13	0
Wernersville borough	4	4	0	4	4	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	40	27	13
Windsor township	19	10	9	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	13	13	0
Wyomissing borough	13	9	4	62	45	17

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Korean:			Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	12	0	12
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	9	9	0	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	30	0	30	0	0	0
Cumru township	0	0	0	37	25	12
District township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earl township	0	0	0	2	2	0
Exeter township	9	9	0	31	17	14
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	10	2	8	0	0	0
Hereford township	14	14	0	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kutztown borough	13	13	0	0	0	0
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	0	0	0	12	12	0
Marion township	0	0	0	4	4	0
Maxatawny township	3	0	3	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	99	44	55
Muhlenberg township	0	0	0	87	48	39
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	0	0	0	28	0	28
Perry township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pike township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading city	0	0	0	235	110	125
Richmond township	0	0	0	15	0	15
Robeson township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	0	0	0	58	24	34
South Heidelberg township	0	0	0	15	8	7
Spring township	0	0	0	99	14	85
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Topton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Bern township	24	9	15	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	54	18	36
Wernersville borough	20	10	10	0	0	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	0	0	0	0	0	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Vietnamese:			Tagalog (incl. Filipino):		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	12	12	0
Boyetown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	23	9	14	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumru township	107	40	67	159	137	22
District township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass township	10	10	0	0	0	0
Earl township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exeter township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford township	11	0	11	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0	26	0	26
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kutztown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	27	27	0
Leesport borough	0	0	0	13	13	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	4	0	4	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marion township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	2	0	2	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muhlenberg township	0	0	0	100	80	20
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	6	0	6	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pike township	8	0	8	0	0	0
Reading city	173	20	153	0	0	0
Richmond township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robeson township	0	0	0	7	7	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	22	0	22	26	26	0
South Heidelberg township	106	46	60	0	0	0
Spring township	154	101	53	31	31	0
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	20	7	13
Topton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wernersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	26	26	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	50	26	24	0	0	0

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:			Arabic:		
Label		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"		Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany township	3	3	0	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bally borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bern township	19	19	0	0	0	0
Bernville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boyetown borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brecknock township	4	4	0	0	0	0
Caernarvon township	13	13	0	7	7	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumru township	143	93	50	5	0	5
District township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earl township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exeter township	82	65	17	0	0	0
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	5	2	3	0	0	0
Hereford township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenhorst borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kutztown borough	5	0	5	22	22	0
Laureldale borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesport borough	32	0	32	0	0	0
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	3	3	0	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	58	29	29	0	0	0
Marion township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	11	0	11	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muhlenberg township	42	15	27	15	15	0
New Morgan borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0	3	3	0
Oley township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penn township	16	8	8	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0	1	1	0
Pike township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading city	29	19	10	35	29	6
Richmond township	59	8	51	0	0	0
Robeson township	9	9	0	0	0	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland township	16	16	0	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shillington borough	65	65	0	0	0	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	14	14	0	0	0	0
South Heidelberg township	39	39	0	0	0	0
Spring township	31	31	0	57	44	13
St. Lawrence borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilden township	0	0	0	69	59	10
Topton borough	0	0	0	5	5	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union township	2	2	0	7	0	7
Upper Bern township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wernersville borough	0	0	0	9	9	0
West Reading borough	0	0	0	16	16	0
Windsor township	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	0	0	0	56	44	12

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER,
BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

	Other and unspecified languages:	Speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"
Adamstown borough	0	0	0
Albany township	0	0	0
Alsace township	0	0	0
Amity township	0	0	0
Bally borough	6	6	0
Bechtelsville borough	0	0	0
Bern township	0	0	0
Berville borough	0	0	0
Bethel township	0	0	0
Birdsboro borough	0	0	0
Boyertown borough	0	0	0
Brecknock township	6	6	0
Caernarvon township	0	0	0
Centerport borough	0	0	0
Centre township	0	0	0
Colebrookdale township	0	0	0
Cumru township	10	10	0
District township	0	0	0
Douglass township	13	13	0
Earl township	0	0	0
Exeter township	217	153	64
Fleetwood borough	0	0	0
Greenwich township	40	40	0
Hamburg borough	0	0	0
Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Hereford township	0	0	0
Jefferson township	0	0	0
Kenhorst borough	6	0	6
Kutztown borough	24	24	0
Laureldale borough	50	0	50
Leesport borough	51	22	29
Lenhartsville borough	0	0	0
Longswamp township	0	0	0
Lower Alsace township	0	0	0
Lower Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Lyons borough	0	0	0
Maidencreek township	0	0	0
Marion township	0	0	0
Maxatawny township	0	0	0
Mohnton borough	0	0	0
Mount Penn borough	0	0	0
Muhlenberg township	361	264	97
New Morgan borough	0	0	0
North Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Oley township	0	0	0
Ontelaunee township	0	0	0
Penn township	0	0	0
Perry township	0	0	0
Pike township	0	0	0
Reading city	616	414	202
Richmond township	8	8	0
Robeson township	0	0	0
Robesonia borough	0	0	0
Rockland township	0	0	0
Ruscombmanor township	0	0	0
Shillington borough	27	27	0
Shoemakersville borough	0	0	0
Sinking Spring borough	116	101	15
South Heidelberg township	0	0	0
Spring township	19	19	0
St. Lawrence borough	26	26	0
Tilden township	0	0	0
Topton borough	0	0	0
Tulpehocken township	0	0	0
Union township	0	0	0
Upper Bern township	0	0	0
Upper Tulpehocken township	0	0	0
Washington township	0	0	0
Wernersville borough	5	3	2
West Reading borough	0	0	0
Windsor township	0	0	0
Womelsdorf borough	0	0	0
Wyomissing borough	36	36	0

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD ACTIVITIES

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN and LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN
UPDATE PERIOD ACTIVITIES**

The following activities occurred prior to and during the *Public Participation Plan / Limited English Proficiency Plan* update period, which took place between June 4, 2023 and July 18, 2023:

1. Online Survey Monkey survey created, in both English and Spanish, along with printed surveys in English and Spanish. Copies of first page of online surveys attached, along with copies of printed surveys.
2. Initial email, including Public Notice and electronic links to surveys and documents, forwarded to over 250 groups, organizations and individuals. Copy of email attached.
3. Links to documents and surveys added to Berks County Planning Commission website. Images attached.
4. 6/4/2023, Legal Advertisement run in the Reading Eagle. Advertisement attached.
5. 6/5/2023, information included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Image attached.
6. 6/5/2023, Article/Notices included on the Berks Community Television (BCTV) website. Images attached.
7. 6/14/2023, Evening (7:00 p.m.) Public Meeting held at Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium facility. Meeting held in rural area. Meeting survey created and made available; 0 returned. There were no attendees from the public and one (1) Berks County Planning Commission staff member (presenter). Meeting materials, including PowerPoint discussion, attached.
8. 6/23/2023, Follow-up email sent as a reminder of the second Public Meeting and to complete surveys. Copy of email attached.
9. 6/23/2023 and 6/26/2023, information regarding second Public Meeting included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Images attached.
10. 6/27/2023, Second Public Meeting held at Berks County Services Center (Commissioner's Boardroom, 13th Floor). Afternoon (2:00 p.m.) meeting held in facility that is transit accessible, located in City of Reading. Meeting also held virtually to allow for non-in-person attendance. Meeting survey created and made available; none returned. Four (4) in-person attendees total, including Berks County Planning Commission staff (2 persons), Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person) and

- one (1) Berks County Commissioner. Three (3) persons attended virtually, including SCTA/BARTA staff (1 person), Western Berks Ambulance Assn. staff (1 person) and Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person). Only one (1) comment germane to the PPP/LEP update was from SCTA/BARTA staff noting their experiences reaching out to the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and various faith-based organizations have been helpful. Meeting materials including image of virtual meeting attached.
11. Comments were received via two separate emails (07/14/2023) from Michael Donchez, PennDOT District 5-0 staff. Comments germane to the LEP were limited to text formatting and two date corrections. Comments germane to the PPP include spelling, grammar, and formatting corrections. Additionally, recommendations for minor text additions/corrections were made. MPO staff concurs and will make those corrections. Both emails attached.
 12. Comments were received via email (07/17/2023) from Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff. These comments were substantive enough that staff chose to delay adoption of the draft PPP and LEP to further review and respond to these comments. A copy of Ms. Shamberg's email along with MPO staff responses is attached.
 13. As of the close of the Public Comment Period (07/18/2023), a total of ten (10) online surveys and no (0) written surveys were returned. All responses received were English; no Spanish responses to the Surveys were received. The summary of responses is attached.
 14. Staff submitted (8/23/2023) revised documents to Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff per her previously submitted comments for additional review. Staff also included Khan Mitchell (FHWA Civil Rights Specialist) along with Stacey Waters and Debra Allen (both PennDOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity). On 8/28/2023, staff received documents with embedded comments from both FHWA officials (unable to reproduce for this document). Staff reviewed and incorporated changes suggested by those comments.
 15. Both documents set for review/recommendation by RATS Technical Committee 9/7/2023. If a favorable recommendation is received, the RATS Coordinating Committee (Reading MPO) should adopt on 9/21/2023. Minutes from both meetings to be attached upon approval.

1. Online Survey Monkey survey created, in both English and Spanish, along with printed surveys in English and Spanish. Copies of first page of online surveys attached, along with copies of printed surveys.

Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

In one way or another, our transportation system affects our daily lives. We travel back and forth to work, school, shopping, medical appointments, and recreation activities. The goods we buy are shipped between factories, warehouses, and stores. People and goods travel in cars, trucks, trains, or busses; we also walk, bicycle, carpool, take a taxi or an Uber/Lyft, or telecommute. Over time, our transportation needs outgrow the current transportation system and changes are needed.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is a committee of local officials that engage in transportation planning for Berks County. It reviews the transportation needs of our area and prepares several required plans and programs. One of those, called the Public Participation Process, outlines the policies and methods used by RATS to gather and use meaningful public input as part of the transportation planning process. Please help us improve this Process by answering the questions below. Thanks!

1. Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

Yes

No

2. Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County?

Yes

No

3. Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

Yes

No

4. Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements?

Yes

No

Next

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)
Public Participation Plan Survey**

(Take this survey online! <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>)

In one way or another, our transportation system affects our daily lives. We travel back and forth to work, school, shopping, medical appointments, and recreation activities. The goods we buy are shipped between factories, warehouses, and stores. People and goods travel in cars, trucks, trains, or busses; we also walk, bicycle, carpool, take a taxi or an Uber/Lyft, or telecommute. Over time, our transportation needs outgrow the current transportation system and changes are needed.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is a committee of local officials that engage in transportation planning for Berks County. It reviews the transportation needs of our area and prepares several required plans and programs. One of those, called the *Public Participation Process*, outlines the policies and methods used by RATS to gather and use meaningful public input as part of the transportation planning process. Please help us improve this Process by answering the questions below. Thanks!

Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)? Yes No

If you checked 'No' above,

- Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County Yes No
- Are you familiar with the transportation planning process? Yes No
- Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements? Yes No

If you checked 'Yes' above, where have you seen or heard about RATS?

- Print Media (specify) _____
- Television (specify) _____
- Social Media (specify) _____
- Municipal Newsletter (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____

As we develop plans and projects that may impact you, what would be the best ways for us to get information to you? (Check all that apply)

- Direct notification (by postal mail or email) of meetings and documents
- BCTV Programs and BCTV Community Calendar notices
- Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups
- Newspaper articles and press releases
- Legal Advertisements and/or block ads in newspaper
- Website information, including downloadable documents
- Documents on file at libraries and other community organizations
- Municipal Newsletters
- Paper notices posted on bulletin boards
- Social Media (Specify) _____
- Advertising-type newspapers (the *Merchandiser*)
- Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)

If you have concerns as we develop those plans or about transportation projects, which of the following methods are effective ways for you to get information to us? (Check all that apply)

- Public meetings, special presentations & workshops
- Paper Surveys returned by postal mail
- Electronic Surveys completed online
- Social Media (Specify) _____
- Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups
- Small group meetings (community organizations, agencies, & individuals)
- Telephone or fax
- Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)

What obstacles prevent you from attending a meeting about transportation planning? (Check all that apply)

- Not an interesting subject
- No specific project that directly affects me
- Need special accommodations (please explain below)
- Fear/distrust of government
- Can't leave work to attend meetings
- Child / Elder care concerns
- Meeting time / location conflicts (please explain below)
- Language barrier (please explain language needed below)
- Lack of available transportation
- Other (please describe at the end of this survey)

Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

Yes No

If No, which challenges do you face? (Check all that apply)

- I don't use or have access to a computer or phone
- I'm not comfortable using technology
- I'd rather meet face-to-face
- Other reason (specify) _____

If Yes, which benefits do you receive? (Check all that apply)

- It saves me time
- I don't have to drive anywhere
- I don't have access to transportation
- I can view recorded meetings at a more convenient time
- I prefer virtual vs. face-to-face

Which types of platform(s) do you use regularly? (Check all that apply)

- Desktop Computer / Laptop
- Tablet / Mobile Phone
- Neither

Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading Encuesta del Plan de Participación Pública

De una forma u otra, nuestro sistema de transporte afecta nuestras vidas cotidianas. Viajamos de ida y vuelta al trabajo, a la escuela, para ir de compras, a las citas médicas y a las actividades recreativas. Los productos que compramos se transportan entre fábricas, almacenes y tiendas. Las personas y las mercancías viajan en automóviles, camiones, trenes o autobuses; también caminamos, pedaleamos, compartimos el automóvil, tomamos un taxi o un Uber / Lyft, o trabajamos desde la casa. A lo largo del tiempo, nuestras necesidades de transporte superan la oferta del sistema de transporte actual y se necesitan cambios.

El Reading Area Transportation Study (Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading, RATS por sus siglas en inglés) es un comité de funcionarios locales que participan en la planificación del transporte para Berks County (Condado de Berks). Revisa las necesidades de transporte de nuestra área y prepara varios planes y programas requeridos. Uno de estos, llamado Public Participation Process (Proceso de Participación Pública), describe las políticas y métodos utilizados por RATS para recopilar y usar aportes públicos significativos como parte del proceso de planificación del transporte. Ayúdenos a mejorar este proceso respondiendo a las siguientes preguntas. ¡Gracias!

1. ¿Alguna vez ha visto o escuchado sobre el Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

Sí

No

2. ¿Sabe quién lleva a cabo la planificación del transporte en Berks County?

Sí

No

3. ¿Está familiarizado con el proceso de planificación del transporte?

Sí

No

4. ¿Sabe de dónde provienen los fondos para mejoras en el transporte?

Sí

No

Sig.

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)
(Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading)**

**Public Participation Plan Survey
(Encuesta del Plan de Participación Pública)**

(¡Conteste esta encuesta en línea! <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission>)

De una forma u otra, nuestro sistema de transporte afecta nuestras vidas cotidianas. Viajamos de ida y vuelta al trabajo, a la escuela, para ir de compras, a las citas médicas y a las actividades recreativas. Los productos que compramos se transportan entre fábricas, almacenes y tiendas. Las personas y las mercancías viajan en automóviles, camiones, trenes o autobuses; también caminamos, pedaleamos, compartimos el automóvil, tomamos un taxi o un Uber / Lyft, o trabajamos desde la casa. A lo largo del tiempo, nuestras necesidades de transporte superan la oferta del sistema de transporte actual y se necesitan cambios.

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¿Alguna vez ha visto o escuchado sobre el Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)? Sí No

Si marcó “No” arriba,

- ¿Sabe quién lleva a cabo la planificación del transporte en Berks County? Sí No
¿Está familiarizado con el proceso de planificación del transporte? Sí No
¿Sabe de dónde provienen los fondos para mejoras en el transporte? Sí No

Si marcó “Sí” arriba, ¿dónde ha visto o escuchado sobre RATS?

- Medios impresos (especifique) _____
 Televisión (especifique) _____
 Redes sociales (especifique) _____
 Boletín municipal (especifique) _____
 Otro (especifique) _____

A medida que desarrollamos planes y proyectos que pueden impactarlo a usted, ¿cuáles serían los mejores métodos para brindarle información? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Notificación directa sobre documentos o reuniones (vía postal o correo electrónico)
- Programas de BCTV y anuncios del BCTV Community Calendar
- Reuniones públicas, reuniones de RATS, y presentaciones a grupos comunitarios
- Artículos de periódicos y comunicados de prensa
- Anuncios legales y/o bloqueo de anuncios en periódicos
- Información en la web, incluidos los documentos descargables
- Documentos archivados en bibliotecas y otras organizaciones comunitarias
- Boletines municipales
- Avisos impresos publicados en tabloneros de anuncios
- Redes sociales (especifique)_____
- Periódicos publicitarios (como el *Merchandiser*)
- Otros métodos (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

Si usted tuviera inquietudes a medida que desarrollamos los planes o sobre los proyectos de transporte, ¿cuáles de los siguientes métodos serían formas efectivas para que usted pueda brindarnos información? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Reuniones públicas, presentaciones especiales y talleres
- Encuestas impresas devueltas por correo
- Encuentros electrónicos completados en línea
- Redes sociales(especifique)_____
- Reuniones públicas, reuniones de RATS, y presentaciones a grupos comunitarios
- Reuniones en grupos pequeños (organizaciones comunitarias, agencias e individuos)
- Teléfono o fax
- Otros métodos (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

¿Qué obstáculos le impedirían asistir a una reunión sobre planificación de transporte? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- No es un tema interesante.
- No es un proyecto específico que me afecte directamente.
- Necesito acomodaciones especiales. (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Miedo/ falta de confianza en el gobierno
- No puedo ausentarme del trabajo para asistir a reuniones.
- Tengo preocupaciones con el cuidado de niños o envejecientes.
- Conflictos con el horario o localización (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Barreras con el idioma (Por favor, explique abajo)
- Falta de transportación disponible
- Otros (por favor, describa al final de esta encuesta)

¿Participa usted en reuniones virtuales(en línea)?

Sí **No**

Si contestó “**No**”, ¿qué dificultades enfrenta? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- No uso o no tengo acceso a una computadora o teléfono.
- No me siento cómodo usando la tecnología.
- Prefiero reuniones presenciales.
- Otra razón (especifique) _____

Si contestó “**Sí**”, ¿qué beneficios recibe? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Me ahorra tiempo.
- No tengo que manejar a ningún sitio.
- No tengo acceso a transportación.
- Puedo ver las reuniones grabadas en un horario que me convenga.
- Prefiero las reuniones virtuales en lugar de las presenciales.

¿Qué tipo de plataforma(s) usa regularmente? (Marque todos los que apliquen)

- Computadora “desktop” (de escritorio) / “laptop” (portátil)
- Tableta/ teléfono celular
- Ninguno

Por favor, díganos sus sugerencias para mejorar la participación pública en el proceso de planificación del transporte.

Por favor, devuelva esta encuesta a:

Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

Para más información sobre RATS y el proceso de planificación del transporte, por favor visite nuestro sitio web:

<https://countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>

Nos esforzamos constantemente por mantener listas de contactos precisas y actualizadas. Aunque tratamos de comunicarnos electrónicamente, entendemos que el correo postal sigue siendo la mejor manera para que algunos residentes escuchen sobre nosotros. Si usted desea estar en nuestras listas de correo para recibir avisos de reuniones y oportunidades para revisar documentos, provea **UN** (1) método para contactarlo, ya sea por correo electrónico **o** correo postal.

correo electrónico _____

o

Nombre _____

Dirección _____

Ciudad _____

Código postal _____

Gracias por completar nuestra encuesta. Su aportación se usará para crear el Public Participation Process(Proceso de Participación Pública), que asegurará una mejor comunicación entre el público y los responsables de tomar decisiones.

2. Initial email, including Public Notice and electronic links to surveys and documents, forwarded to over 250 groups, organizations and individuals. Copy of email attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan
Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 2:32:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_English.pdf](#)

Good afternoon, all!

Apologies for any multiple copies of this email you may receive. We ask that you please pass this information on to those who may be interested. Thank you!

PUBLIC NOTICE
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
And
DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the *Draft Public Participation Plan* and the *Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan* for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

Copies of the *Draft Plans* and links to online surveys are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

**Berks County Planning
5-0
Commission
Street
633 Court St – 14th Floor
18101
Reading, PA 19601**

BARTA Executive Offices

1700 North 11th Street

Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District

1002 Hamilton

Allentown, PA

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler,

Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**

633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com

Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

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3. Links to documents and surveys added to Berks County Planning Commission website. Images attached.

County of Berks - Planning Commission


countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

Government Services Community How Do I Search...

Welcome to the Office of County Planning

Our Mission

The Berks County Planning Commission serves as the area-wide planning organization for Berks County. The Commission provides a regional blueprint for land use, transportation and community facilities. It assists local units of government with development and preservation activities and provides guidance to the Berks County Board of Commissioners and other departments of county government. The Commission and its professional staff also serve as community advisors for modern planning practices and advocates for sound regional growth management. Finally, since the Commission is involved with a range of activities with a number of partners, it plays a very important coordinating role in community development issues and projects.



News / Announcements

RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan

Public Comment Period Open

[View](#)

BCPC 2022 Annual Report

See what the Planning Commission did in 2022

[View](#)

About Us


Planning Home

Calendar


Municipal Contacts

Municipal Websites

Contact Information



David N. Hunter, AICP
Executive Director



County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT P

countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo/plans-and-programs/public-participation-pl...

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Government Services Community How Do I Search...

2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited English Proficiency Plan

Back to Plans and Programs

Back to Transportation/Reading MPO

[Survey \(English\) \(Print Version\)](#) [Survey \(Spanish\) \(Print Version\)](#)

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Español) and the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan (en Español) for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plans. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the Draft Plans: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.

Copies of the Draft Plans are available for public review at the links above and in print at the following locations:

Berks County Planning Commission 633 Court St - 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601	BARTA Executive Offices 1700 North 11th Street Reading, PA 19604	PENNDOT District 5-0 1002 Hamilton Street Allentown, PA 18101
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Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.

Si necesita servicios de traducción/interpretación, le pedimos que se comunique con nosotros a más tardar del 7 de junio del 2023 a las planning@countyofberks.com, o llame al 610-478-6300.

Quick Links

- County Buildings/Facilities
- County Park Locations

Resources

- Pennsylvania State Website

Looking for Information?

If you are having trouble finding information Please contact *the Webmaster*.

County of Berks

4. 6/4/2023, Legal Advertisement run in the Reading Eagle. Advertisement attached.

To place a Classified ad
call 610-376-1527 #3 or
send an email to

CLASSIFIED@READINGEAGLE.COM

cla

C4

Sunday, June 4, 2023 » MORE UPDATES AT FACEBOOK.COM/READINGEAGLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auction vehicles
V&M Towing
81 Berkley Park Rd.
Reading, Pa 19605
610-926-3724
Auction on Monday 6/5/23 at
8:00 a.m.

2004 Sterling Tractor,
VIN 2FZHATDC34AN18669
2008 Chevy Malibu,
VIN 2G1WS553089277519

DICK HENRY
AUCTIONEER/REALTOR
610-858-3065

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that keeps people coming back
to classifieds. Call today to
place your fast-action ad.

MERCHANDISE

MISCELLANEOUS

Beam scale - \$40; 2 Golf Bags
w/misc. clubs - \$50 ea. Golf
Hand Cart - \$30; Craftsman
Sabre Saw - \$35; Back mas-
sager - \$25; ConAir Bath Spa
- \$25; Revlon Hot Rollers - \$20.
610-375-7199

S & W 40 cal. handgun - \$350;
Mossburg Rifle slug gun w/
scope - \$350. 484-256-5993

MERCHANDISE

0BUYING-Antqs./collectibles
1 item to contents. Moving or
downsize. 484-529-0851

Vinyl Record Collections
Wanted, Cash paid for LPs and
45s. Rock/Soul/Jazz. Leave a
message. 484-655-2881.

MERCHANDISE

Wanted to Buy - Estate Jew-
elry, incl. costume & watches,
Vtg. clothing pre 80's, An-
tiques. 484-432-9770

ANIMALS

DOGS

AKC Golden Retriever Pups
8 wks. Shots & wormed:
\$900. Call 570-449-9147

PET SUPPLIES & SERVICES

Use Seal 'N Heal on dogs &
cats to seal wounds with
a bitter taste to prevent
gnawing, allow healing.
Weaver's Farm Supply
944-0593
(www.fleabeacon.com)

PUBLIC NOTICE READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN And DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan and the Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plans. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the Draft Plans: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.

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Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St - 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601

BARTA Executive Offices
1700 North 11th Street
Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.
RE June 4 A-1

5. 6/5/2023, information included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Image attached.


County of Berks - Planning Com | X Berks County Planning Commis | X +

facebook.com/berkscpc

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facebook

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 Berks County Planning Commission

Page · Public & Government Service


633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania


(610) 478-6300

countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission


Open now

Photos See all photos



 Berks County Planning Commission June 2 at 2:00 PM

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is obligated to have plans in place in order to ensure consistent public outreach and dialog throughout the transportation planning process. Now six years old, these documents have been updated to reflect changing demographics and communication methods. English and Spanish versions are available. A Public Review Period is now open until July 18th. For more information and to see the documents, click the link below:

 COUNTYOFBERKS.COM
County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited...
The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

2 1

Like Comment Share

Connect with Berks County Planning Commission on Facebook

Log In or Create new account

6. 6/5/2023, Article/Notices included on the Berks Community Television (BCTV) website. Images attached.

Juneteenth Parade and Festival

Join the celebration on Saturday, June 10th, 2023, at...

COMMUNITY
JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)

Vice President & Provost


Alvernia University appoints Dr. Leamor Kahanov as the new...

EDUCATION
JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)

Transportation Program to Medical Care for Local Patients

South Central Pennsylvania Veterans are now able to participate...

HEALTH & WELLNESS
JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)


Explore Playlists by Local Creators

Upcoming Local Events

- JUN June 7 @ 9:00 am - July 16 @ 8:00 pm
7 LGBTQ+ Art Showcase
- JUN 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
10 Reading Juneteenth Day Parade & Festival
- JUN 9:00 am - 11:00 am
17 Safe Berks Celebration of Peace/Walk For NO MORE

[View Calendar](#)



Visions Celebrates 10 Years with Ty Muse, President/CEO

This May, Visions Federal Credit Union celebrated the 10th...

BUSINESS & ECONOMY
JUN 06, 2023
[Read More](#)



Reading Area Transportation Study Draft Public Participation Plan

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has...

ESPAÑOL
JUN 05, 2023
[Read More](#)



Governor's Advisory Council Seeks Candidates for Fish & Boat Commission Board

The Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation...

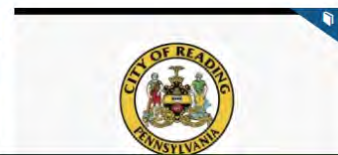
ENVIRONMENT
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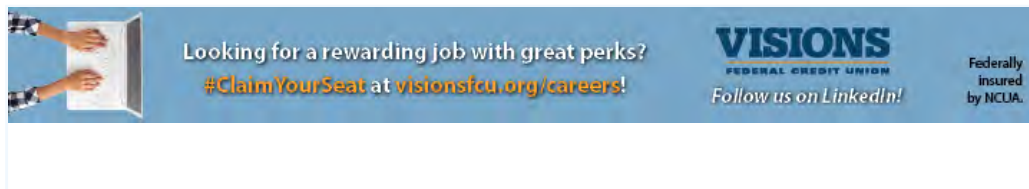


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Reading Area Transportation Study Draft Public Participation Plan

by The County of Berks

Jun 05, 2023



The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the [Draft Public Participation Plan](#) and the [Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan](#) for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

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Berks County Planning Commission: 633 Court St – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601

BARTA Executive Offices: 1700 North 11th Street, Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT District 5-0: 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**

El Comité Coordinador del Estudio de Transporte del Área de Reading (RATS) ha preparado el [Borrador del Plan de Participación Pública](#) y el [Proyecto de Plan de Dominio Limitado del Inglés](#) para el Condado de Berks. Estos son documentos operativos que abordan métodos para difundir información y recopilar comentarios del público sobre diversos esfuerzos de planificación de transporte en el condado de Berks. Este anuncio está diseñado para dar a los ciudadanos, gobiernos locales y organizaciones interesadas la oportunidad de comentar sobre el *borrador del plan*. Se llevarán a cabo dos (2) reuniones públicas para recibir comentarios sobre el *borrador del plan*: miércoles 14 de junio, 2023, comenzando a las 7:00 p.m. en el auditorio del Centro Agrícola del Condado de Berks, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, y martes 27 de junio de 2023 a partir de las 2:00 p.m. en la Sala de Juntas del Comisionado del Condado de Berks ubicada en el Centro de Servicios del Condado de Berks, 633 Calle Corte Piso 13, Reading, PA 19601. La reunión del 27 de junio también estará disponible en línea a través de Microsoft Teams utilizando el enlace <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **Estas reuniones no son sobre proyectos o temas específicos; más bien, son sobre el intercambio de información y cómo involucrar mejor al público en el proceso de planificación del transporte.**

Las copias del *Borrador del Plan* están disponibles para su revisión pública en la página web de la Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks en <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> y en los siguientes lugares:

Comisión de Planificación Condado de Berks: 633 Calle Corte Piso 14, Reading, PA 19604

BARTA-Oficinas Ejecutivas: 1700 Norte, Calle 11, Reading, PA 19604

PENNDOT Distrito 5-0: 1002 Calle Hamilton, Allentown, PA 18101

Por favor envíe comentarios por escrito a: Sr. Michael Golembiewski, Modelador de Transporte, Comisión de Planificación del Condado de Berks, 633 Calle Corte. Piso 14, Reading, PA 19601. Los comentarios se aceptarán a partir del 4 de junio de 2023, hasta el cierre de operaciones el martes 18 de julio, 2023. Los comentarios también pueden enviarse por fax al (610) 478-6316 o enviarse por correo electrónico a planning@countyofberks.com.

al 610-478-6300.

ALSO ON BCTV

<p>Many Threads, One Fabric: Vol. 10 - ...</p> <p>a month ago · 1 comment</p> <p>DO NOT BE CONFORMIST! Hi I'm Yuritzkiri Sixtos Medina, ...</p>	<p>Royals Announce Training Camp ...</p> <p>8 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>The Reading Royals, ECHL affiliate of the Philadelphia Flyers and Lehigh Valley ...</p>	<p>Muhlenberg Summer Style Program Cuts ...</p> <p>8 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>The Muhlenberg School District developed MSD Summer Style in the ...</p>	<p>Report: Child Pop Declines ...</p> <p>a month ago · 1 comm</p> <p>The population is m: of fewer children – ii Pennsylvania and ac</p>
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BCTV Comment Policy

We welcome the sharing of ideas and feedback. Off-topic, spam, or harassing comments may be removed.

Got it

0 Comments

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Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS 

Name



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- [Pa. election 2022: Where the candidates for governor Mastriano, Shapiro stand on energy and the environment](#)
- [FTC Data Show Romance Scams Hit Record High](#)
- [Houlahan Delivers 3rd Annual State of the Sixth Address at Historic Colonial Theatre](#)

 Share

7. 6/14/2023, Evening (7:00 p.m.) Public Meeting held at Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium facility. Meeting held in rural area. Meeting survey created and made available; 0 returned. There were no attendees from the public and one (1) Berks County Planning Commission staff member (presenter). Meeting materials, including PowerPoint discussion, attached.

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 14, 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY**

In an effort to ensure that public meetings serve their intended purpose, we're asking for your input. Kindly answer the following questions so we may improve our presentation formats.

- 1. Was the meeting time and place convenient for you? If not, what would be a better time and place?**

- 2. How did you hear about this meeting? Did the announcement or news story adequately describe the time, place, and purpose of the meeting? Did you see/hear the announcement in a reasonable amount of time for your planning purposes?**

- 3. Was the meeting space adequate for this size group? Could you clearly see the speaker and any visual aids? Could you clearly hear all discussions? Were the seating arrangements adequate? If you needed any accommodations, were they made for you in a respectful and useful manner?**

- 4. Did you understand the presentation? Was there any jargon used that you were unclear about?**

- 5. Were your questions answered and/or concerns addressed? Were you given adequate time to voice your opinion? In general, do you feel the meeting served its intended purpose?**

- 6. Are there any other questions/concerns you may have?**

If you would like to be added to our contact list for future transportation planning updates, please include your information below.

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP

EMAIL:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
c/o Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601-4309
610-478-6300; FAX: 610-478-6316

planning@countyofberks.com; www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**

Public Meeting #1
June 14, 2023
Berks County Agricultural Center

1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Why are we here?
 - To review the **Transportation Planning Process**
 - To discuss **Information Sharing**
 - To examine effective methods of **Communication**
 - To talk about **Process**
- Tonight is NOT about Projects!

2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.' ?
 - Born out of a legal agreement in 1964, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County
 - Required by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 in order to receive federal funding for transportation projects

3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.' ?
 - In other words, it is a group of officials appointed by various public agencies that specifically focus on transportation planning for all of Berks County
- Two separate Committees
 - *Technical Committee*
 - *Coordinating Committee*

4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Technical Committee
 - Advisory body only (8 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Planning Commission (2)
 - City of Reading (2)
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets Monthly

5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Coordinating Committee
 - Policy Board (10 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Commissioners
 - Berks County Planning Commission
 - City of Reading
 - Berks County Townships (2nd Class, 1st Class)
 - Berks County Boroughs
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets every other month

6

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Advisory Committees and Staff
 - Formed and meet as needed
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
 - Berks County Planning Commission staff serves as staff to RATS
 - Other Planning Partners
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Dept. of Environmental Resources (DEP)
 - Legislators, municipalities, non-profits, economic development

7

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What does RATS do?
 - Long- and Short-range planning
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP, 20+ years)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP, 4 years)
 - Congestion Management Process (CMP, ongoing and focused)
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2020, 2022 Update)
 - Other planning processes
 - Safety, Mobility, Transit
 - Coordination
 - Air Quality
 - Title VI / Environmental Justice / Executive Orders
 - **Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency**

8

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What doesn't RATS do?
 - Projects
 - Contracting, construction, management
 - Engineering
 - We are planners, not engineers
 - Financial Assistance
 - We don't provide direct grants/loans/financing; but...
 - We coordinate with PennDOT for project funding through the TIP
 - Accept applications for certain programs (TA-SA)
 - Contracts/contract management

9

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - 428,849 persons (2020 Decennial Census)
 - 17.7% Aged 65+
 - 29.2% Racial Minority
 - 23.9% Latino
 - 7.6% non-English speakers (aged 5+)
 - 85.7% Latino
 - 14.1% Disabled
 - 11.8% Below poverty level
 - 12.5% Less than High School graduate (aged 25+)
 - 3.2% No vehicles available (workers 16+)

10

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - Federal Guidance dictates that the process include:
 - Citizens
 - Affected public agencies
 - Representatives of public transportation employees
 - Representatives of users of public transportation
 - Freight shippers
 - Providers of freight transportation services
 - Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities
 - Representatives of the disabled
 - Other interested parties

11

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - We also include
 - Business and Industry representatives
 - Economic Development representatives
 - Local governments
 - Agricultural community
 - State and federal legislators

12

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- "HOW WELL ARE WE REACHING OUR AUDIENCE?"
- "IF WE'RE NOT REACHING OUR AUDIENCE, WHY?"

13

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Public Participation **throughout** the planning process is a key component of a successful process.
- The **Public Participation Plan (PPP)** and the **Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP)** guide RATS' efforts to successfully engage the public in a meaningful exchange of information.

14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **Public Participation Plan (May, 2023 Draft)**
 - Introduction
 - Public Participation Goals
 - Outreach Techniques and Strategies
 - Consultation with Interested Parties
 - Title VI and Environmental Justice
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Public Participation in Meetings
 - Public Notices
 - Public Review and Comment Periods
 - Access to Information
 - Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings
 - Future Efforts

15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)**
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data

16

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Our goal is to update the PPP and LEP to:
 - Update/analyze demographics
 - Improve current methods used to disseminate information and collect input;
 - Include better methods of reaching out to those who may not use 'mainstream' methods, including:
 - Print media
 - Television news
 - Websites
 - **Social Media**
 - **Virtual Public Engagement**

17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- **HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN!!!!**
 - Give us input as to how to better reach you / your neighbors / your clientele;
 - What can we do that we don't already do;
 - What can we improve on;
 - What works and What doesn't work?

18

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Please,
 - Stand up and speak up so everybody can hear you;
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Tonight is about information exchange, not about projects!*

19

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Next Steps?
 - Another meeting, June 27, 2:00 p.m., Commissioner's Boardroom and Virtual;
 - Survey online
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission, or paper available;
 - Formal 45-day Public Comment Period June 4 – July 18;
 - Adoption by RATS July 20th

20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Wrapping up this evening:
 - Please complete meeting survey before leaving
 - **THANK YOU FOR COMING AND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

21

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT ST FL 14
READING PA 19601
610-478-6300 X6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
Facebook: [facebook.com/berkspc](https://www.facebook.com/berkspc)

22

8. 6/23/2023, Follow-up email sent as a reminder of the second Public Meeting and to complete surveys. Copy of email attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: Reminder, RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan Public Meeting #2
Date: Friday, June 23, 2023 1:49:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_LEP_Advertisement_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_Spanish.pdf](#)
[PPP_Survey_English.pdf](#)
[PPP_Draft_May2023_Spanish.pdf](#)
[LEP_Assesment_May2023_DRAFT_Spanish.pdf](#)
[LEP_ASSESSMENT-MAY2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)
[PPP_Draft_May2023.pdf](#)

Good Friday afternoon!

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. [The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams](#). There are online surveys in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) that we would ask you and your constituents to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

Mike



*Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!*

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

PUBLIC NOTICE
READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
And
DRAFT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the *Draft Public Participation Plan* and the *Draft Limited English Proficiency Plan* for Berks County. These are operational documents that address methods to disseminate information about and gather public input on various transportation planning efforts in Berks County. This announcement is designed to give citizens, local governments and interested organizations an opportunity to comment on the *Draft Plans*. Two (2) Public Meetings will be held to take comments on the *Draft Plans*: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center auditorium, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533, and Tuesday, June 27, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Berks County Commissioner's Boardroom located in the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. The June 27th meeting will also be available online through Microsoft Teams by using this link <https://www.countyofberks.com/calendar/public-meetings/planning/rats/rats-public-participation-plan-public-meeting>. **These meetings are not about specific projects or issues; rather, they are about the exchange of information and how to best engage the public in the transportation planning process.**

Copies of the *Draft Plans* and links to online surveys are available for public review on the Berks County Planning Commission's web page at <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission> and at the following locations:

Berks County Planning 5-0 Commission	BARTA Executive Offices	PENNDOT District 5-0
Street 633 Court St – 14 th Floor 18101 Reading, PA 19601	1700 North 11 th Street Reading, PA 19604	1002 Hamilton Allentown, PA

Please submit written comments to: Mr. Michael Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Court St. – 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. Comments will be accepted beginning June 4, 2023, through the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Comments may also be faxed to (610) 478-6316 or sent by email to planning@countyofberks.com.

The Plans will be made available again at these same locations following approval. The Berks County Planning Commission offices are handicapped accessible and are served by BARTA routes. These documents will be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested. **If you need translation/interpretation services, we ask that you contact us no later than June 7, 2023 at planning@countyofberks.com, or call 610-478-6300.**



**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**
633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com



Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

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Thank you.

9. 6/23/2023 and 6/26/2023, information regarding second Public Meeting included on Berks County Planning Commission (BCPC) Facebook page. Images attached.

County of Berks - Planning Comm | Berks County Planning Commis

facebook.com/berkscpc

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facebook

Email or phone Password Log In Forgot Account?

Berks County Planning Commission

633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania
 (610) 478-6300
countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
 Open now

Photos See all photos

Berks County Planning Commission 4d

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams. There are online surveys in both English and Spanish that we would ask you to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

For links to the survey, the meeting link, and more - click on the link below:

COUNTYOFBERKS.COM
County of Berks - 2023 DRAFT Public Participation Plan And DRAFT Limited...
 The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

1

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Berks County Planning Commission

Intro

Mission
 The Berks County Planning Commission serves as the area-wide planning organization for Berks

Page - Public & Government Service

633 Court St, Fl 14th, Reading, PA, United States, Pennsylvania
 (610) 478-6300
countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
 Open now

Photos See all photos

Berks County Planning Commission 1d

Just a reminder that the Reading Area Transportation Study staff will be hosting our second Public Meeting to take comments on the Draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Limited English Participation Plan. That meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, in the Commissioner's Boardroom located on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. The meeting will also be available virtually using MS Teams. There are online surveys in both English and Spanish that we would ask you to complete. The Public Comments and Survey responses will be collected until the close of business on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. We look forward to hearing from you!

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 The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee has prepared the Draft Public Participation Plan (en Espanol) and the...

Connect with Berks County Planning Commission on Facebook

Log In or Create new account

10.6/27/2023, Second Public Meeting held at Berks County Services Center (Commissioner's Boardroom, 13th Floor). Afternoon (2:00 p.m.) meeting held in facility that is transit accessible, located in City of Reading. Meeting also held virtually to allow for non-in-person attendance. Meeting survey created and made available; none returned. Four (4) in-person attendees total, including Berks County Planning Commission staff (2 persons), Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person) and one (1) Berks County Commissioner. Three (3) persons attended virtually, including SCTA/BARTA staff (1 person), Western Berks Ambulance Assn. staff (1 person) and Berks County Information Services support staff (1 person). Only comment germane to the PPP/LEP update was from SCTA/BARTA staff noting their experiences reaching out to the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and various faith-based organizations have been helpful. Meeting materials including image of virtual meeting attached.

**READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
JUNE 27, 2023 PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY**

In an effort to ensure that public meetings serve their intended purpose, we're asking for your input. Kindly answer the following questions so we may improve our presentation formats.

- 1. Was the meeting time and place convenient for you? If not, what would be a better time and place?**

- 2. How did you hear about this meeting? Did the announcement or news story adequately describe the time, place, and purpose of the meeting? Did you see/hear the announcement in a reasonable amount of time for your planning purposes?**

- 3. Was the meeting space adequate for this size group? Could you clearly see the speaker and any visual aids? Could you clearly hear all discussions? Were the seating arrangements adequate? If you needed any accommodations, were they made for you in a respectful and useful manner?**

- 4. Did you understand the presentation? Was there any jargon used that you were unclear about?**

- 5. Were your questions answered and/or concerns addressed? Were you given adequate time to voice your opinion? In general, do you feel the meeting served its intended purpose?**

- 6. Are there any other questions/concerns you may have?**

If you would like to be added to our contact list for future transportation planning updates, please include your information below.

NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY, ZIP


EMAIL:

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
c/o Berks County Planning Commission
633 Court St., 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601-4309
610-478-6300; FAX: 610-478-6316

planning@countyofberks.com; www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**


Public Meeting #2
June 27, 2023
Commissioner's Board Room, Berks Co. Services Ctr.
&
Virtual



1

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.'?
 - Born out of a legal agreement in 1964, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County
 - Required by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 in order to receive federal funding for transportation projects



3

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- RATS Technical Committee
 - Advisory body only (8 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Planning Commission (2)
 - City of Reading (2)
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets Monthly



5

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Why are we here?
 - To review the **Transportation Planning Process**
 - To discuss **Information Sharing**
 - To examine effective methods of **Communication**
 - To talk about **Process**
- Today is NOT about Projects!



2

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What is / Who are 'R.A.T.S.'?
 - In other words, it is a group of officials appointed by various public agencies that specifically focus on transportation planning for all of Berks County
 - Two separate Committees
 - *Technical Committee*
 - *Coordinating Committee*



4

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Coordinating Committee
 - Policy Board (10 members)
 - PennDOT District 5-0 (Allentown)
 - PennDOT Central Office (Harrisburg)
 - Berks County Commissioners
 - Berks County Planning Commission
 - City of Reading
 - Berks County Townships (2nd Class, 1st Class)
 - Berks County Boroughs
 - SCTA / BARTA
 - Reading Regional Airport Authority
 - Meets every other month



6

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- RATS Advisory Committees and Staff
 - Formed and meet as needed
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
 - Berks County Planning Commission staff serves as staff to RATS
 - Other Planning Partners
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Dept. of Environmental Resources (DEP)
 - Legislators, municipalities, non-profits, economic development




7

7

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What doesn't RATS do?
 - Projects
 - Contracting, construction, management
 - Engineering
 - We are planners, not engineers
 - Financial Assistance
 - We don't provide direct grants/loans/financing; but...
 - We coordinate with PennDOT for project funding through the TIP
 - Accept applications for certain programs (TA-SA)
 - Contracts/contract management




9

9

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - Federal Guidance dictates that the process include:
 - Citizens
 - Affected public agencies
 - Representatives of public transportation employees
 - Representatives of users of public transportation
 - Freight shippers
 - Providers of freight transportation services
 - Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities
 - Representatives of the disabled
 - Other interested parties




11

11

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- What does RATS do?
 - Long- and Short-range planning
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP, 20+ years)
 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP, 4 years)
 - Congestion Management Process (CMP, ongoing and focused)
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan (2020, 2022 Update)
 - Other planning processes
 - Safety, Mobility, Transit
 - Coordination
 - Air Quality
 - Title VI / Environmental Justice / Executive Orders
 - **Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency**




8

8

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - 428,849 persons (2020 Decennial Census)
 - 17.7% Aged 65+
 - 29.2% Racial Minority
 - 23.9% Latino
 - 85.7% Latino
 - 7.6% non-English speakers (aged 5+)
 - 14.1% Disabled
 - 11.8% Below poverty level
 - 12.5% Less than High School graduate (aged 25+)
 - 3.2% No vehicles available (workers 16+)




10

10

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Who is RATS' Audience?
 - We also include
 - Business and Industry representatives
 - Economic Development representatives
 - Local governments
 - Agricultural community
 - State and federal legislators




12

12

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- "HOW WELL ARE WE REACHING OUR AUDIENCE?"
- "IF WE'RE NOT REACHING OUR AUDIENCE, WHY?"



13

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Public Participation Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - Public Participation Goals
 - Outreach Techniques and Strategies
 - Consultation with Interested Parties
 - Title VI and Environmental Justice
 - Limited English Proficiency
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Public Participation in Meetings
 - Public Notices
 - Public Review and Comment Periods
 - Access to Information
 - Evaluation of Public Participation Plan and Public Meetings
 - Future Efforts




15

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)


Exhibit 1	
Limited English Proficient Population in RATS Region By Language Spoken	
Language	Estimated Number of Non-English Speakers Age 5+ Years
Spanish	26,401
Other Indo-European	877
German or Other West Germanic	865
French - Haitian or Cajun	499
Other and Unspecified Languages	465
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	462
Vietnamese	424
Russian, Polish or other Slavic	376
Other Asian and Pacific Island	243
Yagalog (incl. Filipino)	81
Korean	66
Arabic	53



17

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Public Participation **throughout** the planning process is a key component of a successful process.
- The Public Participation Plan (PPP) and the Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP) guide RATS' efforts to successfully engage the public in a meaningful exchange of information.



14

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data



16

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Limited English Proficiency Plan (May, 2023 Draft)
 - Introduction
 - 2020 Federal Certification Review
 - LEP Population
 - Frequency of Contact
 - Importance of Services Provided
 - Resource Availability and Cost
 - County and Municipal Language Data



18

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Our goal is to update the PPP and LEP to:
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19

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Please, for those in the room:
 - Stand up and speak up so everybody can hear you;
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Today is about information exchange, not about projects!*



21

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Next Steps?
 - Survey online www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission, or paper available;
 - Formal 45-day Public Comment Period June 4 - July 18;
 - Adoption by RATS July 20th



23

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- **HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN!!!!**
 - Give us input as to how to better reach you / your neighbors / your clientele;
 - What can we do that we don't already do;
 - What can we improve on;
 - What works and What doesn't work?



20

RATS PPP & LEP Updates


- Please, for those online:
 - Use the "Raise your Hand" feature and we will acknowledge you, or leave your comment in the "Chat"
 - Give us your name and who you represent;
 - Tell us your thoughts, suggestions;
 - Be brief, and please remember
 - *Today is about information exchange, not about projects!*
 - Be sure to mute yourself when you are finished



22

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

- Wrapping up this afternoon:
 - Please complete meeting survey before leaving (for those in-person)
 - **THANK YOU FOR COMING AND FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**




24

RATS PPP & LEP Updates

Questions??

MICHAEL D. GOLEMBIEWSKI
TRANSPORTATION MODELER

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT ST FL 14
READING PA 19601
610-478-6300 X6304
FAX: 610-478-6316
mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission
Facebook: facebook.com/berkspcp



25

The video player displays a presentation slide with the following text:

**Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS),
Public Participation Plan (PPP)
&
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan
Updates**

Public Meeting #2
June 27, 2023
Commissioner's Board Room, Berks Co. Services Ctr.
&
Virtual

Logos for BCPC (Berks County Planning Commission) and Berks County are visible at the bottom left of the slide.

Participant avatars on the right side of the player include:

- KB: Keith Boatman
- AT: Anthony T...
- MG: Golembie...
- CL: Long, Carl

At the bottom of the player, the name "Golembiewski, Michael" is visible. The video progress bar shows 0:12 / 25:28. Playback controls include a play button, 10-second rewind and fast forward buttons, a volume icon, and a 1x speed control icon.

RATS Public Participation Plan Public Meeting

June 27, 2023 Expires in 120 days • 5 views • Commissioner Boardroom • ... > Documents > Recordings

Add a description to explain what this video is about.

11. Comments were received via two separate emails (07/14/2023) from Michael Donchez, PennDOT District 5-0 staff. Comments germane to the LEP were limited to text formatting and two date corrections. Comments germane to the PPP include spelling, grammar, and formatting corrections. Additionally, recommendations for minor text additions/corrections were made. MPO staff will make those corrections. Both emails attached.

From: [Donchez, Michael](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Cc: [Koenigkramer, Vanessa A](#); [Ruth, Jennifer](#); [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: RATS Public Participation Plan Public Review Comments
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:34:54 AM
Attachments: [Draft RATS PPP Review Comments 7-13-23.docx](#)

County of Berks Warning: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.

Mike

Attached are my review comments on the draft RATS Public Participation Plan for your consideration. Thanks for the providing an opportunity to review and comment.

Mike

Michael Donchez | Transportation Planning Specialist 1
PA Department of Transportation | District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street | Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610.871.4423 | Fax: 610.871.4124
www.penndot.pa.gov

File: Draft RATS PPP Review Comments 7/13/23

Thanks you for providing the opportunity to review an comment on the RATS Public Participation Plan (PPP). I offer the following comments:

Comment:

Section 3.1 Overview – 3rd last bullet – “Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish and made available digitally and in print” - may wish to revise to include “Ensuring that vital documents are translated into Spanish **or other languages if applicable** and made available digitally and in print”.

Staff might consider providing T.V. (WFMZ Berks Edition) and radio stations with public service announcements to disseminate information regarding public review and comment periods on its various documents.

Section 3.2 Contact Lists – Staff might consider reaching out to PennDOT District 5 office to obtain and utilize the department’s contact list for use in RATS outreach efforts.

Section 5.2 Target Outreach Areas – “Specifically, RATS will use its geographic analysis of target outreach areas to ensure that public meetings are held at accessible locations within these communities...”. Staff may wish to consider expanding this to include: “Specifically, RATS will use its geographic analysis of target outreach areas to ensure that public meetings are held at accessible locations **and times** within these communities...”. Holding public meetings both during the day and evening provides more opportunities for public involvement.

Section 6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals – 6th bullet – “The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, along with over multiple other languages”. A suggested edit is “The Berks County website, which hosts content for RATS, will continue to provide language translation software. That software provides translation between English and Spanish, **along with over as well as translation between** multiple other languages”.

Section 6.3 Meaningful Access for LEP Individuals – 8th bullet – “RATS will **include** notices on all documents and on the website that certain translated documents are available, and other translations are available on request” - Lower case i in Include.

Section 8.1 Overview – “RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area”. Planning related issues can be larger than just regional issues. Freight movement is one example that can affect multiple counties, MPOs, and states. As such I suggest the following revision – “RATS welcomes comments and ideas related to regional issues from interested parties from the Berks County area **as well as adjacent counties/MPOs as applicable**”.

Section 9.2 Public Notice Requirements – too many returns between bullets

Public Notices will provide the following information (where applicable):

- Type or name of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- Subject of meeting/participation event/activity/public comment period
- The date, time, and location of meeting/participation event/activity
- The web link for a virtual meeting
- Start and end dates for public comment periods
- Contact information (Address, Telephone Number, E-mail address and/or website)
- Brief summary of the proposed action, plan, program or amendment
- Where to obtain copies of the plan or materials
- How to provide formal public comments
- If formal action on a major decision will be taken by the Board, the date, time and location of the meeting where that action will be taken
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with Limited English Proficiency; and
- Offer to provide accommodations for people with disabilities; and
- Directions on how to file complaints under Title VI and other nondiscrimination statutes

Section 10.2 Public Comment and Review Period Requirements – 2nd Paragraph – “Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be **make** available to stakeholders...”
revise to “Documents and information on which public comments are being sought will be **made** available to stakeholders...”

Also, public libraries could provide another location for the general public to access and review documents during public review and comment periods. Berks County Public Libraries is made up of more than 23 public library sites throughout Berks County. Utilization of select libraries in areas traditionally underrepresented in the transportation planning process might help to increase input.

Section 10.5 The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – last bullet – remove double comma after “...PennDOT District 5-0’s offices,,...”

***Public Participation Plan
DRAFT 2023***

Report) will be produced and made available on the BCPC website <https://www.countyofberks.com/departments/planning-commission/transportation-reading-mpo>, at the BCPC offices, BARTA’s offices, PennDOT District 5-0’s offices,, or by contacting the BCPC. Vital TIP documents will be made available in Spanish and alternative formats on request in accordance with the procedures for accommodating Limited English Proficient persons and persons with disabilities.

Section 10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report – last sentence – need space between asrequired.

10.7 Air Quality Conformity Determination Report

The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is a companion document to the regional LRTP and to the TIP. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report documents the process used by RATS for making the transportation-related conformity determination for the regional LRTP and TIP for ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The Conformity Determination is required by the federal Clean Air Act. RATS conformity finding is based on criteria and procedures in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93) and satisfies all applicable conformity requirements. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is developed as part of the regional LRTP or TIP update, in which case public participation and public comment procedures for the regional LRTP or TIP update will be followed as described in Sections 10.4 and 10.5, respectively. The *Air Quality Conformity Determination* report is also updated **asrequired** by certain amendments to the TIP or regional LRTP, in which case public participation and comment procedures for major amendments to the regional LRTP or TIP will be followed as described in Section 10.6.

From: [Donchez, Michael](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Cc: [Koenigkramer, Vanessa A](#); [Ruth, Jennifer](#); [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
Subject: Draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan Review Comments 7-14-23
Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023 11:36:55 AM
Attachments: [Draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan Review Comments 7-14-23.docx](#)

County of Berks Warning: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.

Mike

Attached are my review comments on the draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan for your consideration. Thanks for the providing an opportunity to review and comment.

Mike

Michael Donchez | Transportation Planning Specialist 1
PA Department of Transportation | District 5-0
1002 Hamilton Street | Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610.871.4423 | Fax: 610.871.4124
www.penndot.pa.gov

7/14/23

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and comment on the draft RATS Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP). I offer the following comments:

Overall the plan was informative, well written, and concise. Otherwise, I have two minor specific comments:

On page 1, Four Factor Self- Assessment

This self-assessment is designed to balance four factors:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the program or service,
2. The frequency with which LEP individuals encounter the program and/or activities,
3. The nature and importance of the program, activity or service provided to people's lives, and
4. The resources available to the federal financial recipient and costs.

Alignment of highlighted text on second row of the four factors.

On page 2, second full paragraph

The Review Team finds that RATS did not address the recommendations using the specific techniques identified in the 2017 report; however, the Team finds that the MPO addressed the intent of most of the recommendations. Specifically, the Review Team finds the MPO has made certain documents available to the region's largest LEP population in its native language; and, provided notices to that language group concerning the availability of language assistive services in its native language as a foreword to the document. Nonetheless, the Review Team finds that based on demographic data provided in the LEP Plan, the region has other LEP language groups that need to be made aware of the language assistive services the MPO provides. Accordingly, the Team encourages the MPO to add language Tag Lines for its current "frontpiece", relevant to its linguistic population, for inclusion in vital documents. Examples of language Tag Lines can be found in Pennsylvania's 2021 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance document.

Examples of Tag Lines may also be found in *Pennsylvania's 2025 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance* document. A copy of translated language taglines for inclusion in documents available for public comment is available in the Title VI folder on SharePoint.

12. Comments were received via email (07/17/2023) from Vanessa Shamberg, FHWA staff. These comments were substantive enough that staff chose to delay adoption of the draft PPP and LEP in order to further review and respond to these comments. A copy of Ms. Shamberg's email along with MPO staff responses is attached.

From: [Golembiewski, Michael](#)
To: [Vanessa Shamberg \(FHWA\)](#)
Cc: [Piper, Alan](#); [David Alas](#); [Mosca, James](#); [Mitchell, Khan \(FHWA\)](#); [Waters, Stacey](#); [Allen, Debra C.](#)
Subject: FW: REVISED RATS Draft Public Participation Plan and LEP Plan per FHWA Comments
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 2:30:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[LEP_ASSESSMENT-SEPT2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)
[PPP_September2023_DRAFT.pdf](#)

All:

Over the last month, staff has been reviewing comments from Vanessa Shamberg (FHWA, received July 17, 2023) and incorporating her suggestions and necessary reformatting into our revised draft PPP and LEP. Below **in red** are our responses to her comments. Each comment will have an individual response. Her initial feedback was valuable and we look forward to additional comments and suggestions. Our goal is to have the revised documents out to the Technical Committee for their review no later than 2:00 p.m. next Thursday, August 31st. The revised draft documents are included with this email.

If anybody has any additional comments/concerns, please let us know prior to then so they may be considered. I am including Khan Mitchell (FHWA) and Stacey Waters & Debra Allen (both PennDOT BEO) in this response as well so they have opportunities to provide feedback. Thank you to all for taking the time to review these two revised drafts!

Mike



Coming Together & Working Together
to Achieve Success!

**Michael D. Golembiewski | Transportation Modeler
Berks County Planning Commission**

633 Court Street, 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601
Phone: 610-478-6300 ext. 6304 Fax: 610-478-6316



Email: mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com
Web: www.countyofberks.com/planning

Good afternoon, Michael –

Thanks again for the opportunity to review the draft PPP and for all the great work that went into plan development. As I mentioned on our call a few minutes ago, I wanted to share a few comments for RATS' consideration. If you'd like to have a follow-up discussion on any of these, please don't hesitate to reach out.

- **Title VI Notice**

- On page 2, add ADA point of contact. We'll be covering this requirement in more detail during Wednesday's Bi-Monthly Planning Partners call with PennDOT.

ADA Point of Contact (POC) added. Per the Planning Partners call and subsequent email, my name has been added as POC.

- **Section 5 Title VI and Environmental Justice**

- On page 7, it mentions RATS has specific and explicit procedures to identify, seek out, and engage Title VI and EJ populations. I found it somewhat unclear where in the PPP those procedures were outlined. Generally, RATS seems to have a well-developed plan and approach for reaching Spanish speaking populations, but additional clarity on the approach for engaging other groups would be beneficial.

- Note that under EJ, the MPO should seek out and consider the needs of low income, minority, and other disadvantaged communities as identified in your EJ Analysis.

- Under Section 5.2, consider listing the accessible locations that will be used in target outreach areas, if already identified.

- **Section 5.1 Overview and Section 5.2 Target Outreach Areas have been revised to reference the RATS *Environmental Justice Summary* as the document that we use to identify concentrations of Title VI and EJ communities. Once those communities are identified, RATS will work with organizations that target these communities to identify possible accessible locations for public meetings as necessary. Additionally, a recommendation has been added that RATS develop and maintain a listing of accessible locations that may be used in targeted outreach areas.**

- **Section 6 Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**

- In both the LEP Assessment and Section 6 of the PPP, recommend clarifying the text to clearly state for which languages translation and interpretations services will be provided for. Generally, I found it somewhat unclear if RATS is providing document translation and interpreters at public meetings for all languages upon request, or just Spanish, or Spanish and all Indo-European languages, etc. The text in some places says translation will occur "upon request" and in other places says key documents will be translated. To ensure compliance with Title VI, generally the MPO needs to:

- Provide translation and interpretation for any language upon request. For this reason, we encourage the use of taglines. It seems like RATS has this capability; I would just suggest finetuning the text in the LEP Assessment and PPP to more clearly/consistently describe it.
- The MPO has different procedures for Spanish (proactive translation of executive summaries). This is acceptable, however, we recommend providing a brief justification for why you have different procedures for this group. For example, a justification could be you previously received requests for documents to be translated into Spanish. **Language has been added to both the PPP (bottom of**

page 8) and LEP (top of page 5) that specifies Spanish is currently the only language translated into based on the analysis in the LEP (justification requested above). Language Taglines (provided by PennDOT) have been added to the front of these documents that tell of accommodations for many other languages.

- Under 6.3 Meaningful Access to LEP Individuals, suggest listing the local minority media outlet and community service organizations RATS provides notices to. **Local media outlets have been added to the fourth bullet point in this section.**

- **Section 7 American with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
 - 7.4 Notices and Services should reference the ADA point of contact. **The RATS ADA Point of Contact has been listed in Section 7.1. The requested reference has been added to Section 7.4.**

- **Section 9 Public Notice Requirements**
 - Consider libraries and SCTA (post notices on buses, bus stops, etc.) **Public Libraries and SCTA/BARTA (transit provider) have been added as separate bullet points.**
 - Add ADA point of contact. **ADA Point of Contact has been added as a separate bullet point.**

- **Section 10 Public Review and Comment Period at Key Discussion Points**
 - The PPP outlines the steps RATS will use to facilitate public participation for the LRTP and TIP (beginning on page 14 of 21).
 - In Step 3, consider stating that at least 1 public meeting/workshop will be held prior to the development of the draft LRTP/TIP or further elaborate on what the next phase of outreach and participation typically includes. **Language has been added in Step 3 that includes at least one (1) Public Meeting/Workshop which may be scheduled in conjunction with a regularly scheduled RATS Technical or Coordinating Committee meeting.**
 - Step 5 specifies that draft materials will be made available during the 30-day public comment period on the BCPC website, BCPC offices, BARTA offices, and PennDOT District 5-0 offices. Consider adding the local library system to this list, which presumably has higher foot-traffic from members of the public. In lieu of printed copies, a poster/banner that promotes public input and review, with details on how to access the online version (QR code) or to request a hardcopy, may be appropriate. **Language has been added in Step 5 that includes local libraries. Additionally language stating that details on how to access documents in printed or electronic forms will be included in the notice.**
 - Consider adding discussion on meeting format (in-person, virtual, or hybrid). MPOs should demonstrate meeting formats are effective in garnering feedback and are also accessible. **Language pertaining to meeting format / locations has been added to Step 5, along with a statement that staff strives to accommodate requests for presentations at other meetings.**
 - On page 17 of 21, it indicates that the definition of major amendment can be found in the LRTP and TIP documents at this [link](#). However, the URL does not directly link to the LRTP/TIP, which I think may be more helpful for members of the public. **Berks County government recently redid their entire web presence. The included links will be updated to take the viewer directly to [Appendix A: Procedures for TIP Administrative](#)**

Actions (TIP) and Chapter 7: Appendix (LRTP) that outlines what constitutes a 'Major Amendment'. Additionally, within Section 10.6, the definition of a Major Amendment has been highlighted in bold text. Going through the LRTP documents, I could not find "major amendment" using a Word search function. **LRTP Amendment procedures are contained in Chapter 7: Appendix, starting on Page 57.** Could you clarify what constitutes a major amendment for which you would go through additional public participation as outlined? **See link provided in previous response.**

- In Section 10.3, suggest using the regulatory language here and consider shortening the review period to 15 days (it does not need to be 30): **Review period shortened to 15 days**
 - 23 CFR 450.316(1)(viii) - Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan transportation plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement effort.
- In Section 10.4
 - Step 5 - Add public meeting during public comment period **Language pertaining to Public Meetings has been added**
 - Step 6 - Language should be revised to read, "All comments received will be considered and the response to comments will be documented and provided to the Board prior to taking action on the draft regional plan materials." **Additional language has been added**
 - Step 9 - Recommend clarifying, as it seems to repeat the public participation process. Where will the final version be posted? **Final versions will be posted to the BCPC website and will be available in print at BCPC offices, BARTA's offices and PennDOT District 5-0 office in Allentown.**
- In Section 10.5
 - Same comments as above on Steps 5, 6, and 9. **Same amendments added.**
- **Other Considerations**
 - Tribal consultation requirements should be added. MPOs/RPOs must consult with federally recognized Tribes and Nations to provide opportunities for review and comment on key planning documents. The updated list for tribal consultation in planning is found [here](#) (see pages 4-7). Many Tribes and Nations accept electronic submissions. If a Tribe or Nation requests hardcopy submissions, RATS should provide a hardcopy of the draft document. **A new Section 4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies has been added. The first paragraph references PennDOT's Tribal Consultation Guide which describes which Tribes and Nations have interests throughout the Commonwealth, specifies which are to be included in review activities and how they are to be addressed.**
 - The regulations require coordination with Federal land management agencies in the development of the LRTP and TIP when the MPO's area includes Federal public lands. Based on our records, there are Federal lands in Berks County (Hopewell Furnace). I would recommend adding resource agency coordination in the PPP. Generally, we are encouraging more collaboration between MPOs/RPOs and state and federal resource

agencies in the early stages of LRTP and TIP development. **A new Section 4.2 Consultation with Tribes and Federal Land Management Agencies has been added. The second paragraph references the two Federal lands in Berks County (Hopewell Furnace National Historic Park administered by the National Park Service, and Blue Marsh Lake administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers).**

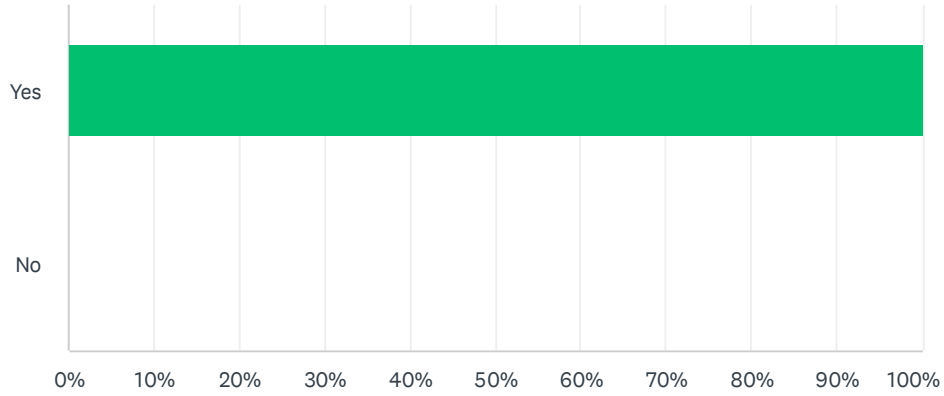
Thanks so much,
Vanessa

Vanessa Shamberg, AICP
Senior Community Planner
USDOT | FHWA | Pennsylvania Division
30 North Third Street, Suite 700
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 221-4406 | vanessa.shamberg@dot.gov

13. As of the close of the Public Comment Period (07/18/2023), a total of ten (10) online surveys and no (0) written surveys were returned. All responses received were English; no Spanish responses to the Surveys were received. The summary of responses is attached.

Q1 Have you ever seen or heard about the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS)?

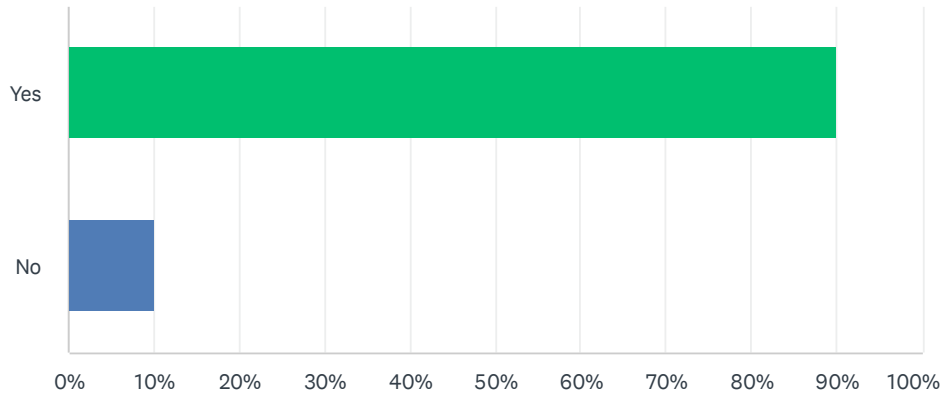
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	10
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		10

Q2 Do you know who undertakes transportation planning in Berks County?

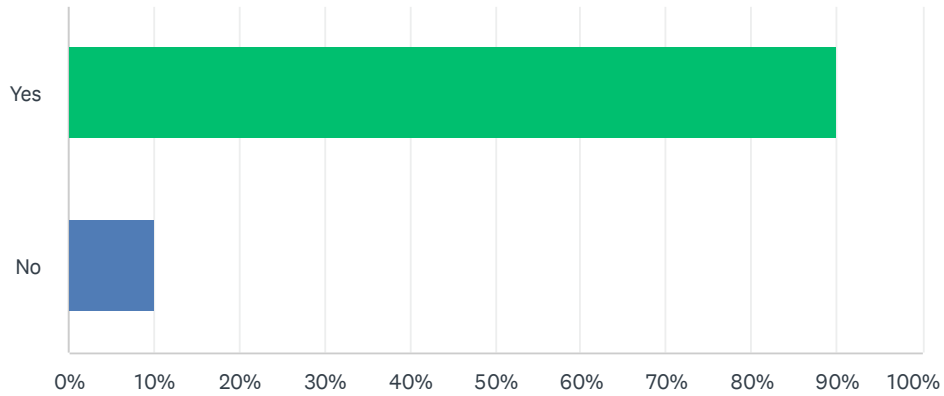
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q3 Are you familiar with the transportation planning process?

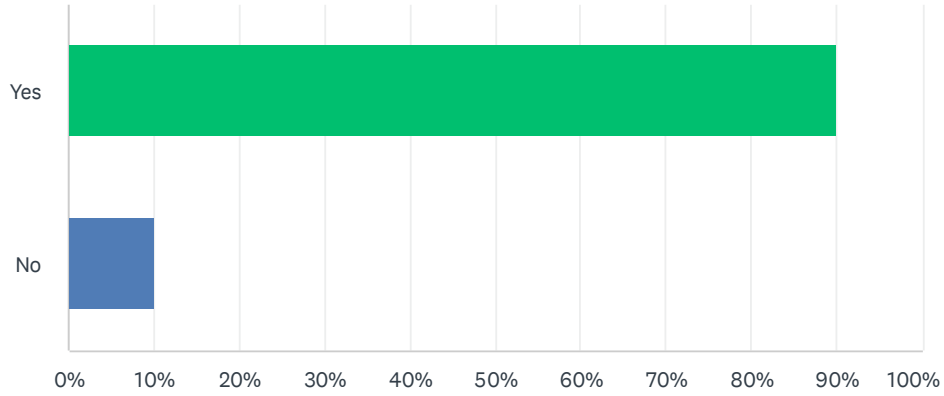
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q4 Do you know where the funding comes from for transportation improvements?

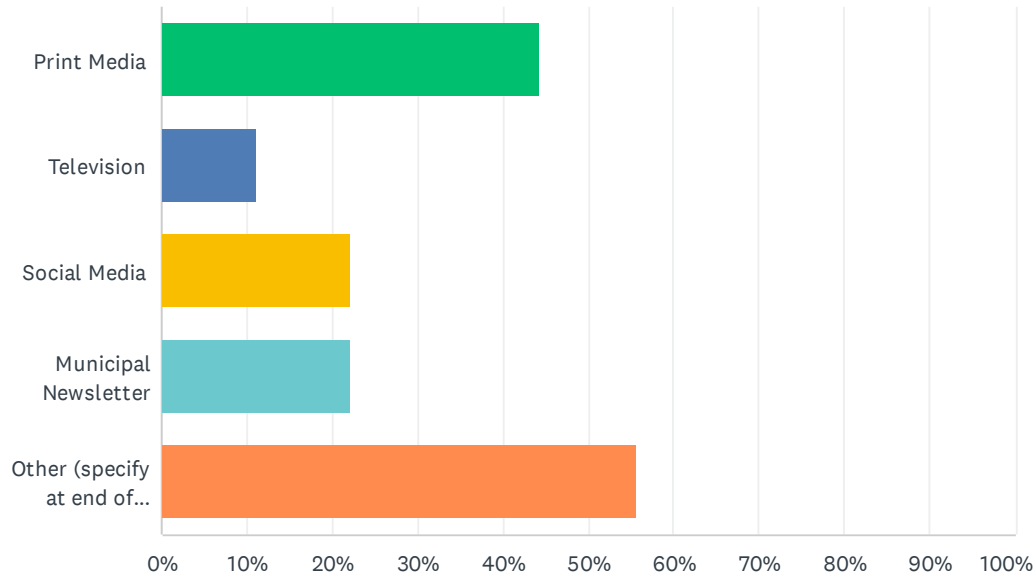
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	9
No	10.00%	1
TOTAL		10

Q5 If you checked 'Yes' above, where have you seen or heard about RATS?

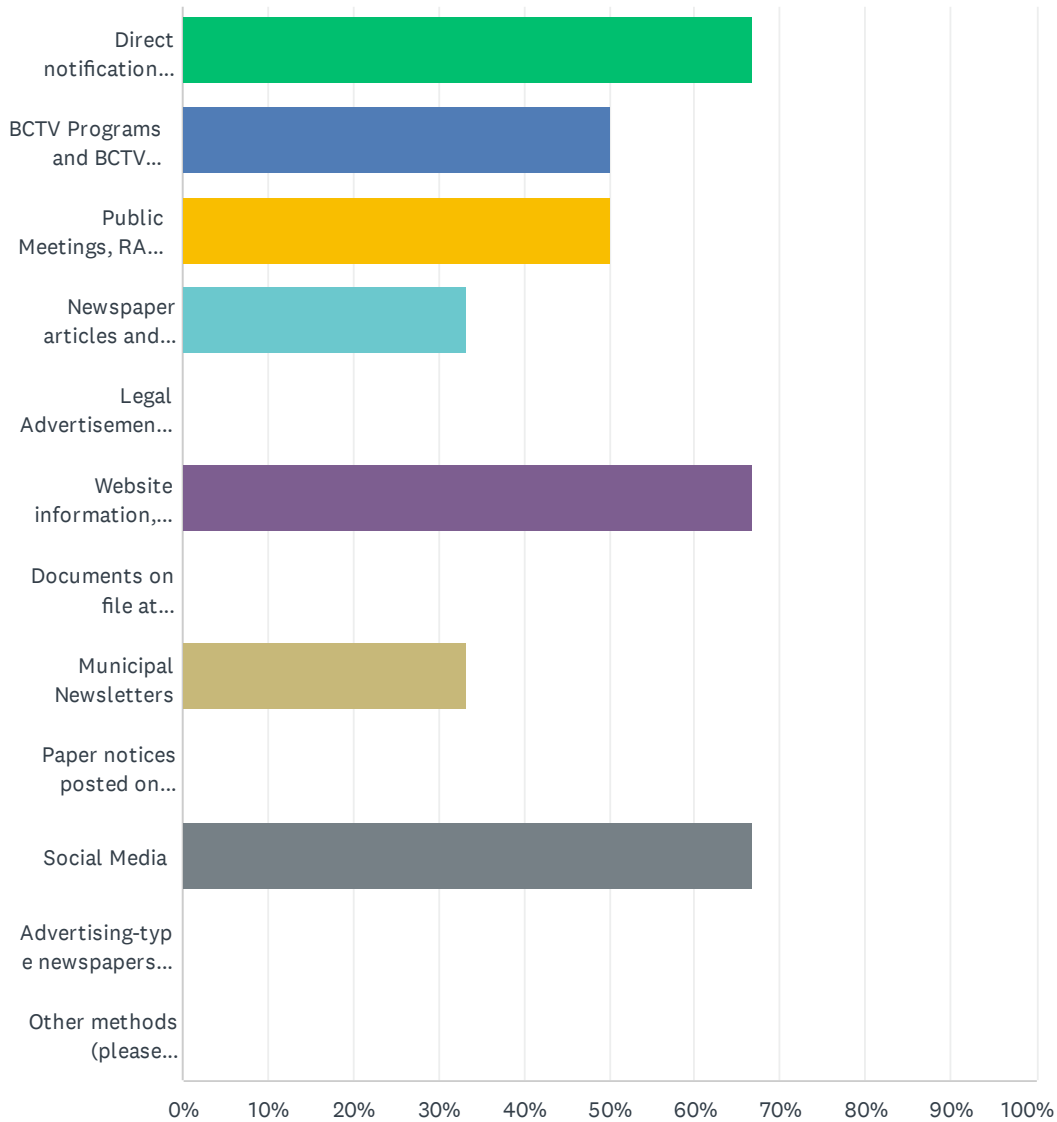
Answered: 9 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Print Media	44.44%	4
Television	11.11%	1
Social Media	22.22%	2
Municipal Newsletter	22.22%	2
Other (specify at end of Survey)	55.56%	5
Total Respondents: 9		

Q6 As we develop plans and projects that may impact you, what would be the best ways for us to get information to you? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4

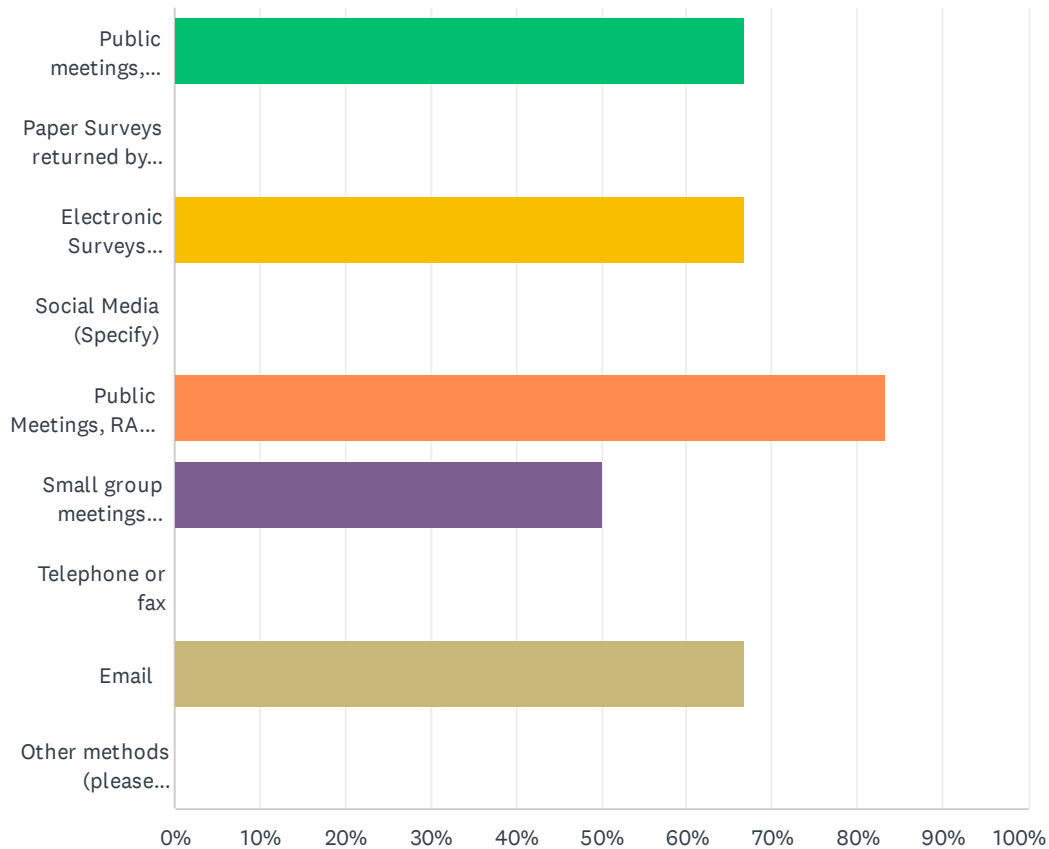


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Direct notification (by postal mail or email) of meetings and documents	66.67%	4
BCTV Programs and BCTV Community Calendar notices	50.00%	3
Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups	50.00%	3
Newspaper articles and press releases	33.33%	2
Legal Advertisements and/or block ads in newspaper	0.00%	0
Website information, including downloadable documents	66.67%	4
Documents on file at libraries and other community organizations	0.00%	0
Municipal Newsletters	33.33%	2
Paper notices posted on bulletin boards	0.00%	0
Social Media	66.67%	4
Advertising-type newspapers (the Merchandiser)	0.00%	0
Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q7 If you have concerns as we develop those plans or about transportation projects, which of the following methods are effective ways for you to get information to us? (Check all that apply)

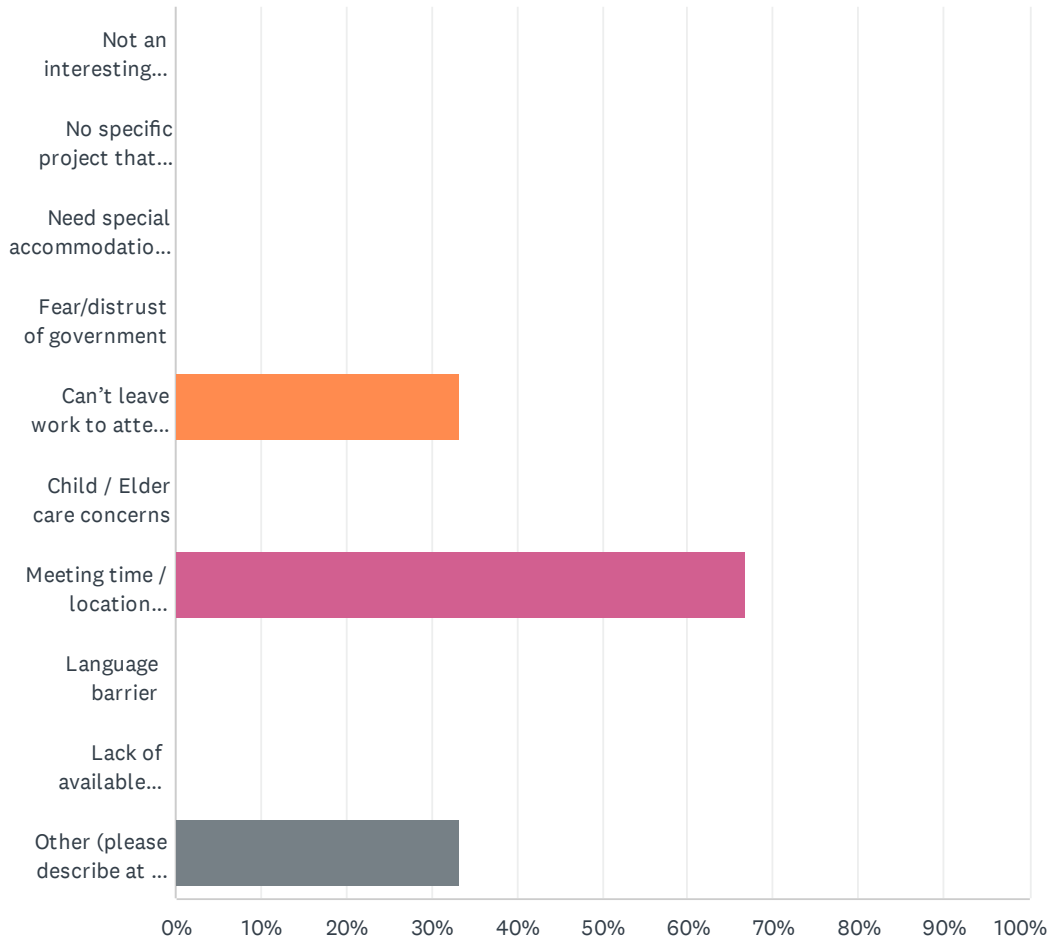
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public meetings, special presentations & workshops	66.67%	4
Paper Surveys returned by postal mail	0.00%	0
Electronic Surveys completed online	66.67%	4
Social Media (Specify)	0.00%	0
Public Meetings, RATS meetings, and presentations to community groups	83.33%	5
Small group meetings (community organizations, agencies, & individuals)	50.00%	3
Telephone or fax	0.00%	0
Email	66.67%	4
Other methods (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q8 What obstacles prevent you from attending a meeting about transportation planning? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 3 Skipped: 7

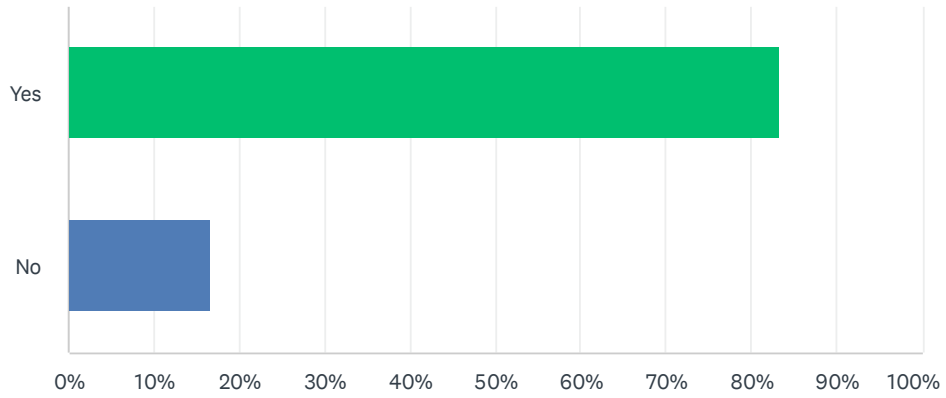


Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Public Participation Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not an interesting subject	0.00%	0
No specific project that directly affects me	0.00%	0
Need special accommodations (please describe at the end of this survey)	0.00%	0
Fear/distrust of government	0.00%	0
Can't leave work to attend meetings	33.33%	1
Child / Elder care concerns	0.00%	0
Meeting time / location conflicts (please describe at the end of this survey)	66.67%	2
Language barrier	0.00%	0
Lack of available transportation	0.00%	0
Other (please describe at the end of this survey)	33.33%	1
Total Respondents: 3		

Q9 Do you participate in Virtual (online) meetings?

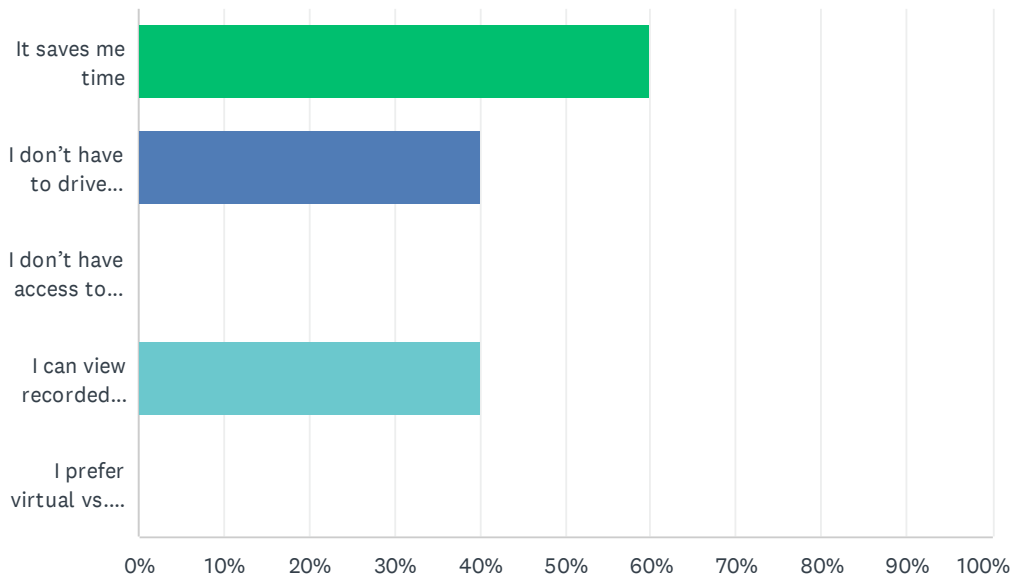
Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.33%	5
No	16.67%	1
TOTAL		6

Q10 If Yes, which benefits do you receive? (Check all that apply)

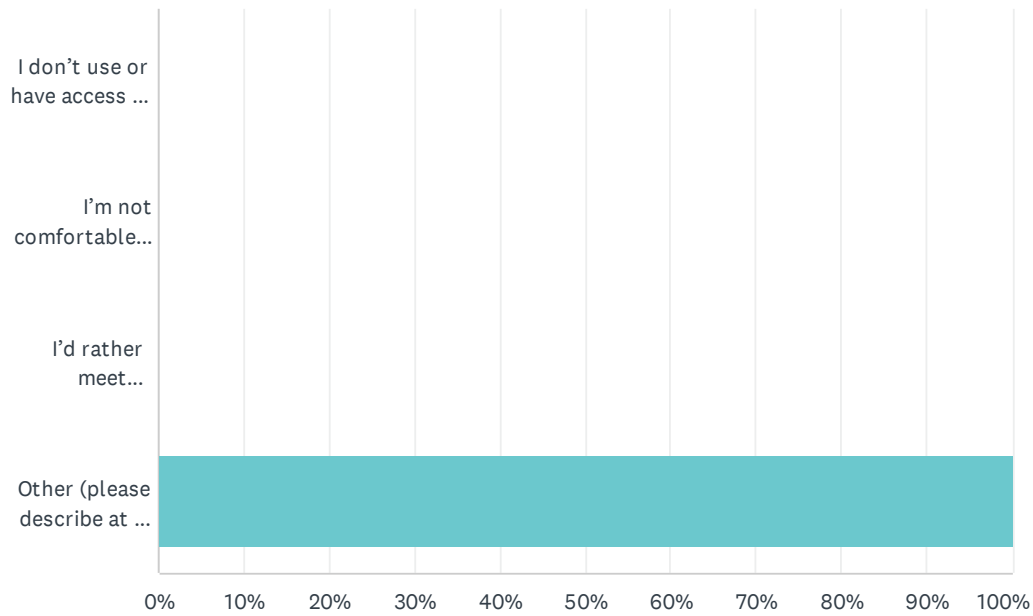
Answered: 5 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
It saves me time	60.00%	3
I don't have to drive anywhere	40.00%	2
I don't have access to transportation	0.00%	0
I can view recorded meetings at a more convenient time	40.00%	2
I prefer virtual vs. face-to-face	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 5		

Q11 If No, which challenges do you face? (Check all that apply)

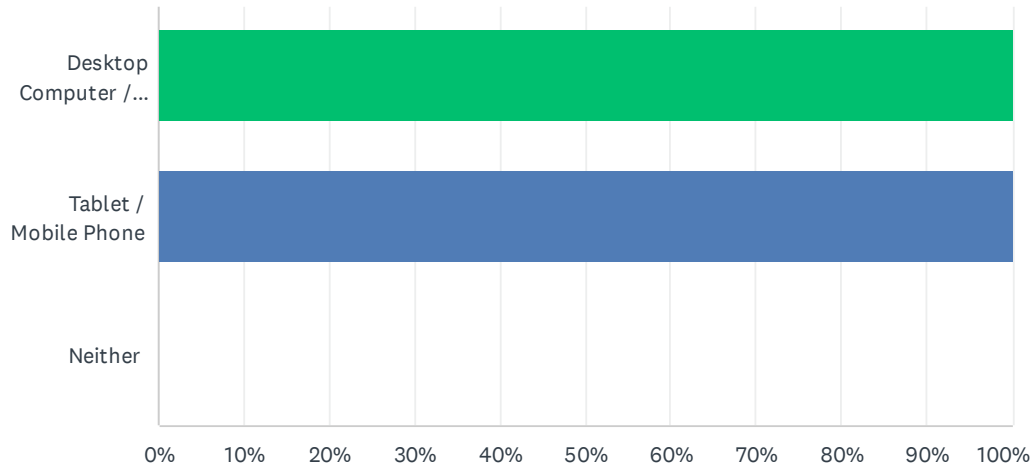
Answered: 1 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't use or have access to a computer or smart phone	0.00%	0
I'm not comfortable using technology	0.00%	0
I'd rather meet face-to-face	0.00%	0
Other (please describe at the end of this survey)	100.00%	1
Total Respondents: 1		

Q12 Which types of platform(s) do you use regularly? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 6 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Desktop Computer / Laptop	100.00%	6
Tablet / Mobile Phone	100.00%	6
Neither	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q13 Please tell us below any ideas you have for improving public participation in the transportation planning process.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Targeted business group presentations	7/14/2023 6:12 PM
2	I think RATS is providing various ways the public can participate in the the transportation planning process in Berk County. The issue is that the public will not get involved unless the transportation issue affects them directly in their daily lives. The planning process is long and involves the TYP, LRTP, etc, funding for projects slip or are directed to other projects that require additional funding and the public may not fully understand why the project they were interested in moving forward was delayed or removed from the TYP due to funding issues. It is difficult to explain to the average citizen what steps are necessary for a project to be placed on a planning document, receive the necessary funding in the years required to design and fully fund the construction to complete the project. I think RATS should approach the municipalities in Berks and offer to attend either a Planning Commission Meeting or a Township/Borough Supervisor meeting and explain the ins and outs of the transportation planning process.	7/14/2023 9:25 AM
3	Ed Granger egranger@abilitiesinmotion.org	7/14/2023 9:08 AM
4	Do lots of advertising and social media so that people know when meetings will be. Give a virtual option for meetings.	6/5/2023 9:53 AM

14. Staff submitted (8/23/2023) revised documents to Vanessa Shamborg, FHWA staff per her previously submitted comments for additional review. Staff also included Khan Mitchell (FHWA Civil Rights Specialist) along with Stacey Waters and Debra Allen (both PennDOT Bureau of Equal Opportunity). On 8/28/2023, staff received documents with embedded comments from both FHWA officials (unable to reproduce for this document). Staff reviewed and incorporated changes suggested by those comments.

15. Both documents set for review/recommendation by RATS Technical Committee 9/7/2023. If a favorable recommendation is received, the RATS Coordinating Committee (Reading MPO) should adopt on 9/21/2023. Minutes from both meetings to be attached upon approval.

APPENDIX G

Committee Membership and Supporting Materials

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (READING MPO)

BOARD MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION

January, 2023

Technical Committee: 12 Members (1 Chair, 7 Voting Members, 4 Alternate Voting Members)

	<u>Chair/Voting*</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Male/Female:.....	8/0	2/2
White/Non-White:.....	8/0	4/0
Latino/Non-Latino:.....	0/8	0/4

Coordinating Committee: 14 Members (1 Chair, 9 Voting Members, 4 Alternate Voting Members)

	<u>Chair/Voting</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Male/Female:.....	9/1	4/0
White/Non-White:.....	9/1	4/0
Latino/Non-Latino:.....	1/9	0/4



COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA

Office of the Commissioners

Services Center, 13th Floor
633 Court Street
Reading, PA 19601

Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair
Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair
Michael S. Rivera, Commissioner

Phone: 610.478.6136

Fax: 610.478.6293

E-mail: commissioners@countyofberks.com

Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer

Christine M. Sadler, Solicitor

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk

January 31, 2020

Dear President of the Board of Commissioners,

A vacancy currently exists on the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) Coordinating Committee. Mr. Kevin Lerch from Muhlenberg Township has served as the 1st Class Township representative on the Committee since 2018. Mr. Lerch has recently changed employment and is, unfortunately, no longer able to attend the regular committee meetings. We thank Mr. Lerch for his service in this capacity. This unpaid position is filled by appointment of the Berks County Board of Commissioners. We are asking for your assistance to identify potential candidates for this appointment.

Based on the RATS bylaws and federal regulations, candidates for this position must be an elected Commissioner from a 1st Class Township. Candidates should have an interest in the improvement of Berks County's transportation system and the ability to attend meetings of the Coordinating Committee. These meetings are currently held in Reading at the Berks County Planning Commission offices bi-monthly at 1:30 PM on the third Thursday of a month. Meetings generally last between 1-2 hours.

This Committee serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and is the official transportation planning organization for Berks County, designated by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under current and applicable federal laws. The role of the MPO is to promote transportation plans, programs, projects and policies that are consistent with current federal transportation planning legislation and the Clean Air Act. Its two main tasks are working with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in the development of a Long Range (20 Year) Transportation Plan and a short range (4 Year) Transportation Improvement Program covering highways, bridges and public transportation for all of Berks County. Other specific programs or studies are conducted in support of these two main efforts.

The Coordinating Committee is assisted in this process by a Technical Committee that reviews projects and proposals and makes recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. The transportation planning staff of the Berks County Planning Commission serves as the technical staff to the MPO. A listing of the current Coordinating Committee and Technical Committee members is attached.

Dedicated to public service with integrity, virtue & excellence

[www.countyofberks .com](http://www.countyofberks.com)

If a member of your Board is interested in filling this position, please forward their name, address phone number and e-mail address, as well as a brief statement of their interests and qualifications in relation to possible service on the Committee, to the Berks County Planning Commission, 633 Corni Street - 14th Floor, Reading, PA 19601. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. **Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible but not later than February 28th 2020.** All submissions will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners. Specific questions relating to this position can be addressed by Mr. Alan Piper, Transportation Planner either by phone ((610) 478-6300, Ext.6313] or e-mail apiper@countyofberks.com .

Sincerely,

BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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APPENDIX H
Agency Monitoring of Subrecipients
(Not Applicable)

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APPENDIX I

Board Adoption of MPO Title VI Program

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
MINUTES OF THE JOINT TECHNICAL AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY
MARCH 9, 2023

ATTENDANCE

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Michael Rebert, PennDOT 5-0 Chair*
Mark Tobin, PennDOT Program Center (V)
Donna Reed, City of Reading
Tom McKeon, Berks County Planning Commission (V)
Sam Kalbach, 1st Class Townships (Cumru Township) (V)
Keith Boatman, South Central Transit Authority, Alternate
Kevin Barnhardt, Reading Regional Airport Authority
Commissioner Michael Rivera, County of Berks
Mike Kocher, 2nd Class Townships (Spring Township) (V)
Brian Hoffa, Boroughs (Sinking Spring) (V)

*Tie-breaking vote only
(V) Attended Virtually

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Tim Krall, City of Reading (V)
Alan Piper, Berks County Planning Commission, MPO Secretary
David Alas, PennDOT Central (V)
Keith Boatman, South Central Transit Authority
Michael Golembiewski, Berks County Planning Commission

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING

Scott Vottero, PennDOT 5-0, Acting Chair*
Kyle Zeiber, City of Reading
Zachary Tempesco, Reading Regional Airport Authority

OTHERS

Amanda Leindecker, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Matthew Boyer, Commuter Services of PA
Jeff Rai, PennDOT 5-0 (V)
Carol Riley
Felipe Melendez
Amanda Timochenko, Berks County Planning Commission
Devon Hain, Berks County Planning Commission
David Hunter, Berks County Planning Commission
Matthew McGough, Berks County Planning Commission
Shanice Ellison, Berks County Planning Commission

Heather Berger, Berks County Information Systems
IS Production, Berks County Information Systems (V)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rebert called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

2. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business from the floor. Ms. Timochenko stated that there was no public comment.

3. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2023

Chairman Rebert asked if there were any questions or comments on the January 5, 2023 Technical Committee minutes.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Golembiewski made a motion to approve the January 5, 2023 Technical Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Krall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2023

Chairman Rebert asked if there were any questions or comments on the January 19, 2023 Coordinating Committee minutes.

MOTION (Coordinating): Mr. Barnhardt made a motion to approve the January 19, 2023 Coordinating Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. PENNDOT REQUESTED AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS TO FFY 2023-2026 TIP

Ms. Leindecker gave an update on PennDOT's requested Amendments/Modifications to the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from December 30, 2022 to March 2, 2023.

- There are six (6) Administrative Actions – the adjustments deal with increases for revised estimates, increases to meet low-bid and estimated costs for projects, and aligning funds to meet projected let dates.
- There is one (1) Amendment – this adjustment deals with removal of the Albright College TASA project from the TIP and reallocation of those funds back to the regional TAP reserve line item.

- There are five (5) Statewide Administrative Actions – these adjustments deal with reallocation of funds for revised estimates and the addition of Carbon Reduction funds to the regional Urban reserve line item.
- There is one (1) Statewide Amendment – this adjustment deals with adding an approved HSIP funded VRU project to the TIP.

Mr. Piper stated that Albright College no longer wanted to pursue the project because the project was small and the federal requirements outweighed the efforts for the size of the project. Those funds would return to the MPO’s TAP line item. The MPO and PennDOT are currently working with Cumru Township on a project that initially was submitted but ultimately was not funded during the last TASA application round. If the Cumru Township project can be developed and meet the requirements for TASA, the project can be funded using the funds in the TAP Reserve Line Item. Prior to the Cumru project receiving TASA funds, the project will be discussed and brought back to this Committee for approval to add the project to the TIP.

Chairman Rebert stated that the funds remaining in the Line Item should be allocated to a project in order to not lose them. Ms. Leindecker confirmed that the funds in the Line Item need to be assigned to a project before the end of the FFY and can be obligated in FFY 2024.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Piper made a motion to recommend the removal of the Albright College project from the FFY 2023-2026 TIP and reallocate the funds to the TAP Reserve Line Item. Mr. Alas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION (Coordinating): Mr. Rivera made a motion to approve the removal of the Albright College project from the FFY 2023-2026 TIP and reallocate the funds to the TAP Reserve Line Item. Ms. Reed seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. REPORT ON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 2023 PERFORMANCE REPORT AND 12-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE OUTREACH

Mr. Piper stated that every two years, the State Transportation Commission (STC) begins the process to update its 12-Year Program (TYP). The initiation of their update also corresponds to and begins the update to RATS TIP.

As part of the State’s TYP update, they develop a Transportation Performance Report Scorecard that identifies the progress the State has made in several categories related to the overall goals in their TYP. The categories include:

- Safety – addresses the goal of reducing fatalities and injuries on Pennsylvania roadways
- Mobility – addresses the goal of maintaining the current highway system, optimizing the performance of the existing system, and managing travel demand.
- Preservation – addresses maintenance of roadways and bridges to preserve transportation assets

- Accountability – addresses the management of resources and business processes
- Freight – addresses improving the safe and efficient movement of goods across Pennsylvania

Each category identifies various indicators and provides a description, performance rating, and identifies the trend for each indicator. Mr. Piper reviewed the STC Performance Report Scorecard.

Mr. Piper stated that as part of the STC’s TYP update, the 2023 Public Outreach Campaign began on March 1, 2023 and ends on April 30, 2023. There is an online survey (www.survey.talkpatransportation.com) that asks the public for its opinion on the areas where funds should be invested. There is also an interactive map that the public can identify specific areas where transportation improvements are necessary. The data is collected on a statewide level and then filtered by the various MPOs across the state. The state then shares the information with the MPOs providing the findings for the area.

Also within the public comment period, there is an online public forum on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM which provides the state an opportunity to review the scorecard with the public, answer questions, and solicit additional comments.

Mr. Piper stated that staff will be conducting outreach for this material to municipalities and the public in an effort to garner as much feedback as possible.

7. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF UPDATED READING MPO TITLE VI PROGRAM

Mr. Golembiewski stated that RATS adopted the initial FTA compliant Title VI Program back in July, 2021. The Title VI Program is required to be compliant with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This Act prohibits discrimination within any federally funded program against race, color, or national origin. There are 13 specific requirements that FTA requires the MPO to have in place to ensure nondiscrimination. Some of those 13 requirements include notices to the public and where they are posted, formal complaint procedures, development and adoption of a public participation plan, and development and adoption of a limited English proficiency plan. All the requirements are then incorporated into one document which is the Title VI Program Plan.

Staff has reviewed and updated the RATS Title VI Program after identifying some improvements that should be made to the plan. The most notable improvements include adding language taglines to the front of the document, updating and adding web links, updating MPO Board membership and associated member demographics, and updating content and links related to the FFY 2023-2026 TIP and FFY 2023 Environmental Justice documentation. The updated draft plan was submitted to PennDOT’s Bureau of Equal Opportunity (BEO). FTA requires PennDOT’s BEO to ensure that all transit agencies and planning regions maintain their Title VI Program Plans. PennDOT is considered the main recipient of federal funds and the MPOs are subrecipients. This is why PennDOT oversees this program for us. PennDOT BEO endorsed the proposed revisions.

The document was also sent to FTA and FHWA. Neither agency had any comments to address in this plan. While these changes are administrative and don't require MPO adoption, we'd still like to formally have the plan adopted with these changes.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Alas made a motion to recommend approval of the updated Reading Area Transportation Study Title VI Program plan. Mr. Krall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION (Coordinating): Ms. Reed made a motion to adopt the updated Reading Area Transportation Study Title VI Program plan. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF ADOPTION OF PENNDOT PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR PM-2 (PAVEMENT AND BRIDGE CONDITIONS) AND PM-3 (TRAVEL RELIABILITY AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROGRAM)

Mr. Piper stated that this process to adopt performance measure standards and targets is performed annually. The MPO has the option to accept the state recommended set of performance measures or develop its own targets.

The Performance Measures for pavement and bridge conditions (PM-2) include:

- Percentage of pavements on the Interstate System in Good condition
- Percentage of pavements on the Interstate System in Poor condition
- Percentage of pavements on the NHS (excluding the Interstate System) in Good condition
- Percentage of pavements on the NHS (excluding the Interstate System) in Poor condition
- Percentage of NHS bridge deck area classified as in Good condition
- Percentage of NHS bridge deck area classified as in Poor condition

The Performance Measures for travel reliability and the effectiveness of the congestion mitigation and air quality (CMAQ) program (PM-3) include:

- Percent of Person-miles Traveled on the Interstate System that are Reliable
- Percent of Person-miles Traveled on the Non-Interstate NHS that are Reliable
- Interstate System Truck Travel Time Reliability Index
- Annual Hours of Peak-Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) per Capita
- Percent Non-Single Occupant Vehicle (SPOV) Travel
- On-Road Mobile Source Emissions Reduction for CMAQ-funded Projects

As in the past, the recommendation to the Committee is that we do not create our own Performance Measures targets but rather that we vote to adopt the PennDOT Performance Measure targets for each of these categories.

MOTION (Technical): Mr. Krall made a motion to recommend adoption of PennDOT's PM-2 and PM-3 Performance Measures and targets. Mr. Alas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION (Coordinating): Mr. Barnhardt made a motion to adopt PennDOT's PM-2 and PM-3 Performance Measures and targets. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

9. UPDATE ON EASTERN PA FREIGHT PLAN

Mr. Piper stated that a briefing from the consultants for the Eastern PA Freight Plan was prepared and presented to the participating MPOs on March 2, 2023. The Eastern PA Freight Alliance consists of the RATS MPO, Lebanon MPO, Lehigh Valley MPO, NEPA MPO, and Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO. Using PennDOT and MPO funding, the Alliance hired a group of consultants led by WSP that is developing the freight plan for the region.

The Plan is divided into 9 tasks. Currently, the consultants are approximately half-way through the development of the plan. The consultants have gathered a lot of data for the region. One of the categories that will have a great impact on freight movement throughout the region is the annual average daily truck traffic. Primarily, the Interstate highways show the greatest amount of truck traffic. Interstate 78 carries some of the highest truck traffic of any highway through the area. There are similar volumes on portions of I-80 and I-81. When looking at the rest of the area excluding the Interstate system, what really stands out is the fact that the Route 222 corridor from Lancaster through Reading into the Lehigh Valley, Route 22 to Easton, and Route 33 corridor are the primary non-Interstate truck corridors through the area.

The consultants also examined data relating to bridges and where weight restrictions are located that could influence freight movement and delivery. Pavement conditions were also evaluated. Truck crashes were examined and determined that the heaviest concentrations of truck crashes were along Route 22 and I-78 with some addition clusters in Allentown, Reading, and Lebanon.

The consultants examined the truck congestion costs for the region related to the hourly truck operating cost versus the unreliability of a link and the daily cost per mile. By evaluating the costs, the consultants identified 'high cost' corridors throughout the region.

The consultants are also examining freight rail data including regional and national potential connections. In addition, the consultants will contact airports regarding freight movements through their facilities.

The next steps the consultants will begin include finalizing a land use analysis, developing online mapping, performing focused outreach, identifying freight trends and forecasts, and identifying needs and deficiencies through profile data, Steering Committee input, and public input.

Chairman Rebert noted that developing a freight plan like this provides reinforcement for applications to receive discretionary funds pending their availability.

10. UPDATE ON SCHUYLKILL RIVER PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY

Mr. Piper state that the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (SRPRA) is preparing an application for the Corridor Identification Program through the Federal Rail Administration (FRA). The FRA should determine and announce eligibility decisions later this summer. If this project is selected to be included in the initial funding phase, the Authority would move on to the next step which includes project planning. The Authority would receive approximately \$500,000 to fund the development of a project plan from the FRA. Through the development of a project plan, a scope of work and schedule could be developed which would aid in the development of a more detailed study for the corridor itself. The third phase of the Corridor Identification Program funding would be the project implementation phase. The SRPRA plans to submit their application next week. As more details emerge, this Committee will be updated on the status of this project.

11. MAJOR PROJECT STATUS REPORT, BRIDGE STATUS REPORT AND TASA/MTF PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Mr. Piper gave an update on the status of major projects. The bridge status report and the TASA/MTF project status report are available.

Mr. Piper noted that there was recently an article in the newspaper regarding the closing of the Funk Road bridge in Colebrookdale Township. The bridge project was already on the FFY 2023-2026 TIP to begin the preliminary engineering. The design phase is currently scheduled for sometime next year. Mr. Piper is working with the Planning and Programming PennDOT staff to try to expedite the schedule for the Funk Road bridge project.

Chairman Rebert is working with his bridge engineers to hopefully identify an interim solution for the Funk Road bridge.

Mr. Piper stated that PennDOT just announced that construction is underway for the reconstruction of the Gibraltar Road bridge in Exeter Township.

12. COMMUTER SERVICES UPDATE

The outreach staff continues to meet with groups, individuals, and businesses. The outreach team has been in contact with Albright College, BARTA, Berks Community Foundation, and Morgan Truck Body. Commuter Services continues to hold events at different locations including Ashley Furniture, Berks Connections, Berks Fire and Water, PA Career Link in Berks, and the UPS facility in Reading.

Commuter Services continues work to develop a regional bike share. Earth Day is coming up in April and Bike to Work week in May in which Commuter Services promotes green trips and the regional bike share program.

Commuter Services is working with various businesses to bring back the Bike to Work week ride which would happen on Friday, May 19. Commuter Services is working with West Reading and the City of Reading to also do a ride that would bring riders through the suburban area into the City, onto the trail system, and back out of the City.

During the month of February, 106 new members joined the program, over 7,000 trips were tracked, and over 133,000 miles not driven were recorded for a savings of over \$83,000 as a result of using green modes of transportation.

Commuter Services provided a year end report titled Innovating Mobility Options. The report discusses the outreach conducted and the successes resulting from the outreach.

The SRTP is in the preliminary stages of preparing an application to send to PennDOT for TASA funding for the Safe Routes to School Program. Mr. Boyer asked the Committee if there is any type of secondary process with the MPO that is required as part of the application process. Mr. Piper responded that he will reach out to PennDOT and get back to Mr. Boyer. Mr. Tobin noted that the discussion today regarding this particular application item would be for the drawn down from the statewide allocation to be included in the local allocation.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Cumru Township TASA Project** – Mr. Kalbach gave an update on the potential TASA project for Cumru Township involving flood mitigation from the Museum Road and Lancaster Avenue intersection. The Township is working with local landowners in the vicinity in an effort to acquire some land for flood mitigation via construction of a retention basin. The Township engineer is developing a plan combining a below ground and an above ground retention basin plan so that the local landowner can retain partial use of the property.
- **SCTA Transit Development Plan Update** – Mr. Boatman stated that the kickoff meeting for the SCTA Transit Development Plan (TDP) update was on November 4, 2022. SCTA hired Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning Inc. to help develop the TDP. Surveys were conducted on the buses in January 2023. SCTA received 585 surveys back from those on bus surveys that were handed out. A stakeholder meeting was held on January 25, 2023, an in-person public meeting was held on January 25, 2023 as well. There were 12 participants at the stakeholders meeting. There were 6 participants at the public meeting. There was a virtual public meeting on February 2, 2023. There were 17 participants at the virtual public meeting. SCTA conducted an online community survey in which 171 responses were received in English and 5 were received in Spanish. All of the survey responses are being analyzed by Foursquare and they will provide SCTA with the analysis of the responses. SCTA is currently conducting outreach and having conversations with Shared-ride providers to identify their needs and the needs of their customers. SCTA is sending out 600 customer satisfaction surveys to the current shared-ride customers. SCTA is also starting the diagnostic route

profile analysis which will analyze service scenarios to ensure the right services are provided in the right locations. SCTA is also analyzing the feasibility of providing microtransit which would be more of an on-demand service similar to how Uber and Lyft provide service. The next public meeting is anticipated sometime in the beginning of the summer of 2023.

- Mr. Rivera stated that he received an email from a resident in Berks County that is concerned with the amount of trash on the roadways. Mr. Rivera asked if anything can be done about the amount of trash along the roadways. Chairman Rebert noted the difficulties in maintaining roadway cleanliness especially during a year with limited snowfall. Chairman Rebert noted the ability to clean up along roadways is dependent upon the resources available to PennDOT and identified usually those locations that require roadside trash pick up are generally in high traffic corridors that affect timing for debris cleanup. PennDOT maintenance crews are preparing to conduct night shift cleanup along roadways. PennDOT maintenance crews will also begin to cleanup roadways between now and the springtime in areas where traffic will not be impacted by their presence during the daytime. PennDOT District 5-0 is examining the possibility of hiring contractors to perform some of the roadway cleanup because PennDOT maintenance alone can not keep up with litter cleanup along all the state owned roadways across the Commonwealth.
- Ms. Reed stated that next week is the 275th anniversary week of the City of Reading.
- Ms. Riley expressed concerns about Railroad Street in the City of Reading. Mr. Krall stated that Railroad Street is a private street. He will coordinate with the City of Reading public works staff to communicate and coordinate with the property owners to address any possible issues.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Rivera made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Golembiewski seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Date: _____

Alan D. Piper

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APPENDIX J

Environmental Justice Summary

FFY 2023

Environmental Justice

SUMMARY



Reading Area Transportation Study

READING AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
C/O BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
633 COURT STREET, 14TH FL
READING, PA 19601

Phone: (610) 478-6300

Fax: (610) 478-6316

Email: planning@countyofberks.com

Web Site: <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/planning>

It is the policy of the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS), the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in Berks County, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, to ensure that “no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religious creed or disability; be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity” for which the MPO receives Federal financial assistance. Furthermore, it shall be the policy of the MPO to ensure that as a recipient of Federal-aid funding, it will ensure nondiscrimination in all of its programs and activities whether Federally funded or not. The MPO is steadfast in its commitment to ensure the uniform adoption of this policy.

RATS fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. RATS’ website (www.countyofberks.com/planning) may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. In accordance with Federal Highway Administration Regulation 23 CFR 200.9, and Title 49 CFR, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary Part 21, and FTA Circular 4702.IB the MPO has developed procedures for prompt processing and disposition of the Title VI complaints. Any person believing the MPO has violated Title VI in the administration of its programs or activities may file a complaint with the MPO’s Title VI Compliance Officer by telephone, fax, or in writing at the contacts shown above, or by email at planning@countyofberks.com. A link to the MPO’s complete Title VI Complaint Procedures may be found at <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/RATSMetingSchedule.aspx>

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The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official policies of either the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of publication. This report does not constitute a standard, specification or regulation.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BACKGROUND

Environmental justice addresses fairness of federal actions in regards to disadvantaged persons, particularly low-income and racial minority populations. Environmental justice became an active part of federally funded planning activities with Executive Order 12898, issued in 1994, that required federal agencies to examine the potential for their programs, policies and activities to have negative impacts on minority and low-income populations. The Environmental Justice executive order is based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which requires recipients of federal aid to certify and ensure nondiscrimination.

The roadway and transit projects identified and programmed in the proposed Reading Area Transportation Study FFY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FFY 2023-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan must address the principles of Executive Order 12898 relating to Environmental Justice. Specifically, the plan must identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs and policies on minority and low-income populations. Basic principles addressed by the Environmental Justice analysis include:

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations.
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.

In response to the USDOT order and the FHWA guidelines, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) developed *Every Voice Counts* in 2004, updated in 2012, to guide PennDOT and the local transportation planning agencies in Pennsylvania to address EJ issues. This guidance is found at:

[PennDOT Environmental Justice Guidance](#)

In general, this means that for any program or activity for which any federal funds will be used, the agency receiving the federal funds:

- Must make a meaningful effort to involve low income and minority populations in the processes established to make the decision about the use of the federal funds; and
- Must evaluate the nature, extent, and incidence of probable favorable and adverse human health or environmental impacts of the program or activity upon minority or low-income populations.

The Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the regional transportation planning organization for the Reading, Pennsylvania metropolitan area. The Reading MPO is co-terminus with the political boundary of Berks County. RATS prepares this Environmental Justice report to respond to the federal and state requirements and facilitate the fair transportation planning process in Berks County. This document supersedes the July 2018 EJ document.

RATS will assess the impacts of the transportation planning process, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on selected populations, identify their transportation needs, and explore ways to satisfy these needs. Our assessment of the potential for environmental justice concerns relies on relative measures, not specific thresholds or measures. This includes our professional judgment of the disproportionate impacts and judgment of efforts made during the planning process to inform people potentially impacted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RATS supports and encourages active public participation throughout the transportation planning process. RATS adopted a public participation policy in 2017 to ensure that specific opportunities exist for the public to offer input and provide feedback as active participants in the decision-making process. Public participation takes many forms, and RATS uses a wide range of methods and media to enhance the public's participation in the process.

As part of the FFY 2023 TIP and FFY 2023-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, RATS took/will take a number of steps to ensure consideration of the public's views, including using the public participation plan, developing and contacting a comprehensive listing of stakeholders, utilizing a variety of methods to involve the public, and considering public comments in developing the list of transportation projects. The overall goal of the TIP and LRTP is to develop plans and strategies that promote an efficient and effective transportation system for Berks County.

DEFINITIONS

Minority means a person who is: (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa); (2) Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race); (3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); (4) American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition); and (5) Native Hawaii or Other Pacific Islanders (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands). Additionally, any person who responded to the US Census as being some other race or two or more races qualifies as being in the minority population.

Low-Income means a person whose household income (or if in a community or group their median household income) is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines and identified as such in the U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates.

Limited English Proficiency includes people ages 5 and older who do not speak English as their primary language and who have reported to the Census Bureau an ability to read, write, speak, or understand English less than very well.

Persons with a Disability includes people with mobility limitation, self-care limitation, or people with both limitations. Those limitations can include a long-lasting physical, mental or emotional condition, and can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning or remembering. Limitations can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

Female Head of Household with Child includes households with a female maintaining the household with no husband of the householder present and with own children of the householder under 18 years.

Elderly population includes persons age 65 and older.

Carless Households includes households that possess no cars, vans, and pickup or panel trucks of one-ton capacity or less that are kept and available for use.

Poverty includes any individual with an income less than \$36 per day or a family of four with income less than \$72 per day. This is calculated from the poverty threshold as set by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Census Block Groups are statistical geographic subdivisions of a census tract and are the smallest geographic areas for which the Census Bureau provides sample data, primarily from the ACS 5 -year period estimates.

American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing demographics survey program conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau that provides information on a yearly basis about the nation and its people which aids in determining how federal and state funds are distributed each year.

DEMOGRAPHICS BACKGROUND

Berks County is an urban county of the third class, comprised of one city of the third class, 27 boroughs, and 44 townships. It is located in southeastern Pennsylvania, surrounded by six other counties: Schuylkill County to the north, Lebanon County to the west, Lehigh and Montgomery Counties to the east and Chester and Lancaster Counties to the south. Reading, a city of the third class, serves as the county seat. The County's geographic location and transportation network promote accessibility and mobility for people and freight to several surrounding larger metropolitan areas including Allentown (39 miles), Philadelphia (56 miles), Baltimore (97 miles), and New York City (125 miles).

As of 2019, Berks County is home to 418,025 residents. In comparison to the six neighboring counties, it ranks fourth in overall population. From 2000-2010, population increased 10.2 percent, exceeding both the state and national figures, and placing 5th highest amongst the other counties. Population growth slowed substantially from 2010-2019, slightly above the state, but below national figures for the period. The county ranked sixth out of the seven counties for percentage of population growth from 2010-2019.

Table 1

County Population Between 2000 and 2019					
County	2000	2010	2019 Est.	% Change 00-10	% Change 10-19
Berks	373,638	411,850	418,025	10.2%	1.5%
Chester	433,501	499,797	519,560	15.3%	4.0%
Lancaster	470,658	520,156	540,999	10.5%	4.0%
Lebanon	120,327	133,688	139,729	11.1%	4.5%
Lehigh	312,090	350,106	365,052	12.2%	4.3%
Montgomery	750,097	801,052	823,823	6.8%	2.8%
Schuylkill	150,336	148,228	142,674	-1.4%	-3.7%
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	12,702,379	12,791,530	3.4%	0.7%
United States	281,421,906	308,745,538	324,697,795	9.7%	5.2%

Source: U.S. Census, Census 2000, and Annual Estimates of the Resident Population 2010, 2015-2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates

DEMOGRAPHIC METHODOLOGY

For this document the Statewide Environmental Justice Analysis Methodology 2023-2026 Pennsylvania Transportation Improvement Program was used. A full copy of this document can be found as an Appendix to this document. This statewide methodology was created as a way to keep all 67 Pennsylvania Counties using a uniform scale across all counties in the state. It also provides a uniform, easily communicated and understood way of classifying the relative concentrations of low-income and minority populations across the state of Pennsylvania. In the past, minority and low-income population percentages were based on natural breaks of the percentages of those populations present within block groups for each county. This led to conducting 67 separate analyses when looking at this data on a statewide level or multiple different analyses for multicounty planning partners and across PennDOT Districts.

The current methodology classifies census block groups into intervals based on the ratio of census block group minority or low-income percentage to county overall minority or low-income percentage. For example, a ratio of 1 indicates the census block group has the same minority or low-income percentage as the county average. A noted side effect of this approach is that it resulted in some counties not having all intervals. Through use of the United States Census Bureau American Community Survey 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates the county averages for minority and low-income populations were calculated. The Berks County average minority population percentage was determined to be 31.67% and the average low-income population percentage was determined to be 13.61%. All intervals are present within Berks County except for Minority Interval 5. The Minority Interval 5 for Berks County would account for census block groups with a minority population percentage greater than 126.68%.

Tables 2 and 3 show the definitions of the minority and low-income population concentration intervals that are used throughout this plan. The specific Berks County equivalents for these intervals can also be found on these tables.

Table 2

Definition of Minority Population Intervals		
Minority Intervals	Berks County Equivalent	Ratio of Minority Population Percentage in Census Block Group to County Minority Population Percentage
1	$\leq 15.84\%$	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage ≤ 0.5 (Census block group minority population percentage less than or equal to half of countywide minority population percentage)
2	$> 15.84\%$ and $\leq 31.67\%$	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 0.5 and ≤ 1 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than half and less than or equal to the countywide minority population percentage)
3	$> 31.67\%$ and $\leq 63.34\%$	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 1 and ≤ 2 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than the countywide minority population percentage and less than or equal to twice the countywide minority population percentage)
4	$> 63.34\%$ and $\leq 126.68\%$	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 2 and ≤ 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the countywide minority population percentage)
5	$> 126.68\%$ (Not applicable)	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than four times the countywide minority population percentage)

Table 3

Definition of Low-Income Population Intervals		
Low-Income Intervals	Berks County Equivalent	Ratio of Low-Income Population Percentage in Census Block Group to County Low-Income Population Percentage
1	$\leq 6.81\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage ≤ 0.5 (Census block group low-income population percentage less than or equal to half of countywide low-income population percentage)
2	$> 6.81\%$ and $\leq 13.61\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage > 0.5 and ≤ 1 (Census block group low-income population percentage greater than half and less than or equal to the countywide low-income population percentage)
3	$> 13.61\%$ and $\leq 27.22\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage > 1 and ≤ 2 (Census block group low-income population percentage greater than the countywide low-income population percentage and less than or equal to twice the countywide low-income population percentage)
4	$> 27.22\%$ and $\leq 54.44\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage > 2 and ≤ 4 (Census block group low-income population percentage greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the countywide low-income population percentage)
5	$> 54.44\%$	Census Block Low-Income Population Percentage / County Low-Income Population Percentage > 4 (Census block group low-income population percentage greater than four times the countywide low-income population percentage)

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS of the 2023-2026 TIP

RATS has identified the following groups to be included in this analysis. The United States Census Bureau American Community Survey 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates provides the data supporting the analysis. The method for this analysis identifies census block groups where minority and low-income populations are above the Berks County average.

Table 4 shows the Population by Race for Berks County by number and percentage. While the White, Non-Hispanic population makes up nearly three quarters of the population, the Hispanic population makes up more than 20% of Berks County population, with the next highest minority being Black or African American, Non-Hispanic. Included in this table is the number and percentage of Low-Income Population. The Other Potentially Disadvantaged Populations are also displayed in this table by number and percentage. These numbers show that of the Other Potentially Disadvantaged Populations, Elderly and Persons with a Disability are the highest in this category making up 16.92% and 13.52% respectively. The other three demographic indicators in this category, Limited English Proficiency, Female Head of Household with Child, and Carless Households all make up between 6.21% to 8.47% of Berks County. Inclusion of these populations is imperative to determine the broader transportation and social needs of disadvantaged populations and ideas of transportation equity.

Table 4

Demographic Indicator	Berks County, Pennsylvania	
	County Population	County Percentage
Total	418,025	
White, Non-Hispanic	299,730	71.70%
Minority	118,295	28.30%
Black or African American, Non-Hispanic	17,728	4.24%
American Indian and Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic	353	0.08%
Asian alone, Non-Hispanic	5,711	1.37%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	50	0.01%
Some other race, Non-Hispanic	603	0.14%
Two or more races, Non-Hispanic	5,936	1.42%
Hispanic	87,914	21.03%
Low-Income Population *out of the 404,844 for whom poverty status is determined	48,573	12.00%*
Other Potentially Disadvantaged Populations		
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) **out of 393,824 Population 5 years and over	29,738	7.55%**
Persons with a Disability	56,526	13.52%
Female Head of Household with Child ***out of 154,696 Occupied Housing Units	9,600	6.21%***
Elderly (65 years or older)	70,728	16.92%
Carless Households ****out of 154,696 Occupied Housing Units	13,096	8.47%****

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles Tables: B03002, DP02, DP04, DP05, S1701

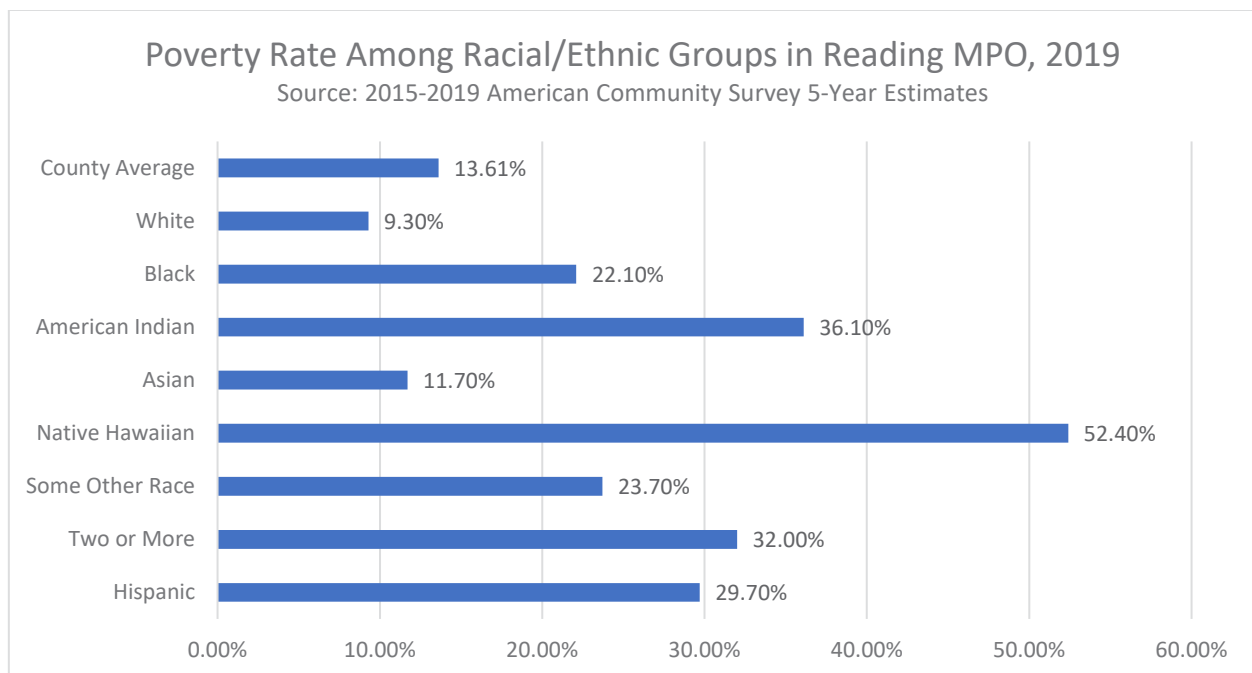
Table 5 identifies the total population by race and the amount of each population that is Low-Income. Using the percentages found in **Figure 1**, while the Native Hawaiian population has the highest poverty percentage, they also however have the lowest total population. On the opposite side of the spectrum, the White population has the highest population and most individuals that are Low-Income, however, the overall poverty percentage only accounts for 9.30%, which is the lowest among the races, and lower than the county average of 13.61%. The only minority population lower than the county Low-Income average is the Asian population with 11.70%. 20%-30% of each the Black, Some Other Race, and Hispanic populations are also categorized as Low-Income. Meanwhile, 30-40% of the American Indian and Two or More Races populations are considered Low-Income.

Table 5

		Berks County, Pennsylvania
White	Total:	334,339
	Low Income:	31,050
Black	Total:	20,941
	Low Income:	4,618
American Indian	Total:	2,409
	Low Income:	870
Asian	Total:	5,674
	Low Income:	663
Native Hawaiian	Total:	63
	Low Income:	33
Some Other Race	Total:	22,977
	Low Income:	5,436
Two or More	Total:	18,441
	Low Income:	5,903
Hispanic	Total:	85,828
	Low Income:	25,502
Total Population		490,672
Total Poverty		74,075

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles Table: S1701

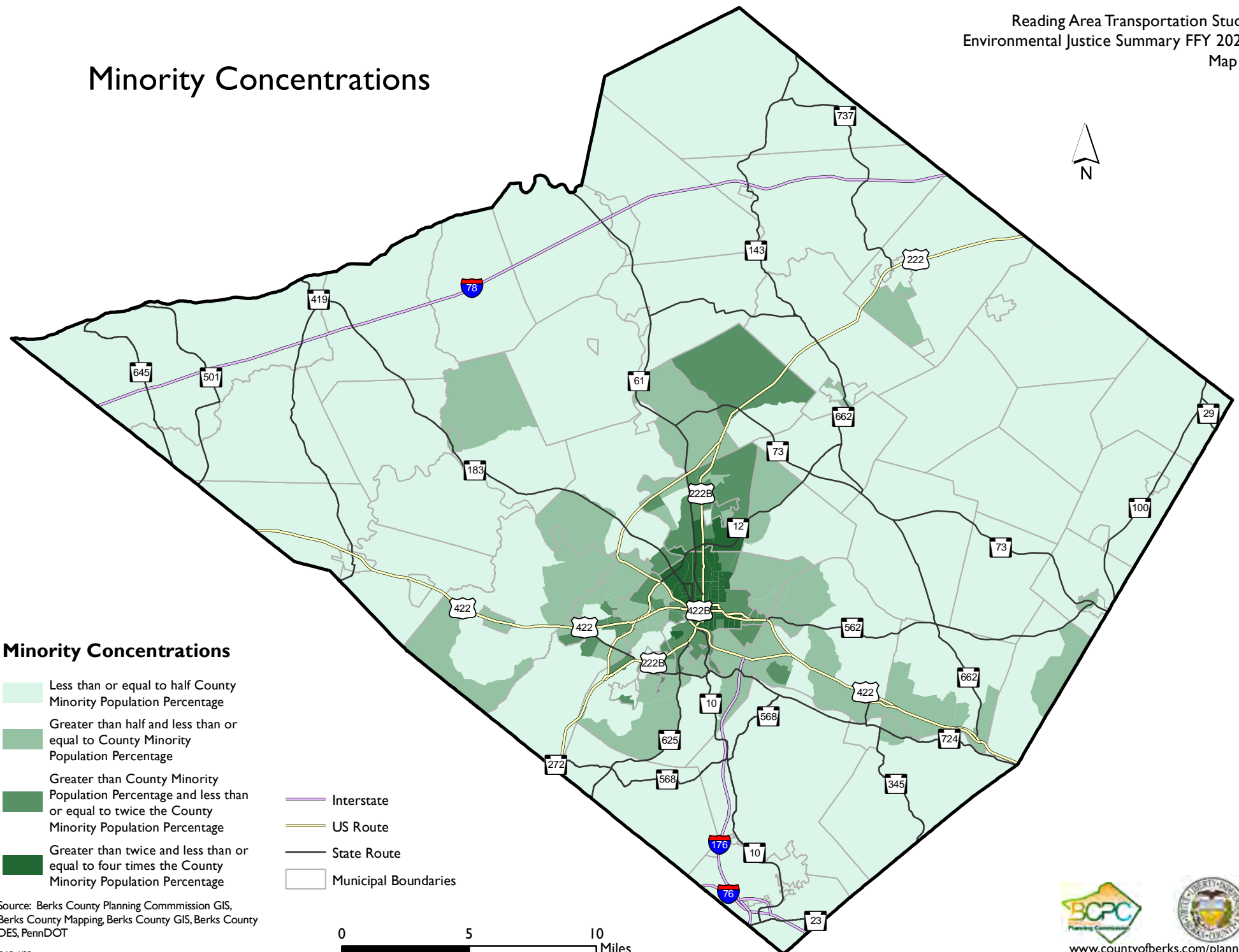
Figure 1



Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles

The Concentrations of Minority Populations in Berks County and the Concentrations of Low-Income Populations in Berks County can be found on **Map 01** and **Map 02** on the following pages.

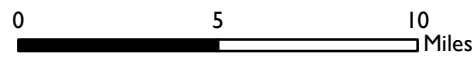
Minority Concentrations



Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

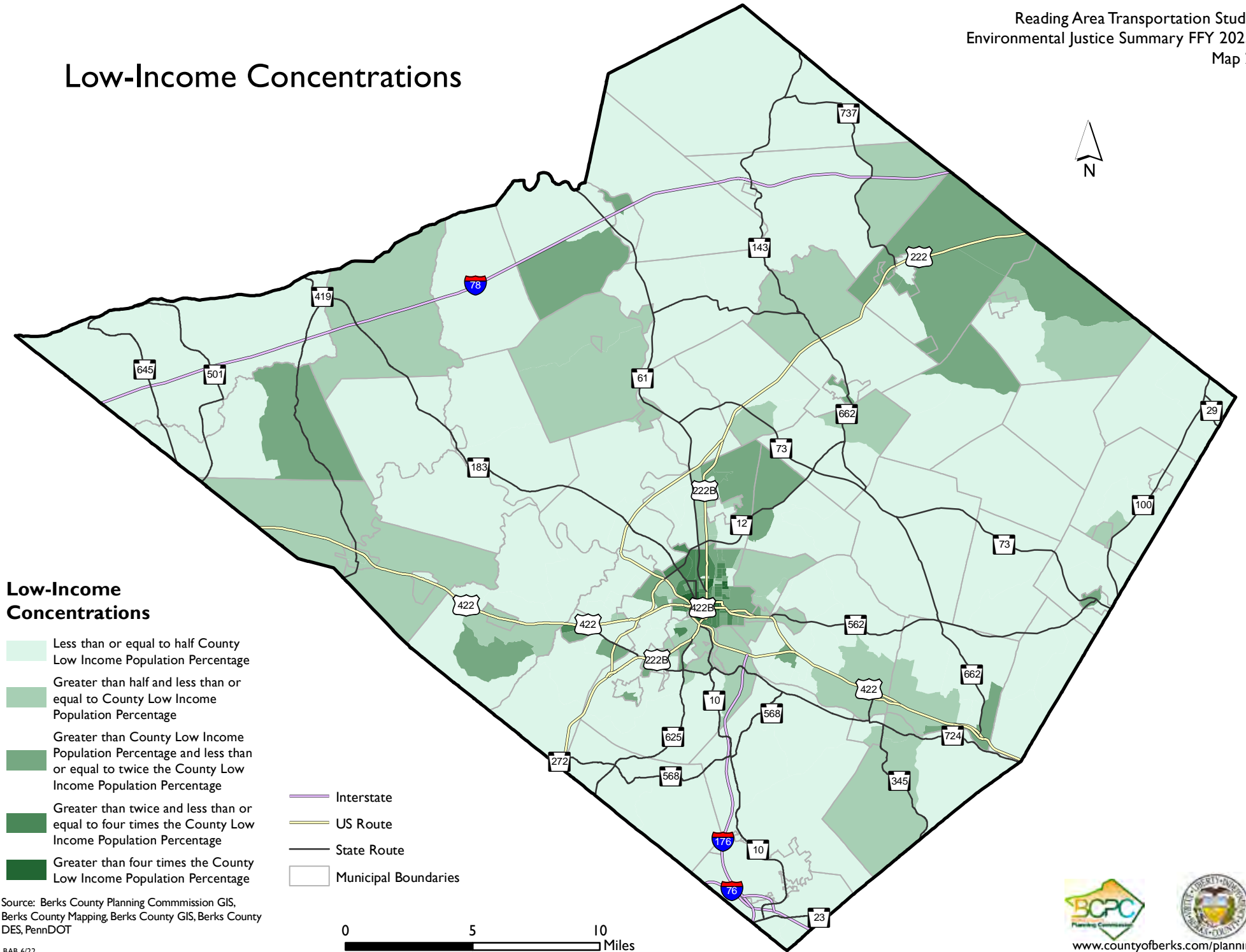
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries



Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



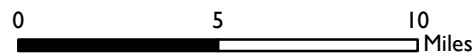
Low-Income Concentrations



Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries



Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



CRASH AND INJURY ANALYSIS OF THE 2023-2026 TIP

Table 6 and Table 7 display the Number and Percentage of Bicycle-related Crashes, Fatalities, and Suspected Serious Injuries in Berks County from 2015-2019. There is a higher percentage for bicycle related crashes amongst the highest concentrations of Minority populations at 41% compared to a range of 9.1% to 28.4% amongst intervals with a lower concentration of Minority populations. The concentrations of incidents are centered around areas where non-motorized transportation use is more prevalent. Cities typically have a higher proportion of users traveling by means of non-motorized transportation, thus the City of Reading has the highest concentrations of incidents. However, the number of fatalities and suspected serious injuries in the highest concentrations of Minority populations are lower or equal to the other Minority Intervals.

When looking at Low-Income intervals, the number of bicycle related crashes are more evenly distributed with the highest Low-Income interval being towards the lower end of these types of crashes. It can be noted that the number of fatalities and suspected serious injuries are also lower or equal to the other Low-Income Intervals, which mirrors what is seen within the Minority Intervals. This indicates a higher proportion of bicycle crashes are occurring in areas that utilize non-motorized transportation more than interval areas with lesser concentrations of Minority or Low-Income populations. However, there are also fewer Bicycle-related fatalities and suspected serious injuries in these areas that utilize non-motorized transportation. The risk of fatality and suspected serious injury to these vulnerable road users is closely tied to speed limits. The average chance of an adult pedestrian being seriously injured or killed when hit by a vehicle traveling 30MPH or less is only 10%. As the vehicle speed increases over 30MPH, the risk of serious injury and fatality increases sharply and significantly to the vulnerable road user.

Table 6
Number and Percentage of Bicycle Related Crashes, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
# of People on Bicycles Involved	50 (28.4%)	16 (9.1%)	38 (21.6%)	72 (41.0%)
# of Fatalities	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
# of Suspected Serious Injuries	5 (45.5%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 7
Number and Percentage of Bicycle Related Crashes, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
# of People on Bicycles Involved	48 (21.6%)	33 (14.9%)	51 (23.0%)	56 (25.2%)	34 (15.3%)
# of Fatalities	2 (100.0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
# of Suspected Serious Injuries	3 (20.0%)	7 (46.7%)	2 (13.3%)	2 (13.3%)	1 (6.7%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 8 and Table 9 display the Number and Percentage of Pedestrian-related Crashes, Fatalities, and Suspected Serious Injuries in Berks County from 2015-2019. The locations of pedestrian crashes like the locations of bicycle crashes are primarily concentrated in urbanized areas. These are also the areas that have higher Minority and Low-Income populations. Additionally, areas with sidewalks such as boroughs also have a higher amount of pedestrian crashes than bicycle crashes. Although there are many more pedestrian related crashes in areas greater than the county average for Minority and Low-Income populations, there are only slightly more fatalities and suspected serious injuries in these areas. Minority Intervals 1 and 2, which are below the county average for Minority populations, have only 25% of pedestrian crashes, but have 45.8% of pedestrian fatalities and 48% of pedestrian suspected serious injuries in Berks County. Similarly, Low-Income Intervals 1 and 2, which are below the county average for Low-Income populations, account for only 25.9% of pedestrian crashes, however, account for 48.3% of pedestrian fatalities and 44.5% of pedestrian suspected serious injuries in Berks County. As mentioned in the analysis of **Table 4 and Table 5**, this is attributed to the lower speeds found in these areas significantly decreasing the risk of fatality and suspected serious injury.

Table 8

Number and Percentage of Pedestrian Related Crashes, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
# of Pedestrian Crashes	121 (14.3%)	90 (10.7%)	194 (23.0%)	440 (52.1%)
# of Fatalities	6 (25.0%)	5 (20.8%)	6 (25.0%)	7 (29.2%)
# of Suspected Serious Injuries	27 (27.6%)	20 (20.4%)	20 (20.4%)	31 (31.6%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 9

Number and Percentage of Pedestrian Related Crashes, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
# of Pedestrian Crashes	161 (14.9%)	119 (11.0%)	283 (26.1%)	325 (30.0%)	196 (18.1%)
# of Fatalities	8 (27.6%)	6 (20.7%)	9 (31.0%)	2 (6.9%)	4 (13.8%)
# of Suspected Serious Injuries	26 (24.1%)	22 (20.4%)	28 (25.9%)	21 (19.4%)	11 (10.2%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Within the 2023-2026 TIP, there are a few locations where bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements are taken into consideration within higher concentrated areas of Low-Income and Minority populations such as construction of a new roadway in the City of Reading (PennDOT Project Id: 70274) and intersection improvements through Maiden Creek Township (PennDOT Project Id: 92414) as well as in the design and ultimate construction of the US 422 West Shore Bypass Reconstruction project (PennDOT Project Id: 114439). Additionally, each highway and bridge project is reviewed for bicycle and pedestrian use and improvements, which are included in those projects as appropriate. Throughout the development of the 2025-2028 TIP, more emphasis will be made to reduce the amount of bicycle and pedestrian accidents and fatalities through identifying areas where bike and pedestrian safety improvements can be made in areas of higher concentrations of Low-Income and Minority populations. A resource that will be used to make these determinations is the newly updated Berks County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan which was adopted over the Summer of 2020.

Table 10 and Table 11 display the number and percentage of Total Reportable Crashes, Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes, Crash Suspected Serious Injuries, and Crash Fatalities in Berks County from 2015-2019. Within the Minority populations block group intervals, the majority of total reportable crashes (44.5%), persons involved in reportable crashes (41.0%), crashes resulting in fatality (60.8%), and crash suspected serious injury (60.8%) occurred in block groups with less than the County average of Minority population. Similarly, the majority of fatality (52.7%) and suspected serious injury (48.1%) crashes occurred in Low-Income block groups less than half of the county average. This information shows that there is not a disproportionate amount of injury and fatal crashes occurring in block groups with a higher population of low-income and minority populations. This could be attributed to the lower speed limits found where these populations are concentrated, as the City of Reading has speed limits posted below 35MPH on a majority of its roads. Lower speed limits, like those posted on the roads in the City of Reading, lessen the force of impact, which in turn lessens the chance of a crash being fatal or causing serious injury. Across the state of Pennsylvania fatality rates are twice the amount on rural roads as compared to urban roads.

Table 10

Number and Percentage of Total Reportable Crashes, Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes, Crash Suspected Serious Injuries & Crash Fatalities, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
# of Total Reportable Crashes	12,649 (44.5%)	6,347 (22.3%)	4,843 (17.0%)	4,591 (16.1%)
# of Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes	26,457 (41.0%)	14,575 (22.6%)	12,295 (19.0%)	11,242 (17.4%)
# of Crash Fatalities	149 (60.8%)	43 (17.6%)	33 (13.5%)	20 (8.2%)
# of Crash Suspected Serious Injuries	459 (51.9%)	157 (17.8%)	122 (13.8%)	146 (16.5%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 11

Number and Percentage of Total Reportable Crashes, Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes, Crash Suspected Serious Injuries & Crash Fatalities, Berks County, PA (2015-2019)

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
# of Total Reportable Crashes	13,725 (43.5%)	6,779 (21.5%)	6,438 (20.4%)	3,008 (9.5%)	1,602 (5.1%)
# of Persons Involved in Reportable Crashes	30,448 (42.0%)	15,319 (21.1%)	15,480 (21.3%)	7,240 (10.0%)	4,034 (5.6%)
# of Crash Fatalities	137 (52.7%)	66 (25.4%)	37 (14.2%)	12 (4.6%)	8 (3.1%)
# of Crash Suspected Serious Injuries	468 (48.1%)	191 (19.7%)	171 (17.6%)	99 (10.2%)	43 (4.4%)

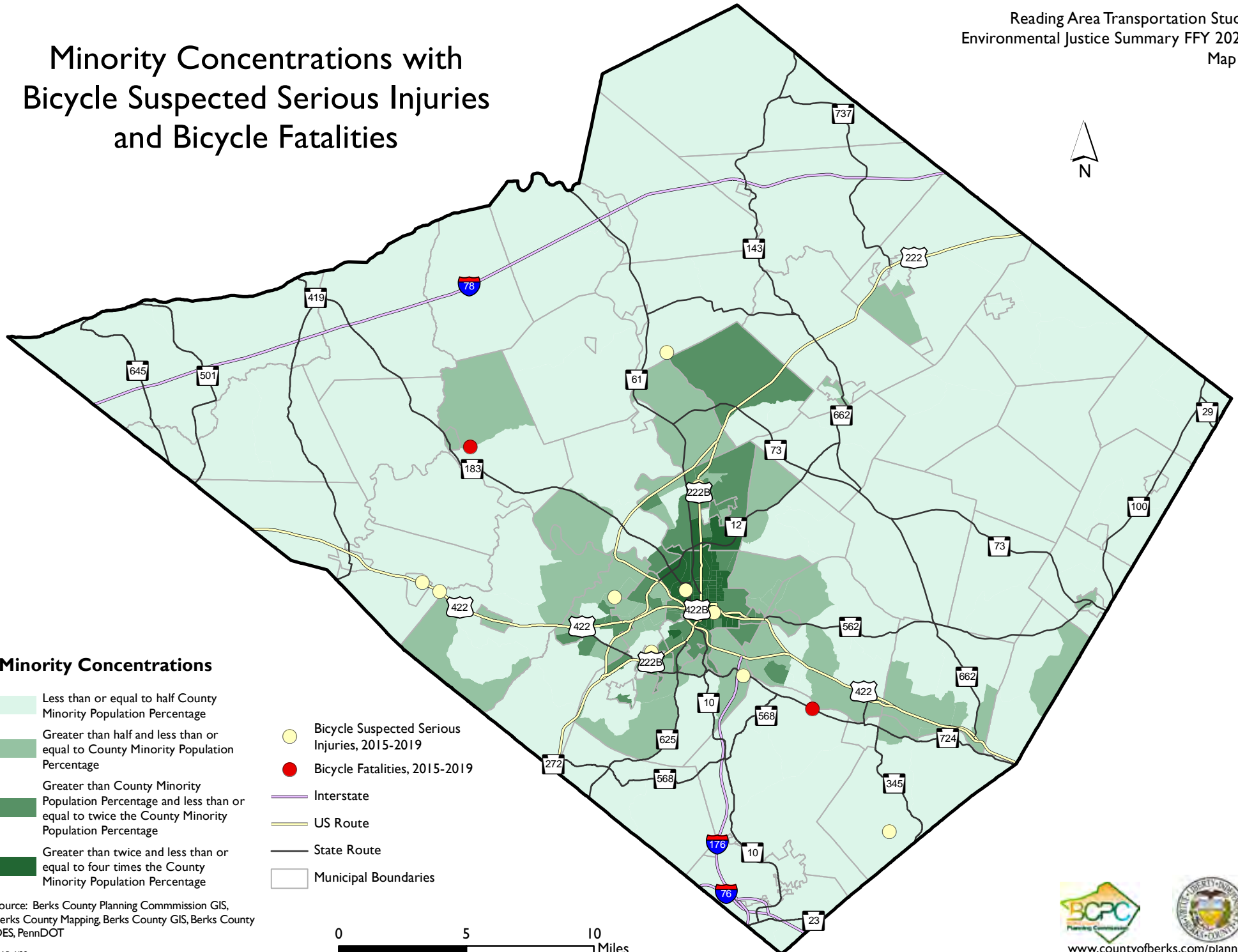
Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Maps 03 and 04 give a visual representation of locations of Bicycle Crashes with Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities for 2015-2019 in relation to Minority and Low-Income populations in Berks County.

Maps 05 and 06 show the locations of Pedestrian Crashes and with Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities from 2015-2019 in Berks County amongst concentrations of Minority and Low-Income Populations.

Maps 07 and 08 show the locations of Reportable Crashes with Suspected Serious Injuries and Fatalities from 2015-2019 in Berks County amongst concentrations of Minority and Low-Income Populations. Many of the reportable crashes with suspected serious injury or fatality that occur in block groups with a higher population of low-income and minority populations are occurring on highways that transect these areas.

Minority Concentrations with Bicycle Suspected Serious Injuries and Bicycle Fatalities

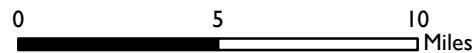


Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

- Bicycle Suspected Serious Injuries, 2015-2019
- Bicycle Fatalities, 2015-2019
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations with Bicycle Suspected Serious Injuries and Bicycle Fatalities

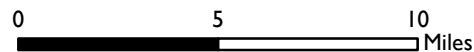


Low-Income Concentrations

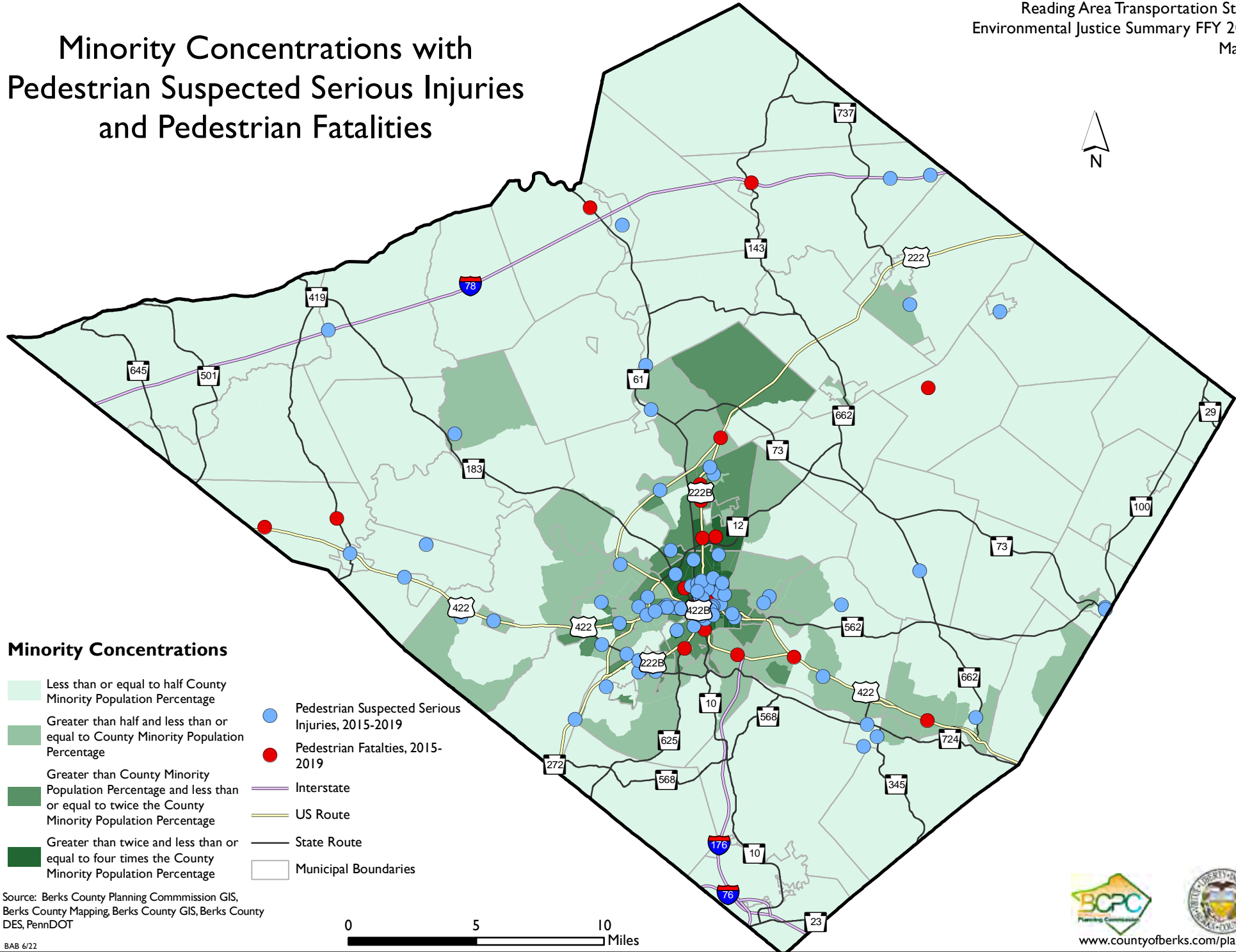
- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

- Bicycle Suspected Serious Injuries, 2015-2019
- Bicycle Fatalities, 2015-2019
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



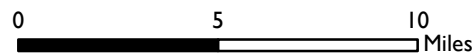
Minority Concentrations with Pedestrian Suspected Serious Injuries and Pedestrian Fatalities



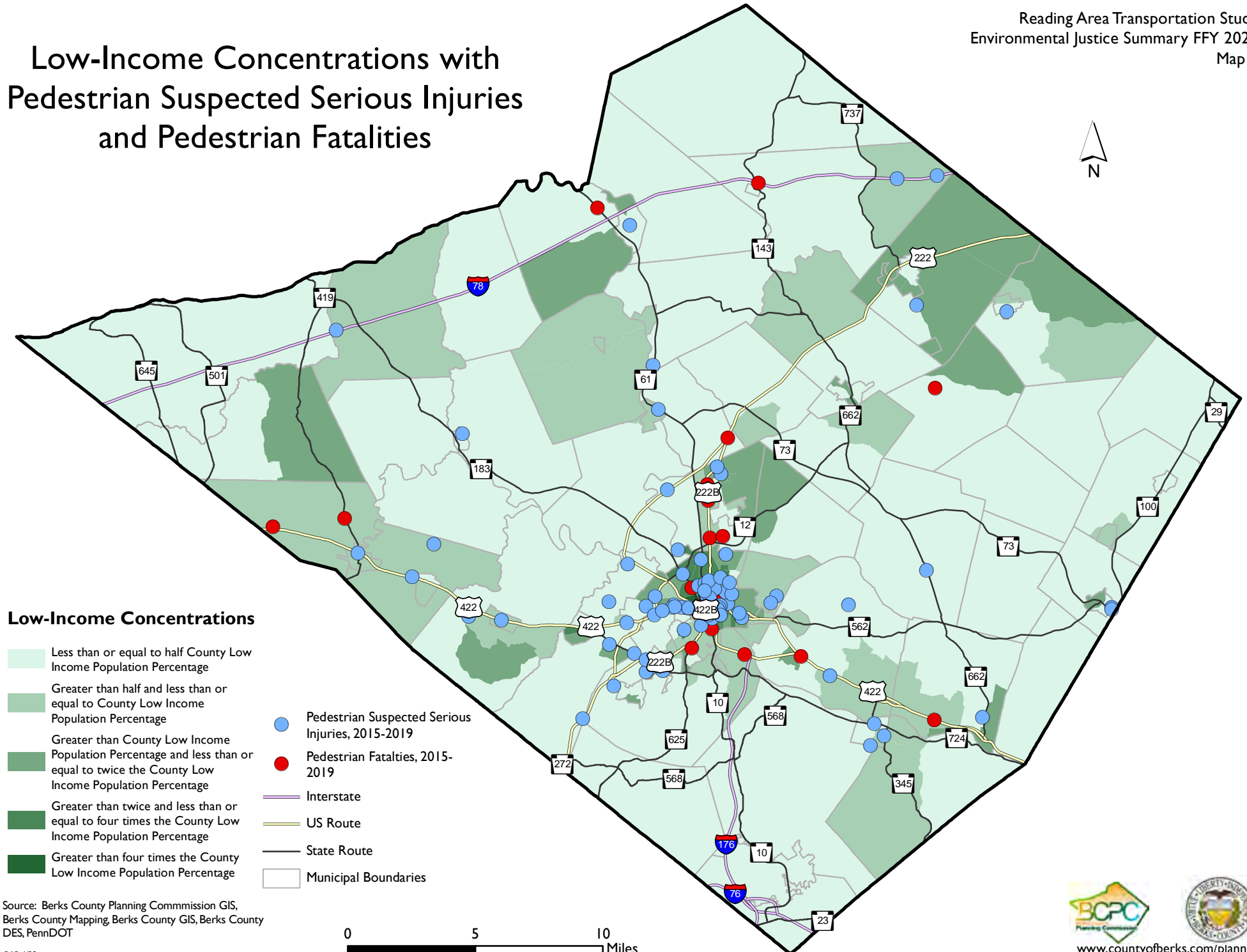
Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage
- Pedestrian Suspected Serious Injuries, 2015-2019
- Pedestrian Fatalities, 2015-2019
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations with Pedestrian Suspected Serious Injuries and Pedestrian Fatalities



Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Minority Concentrations with Crash Suspected Serious Injuries and Crash Fatalities



Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

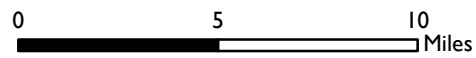
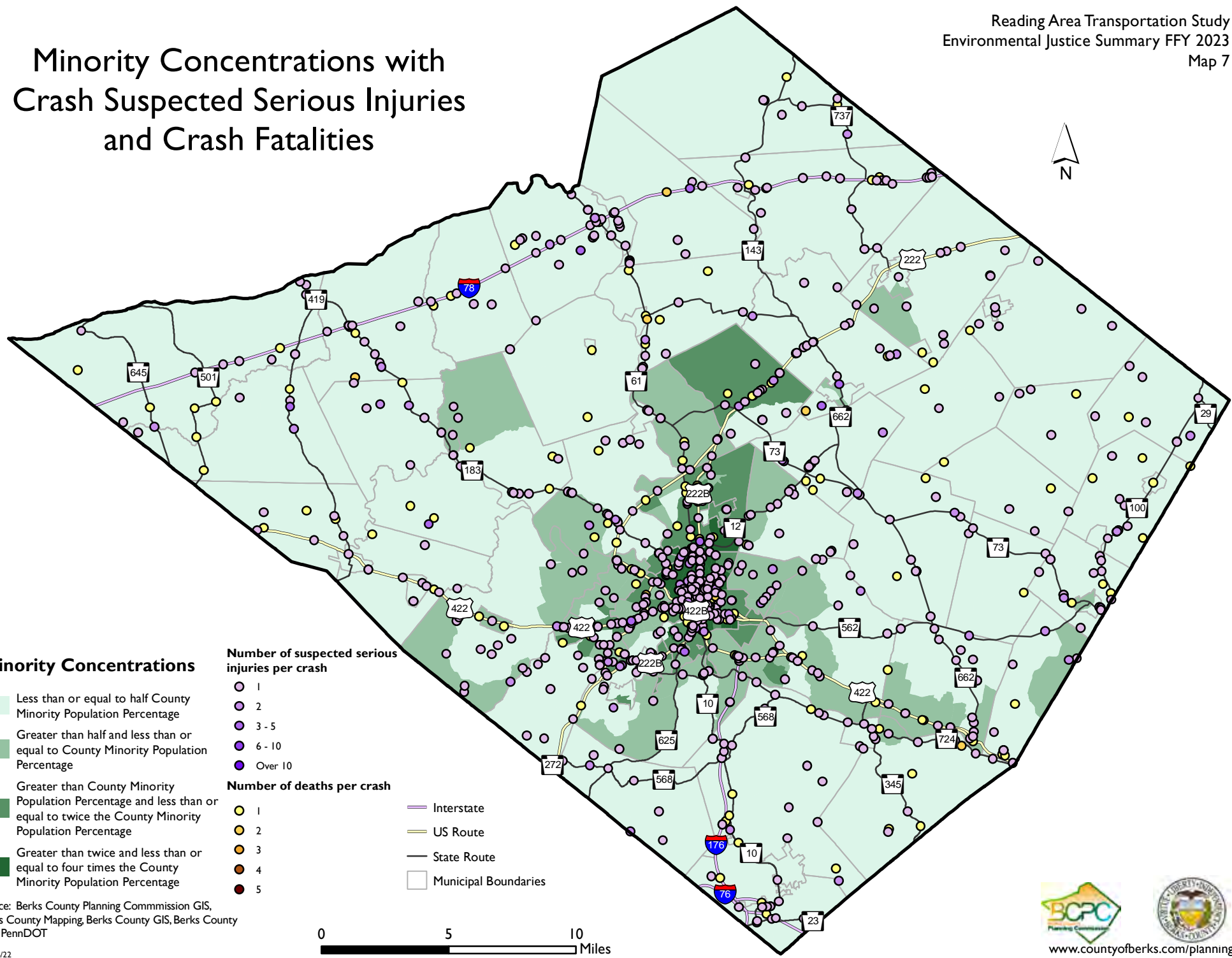
Number of suspected serious injuries per crash

- 1
- 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 10
- Over 10

Number of deaths per crash

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

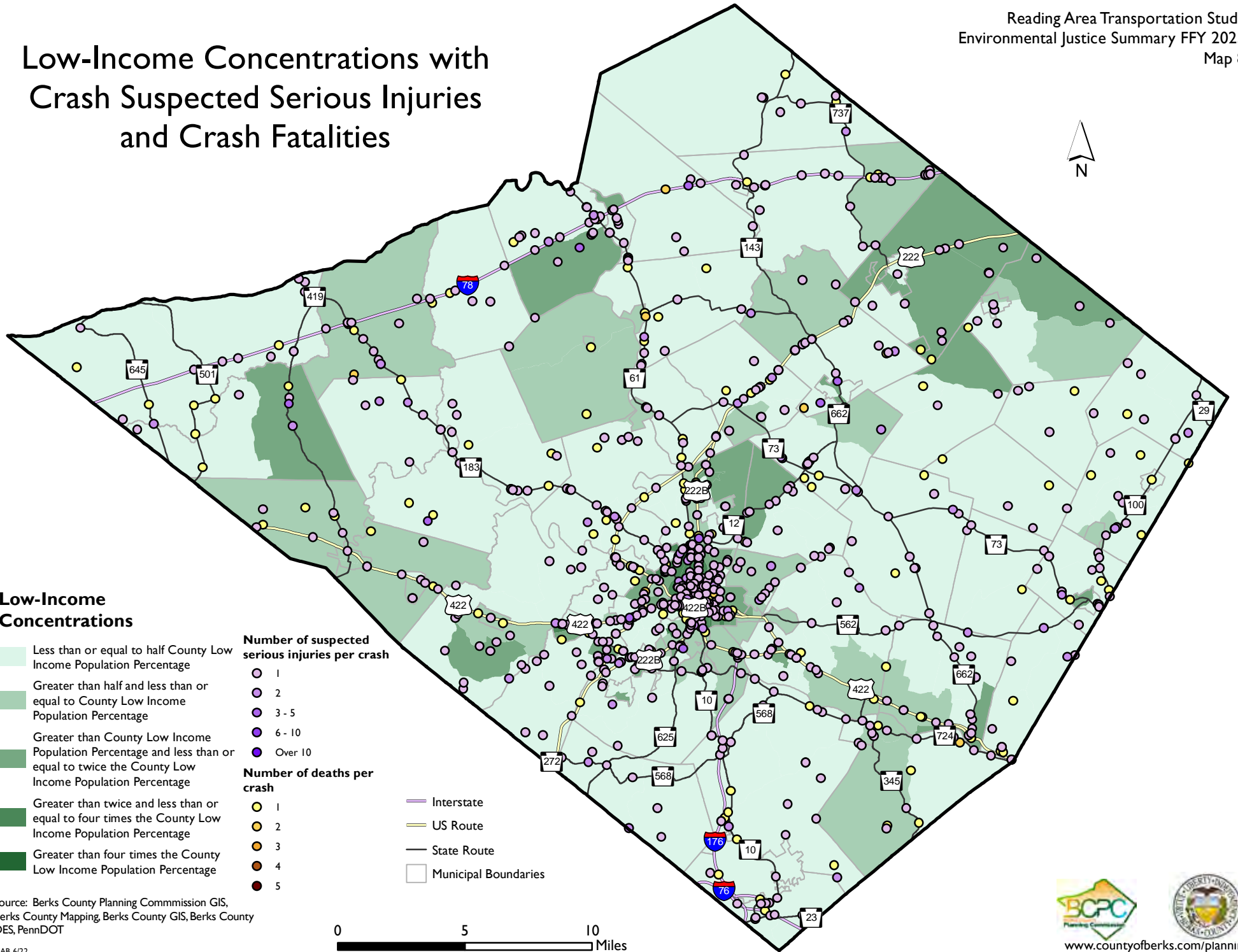
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries



Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations with Crash Suspected Serious Injuries and Crash Fatalities



Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

Number of suspected serious injuries per crash

- 1
- 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 10
- Over 10

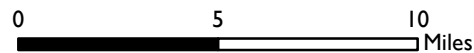
Number of deaths per crash

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT

BAB 6/22



Bridge and Pavement Conditions Analysis of the 2023-2026 TIP

Table 12 identifies the percentage of State Owned and Locally Owned Poor Condition or Worse Bridges and Fair Condition or Better Bridges amongst concentrations of Minority and Low-Income populations within Berks County.

Table 12

Number and Percentage of Poor Condition or Worse Bridges and Fair Condition or Better Bridges, Berks County, PA

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
# of Poor Condition or Worse Bridges	104 (72.7%)	26 (18.2%)	8 (5.6%)	5 (3.5%)
# of Fair Condition or Better Bridges	959 (61.4%)	356 (22.8%)	169 (10.8%)	78 (5.0%)
Total Bridges	1,063 (62.4%)	382 (22.4%)	177 (10.4%)	83 (4.87%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 13

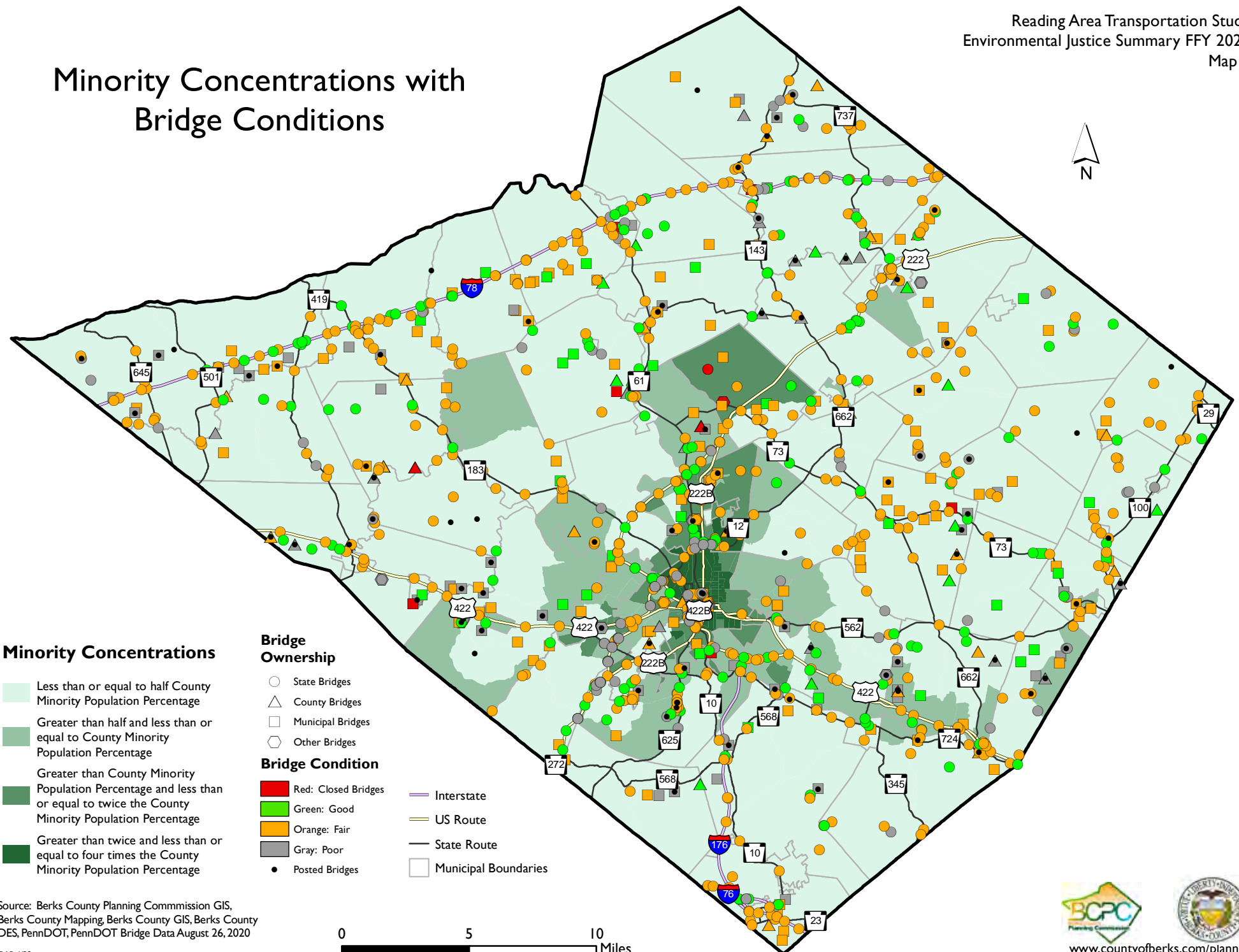
Number and Percentage of Poor Condition or Worse Bridges and Fair Condition or Better Bridges, Berks County, PA

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
# of Poor Condition or Worse Bridges	91 (64.1%)	37 (26.1%)	8 (5.6%)	4 (2.8%)	2 (1.4%)
# of Fair Condition or Better Bridges	913 (78.6%)	385 (23.9%)	265 (16.4%)	34 (2.1%)	14 (0.9%)
Total Bridges	1,004 (57.3%)	422 (24.1%)	273 (15.6%)	38 (2.2%)	16 (0.9%)

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 12 and Table 13 show there is not a disproportionate amount of Poor condition bridges in areas with high concentrations of Minority and Low-Income populations. Instead, a higher number of Poor condition or worse bridges are found in the block groups where Minority and Low-Income populations are below the county average with 130 and 128 bridges respectively in Poor condition or worse. The block groups with higher concentrations of Minority and Low-Income populations account for 13 and 14 bridges respectively in Poor condition or worse. Throughout Berks County, bridges included in the TIP and LRTP are selected based on the recommended treatments needed at this time based on a lowest life cycle cost approach to project programming.

Minority Concentrations with Bridge Conditions



Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

Bridge Ownership

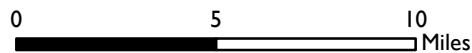
- State Bridges
- County Bridges
- Municipal Bridges
- Other Bridges

Bridge Condition

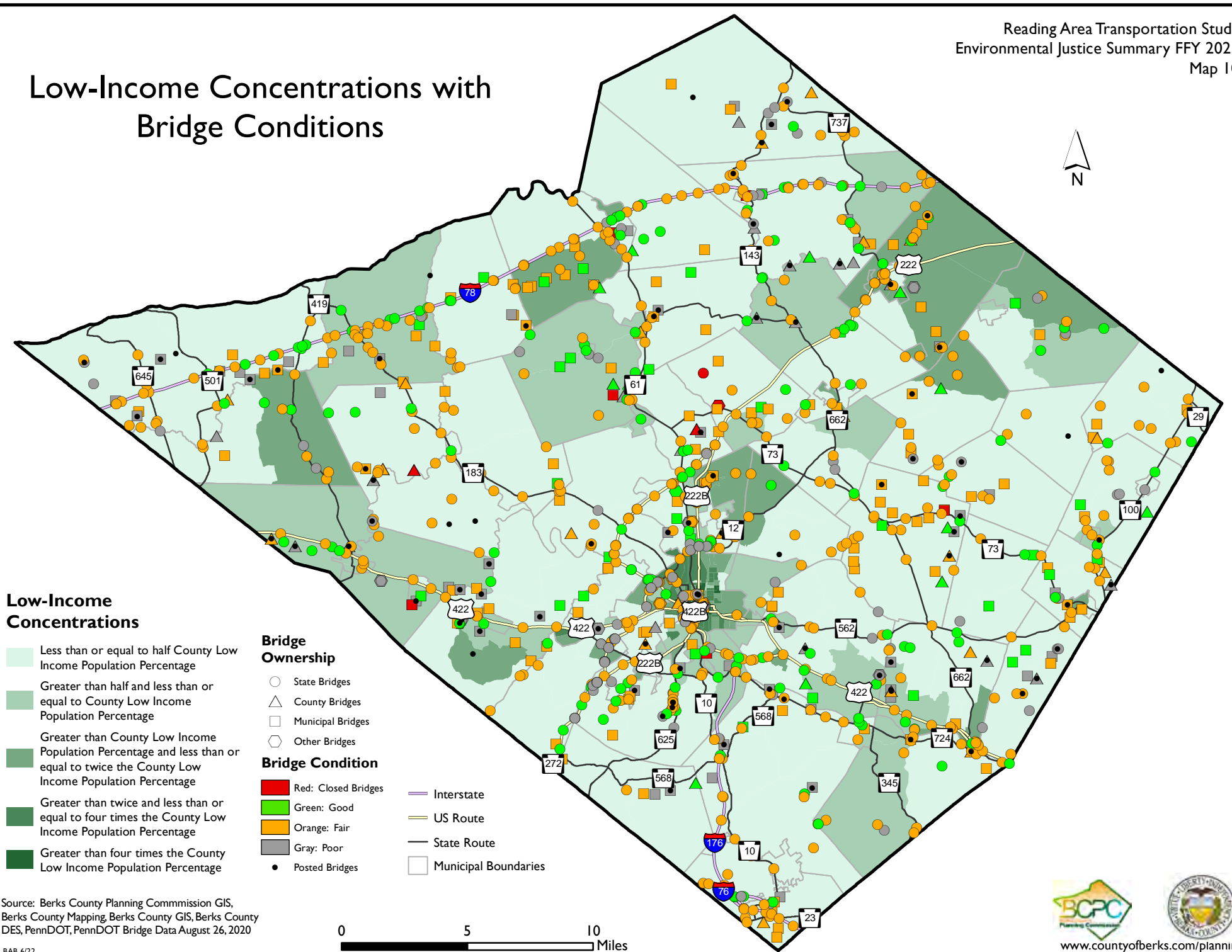
- Red: Closed Bridges
- Green: Good
- Orange: Fair
- Gray: Poor
- Posted Bridges

- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT, PennDOT Bridge Data August 26, 2020



Low-Income Concentrations with Bridge Conditions



Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

Bridge Ownership

- State Bridges
- County Bridges
- Municipal Bridges
- Other Bridges

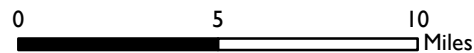
Bridge Condition

- Red: Closed Bridges
- Green: Good
- Orange: Fair
- Gray: Poor
- Posted Bridges

- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT, PennDOT Bridge Data August 26, 2020

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Environmental Justice

Maps 09 and 10 display the locations of all Locally-owned and State-owned bridges in Poor Condition or Worse and Fair Condition or Better in relation to Minority and Low-Income populations.

Table 14 shows the distribution of Federal Aid Segment Miles and condition of pavement miles amongst the Minority Populations. **Table 15** shows the distribution of Federal Aid Segment Miles and condition of pavement miles amongst the Low-Income Populations.

Table 14

Number and Percentage of Condition of Federal Aid Segment Miles, Berks County, PA

Minority Intervals	1	2	3	4
Minority Population	11,484	17,910	22,073	66,828
Percent Minority	6.06%	19.67%	38.77%	82.99%
Excellent IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	84.37 (28.0%)	13.57 (12.2%)	3.46 (6.4%)	1.14 (6.2%)
Good IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	129.93 (43.1%)	52.20 (47.1%)	24.42 (44.9%)	7.63 (41.8%)
Fair IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	61.78 (20.5%)	36.01 (32.5%)	18.08 (33.3%)	4.73 (25.9%)
Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	20.28 (6.7%)	9.15 (8.3%)	8.40 (15.5%)	4.57 (25.0%)
Other IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	5.36 (1.8%)	0.00 (0.0%)	0.00 (0.0%)	0.20 (1.1%)
Total Federal Aid Segment Miles	301.72	110.94	54.36	18.27

Source: American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2015-2019

Table 15

Number and Percentage of Condition of Federal Aid Segment Miles, Berks County, PA

Low-Income Intervals	1	2	3	4	5
Low-Income Population	5,439	7,164	10,871	14,913	10,186
Percent Low-Income	2.82%	8.34%	17.17%	33.08%	57.55%
Excellent IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	69.69 (24.0%)	33.84 (24.0%)	7.82 (10.5%)	0.46 (2.4%)	1.14 (11.0%)
Good IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	133.70 (46.0%)	57.35 (40.7%)	26.63 (35.9%)	6.59 (33.9%)	3.67 (35.4%)
Fair IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	60.34 (20.8%)	38.77 (27.5%)	27.74 (37.4%)	7.37 (37.9%)	1.44 (13.9%)
Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	21.36 (7.4%)	11.06 (7.8%)	11.76 (15.9%)	4.85 (24.9%)	3.91 (37.8%)
Other IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles	5.36 (1.9%)	0.06 (0.0%)	0.20 (0.3%)	0.20 (1.0%)	0.20 (1.9%)
Total Federal Aid Segment Miles	290.46	141.09	74.14	19.47	10.36

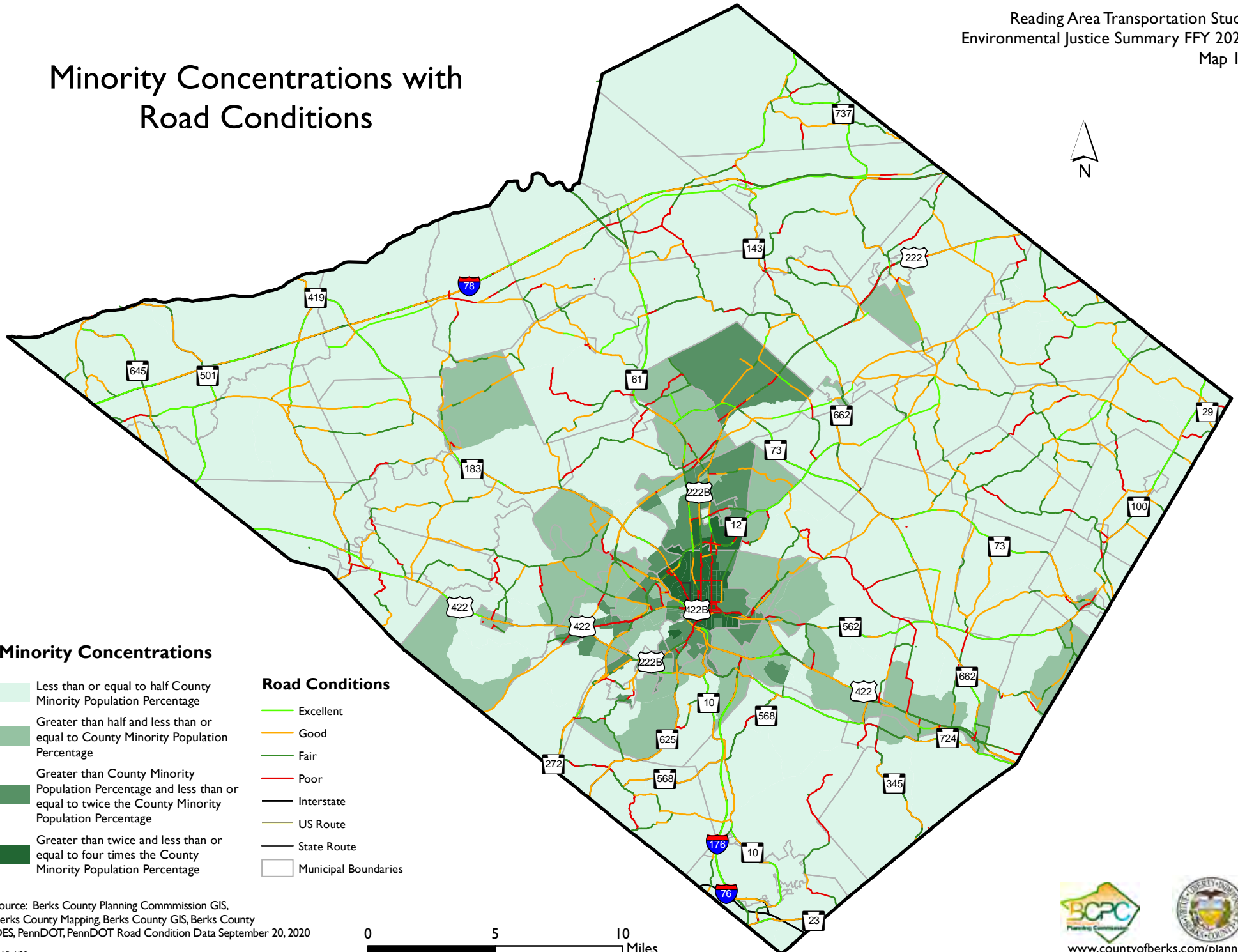
Source: American Community Survey 2017: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, PennDOT PennShare 2019

To fully analyze the information provided in **Tables 14 and 15**, as well as **Maps 11 and 12** on the following pages, one must understand the usage of International Roughness Index (IRI) as a unit of measure for pavement conditions. The IRI is a statistic used to measure how smooth or rough a pavement surface. The IRI is separated into four categories, which are Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor where Excellent IRI is in the best condition and Poor IRI is in the worst condition. The total number of Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor Federal Aid Segment Miles differ between tables due to the buffer used to create the Minority and Low-Income Intervals. However, after breaking down the numbers approximate totals for each category can be provided with 108 Excellent Federal Aid Segment Miles, 221 Good Federal Aid Segment Miles, 128 Fair Federal Aid Segment Miles, and 48 Poor Federal Aid Segment Miles. The way **Tables 14 and 15** are analyzed is by comparing the percentages by interval for each condition.

Intervals 1 and 2 for Minority Populations are less than the county average while Intervals 3 and 4 are above the county average for Minority Population. Block Groups with less than the county average of Minority Population have a total of 412.66 Federal Aid Segment Miles block groups with higher than the county average of Minority Population add up to a total of 72.63 Federal Aid Segment Miles, which is only one fifth to one sixth of the total Federal Aid Segment Miles of Intervals 1 and 2. This should be considered when seeing high percentages next to low numbers. For all Minority Intervals, the highest percent of Federal Aid Segment Miles are in Good condition. When considering each Minority Interval separately, the distribution for Interval 1 and 2 shows mainly Excellent and Good IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles, the distribution for Interval 3 and 4 shows that Excellent and Good IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles are nearly equal to the Fair and Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles. To have a more equal percentage of IRI condition of Federal Aid Segment Miles within each interval, the consideration of resurfacing/repaving projects to Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles should be focused in small amounts in the areas with a higher than county average of Minority Populations. Smaller projects of resurfacing/repaving could add to a more equal distribution within each of these Minority Intervals as they have less total Federal Aid Segment Miles.

Intervals 1 and 2 for Low-Income Population are less than the county average while intervals 3, 4, and 5 are above the county average for Low-Income Population. For block groups with the smallest amount of Low-Income Population, the highest percent of roads have a Good IRI rating. Intervals 3 and 4 have a majority of their Federal Aid Segment Miles with a Fair IRI rating. Interval 5 has the highest Low-Income Population percentage, greater than four times the countywide Low-Income percentage, and also has a majority of Federal Aid Segment Miles with a Poor IRI rating as compared to higher IRI ratings. Although 37.8% of Federal Aid Segment Miles located within Interval 5 have a Poor IRI, this only accounts for 3.91 of the total 535.52 Federal Aid Segment Miles within Berks County. There are also 52.94 Poor IRI Federal Aid Segment Miles, so Interval 5 only has 7.4% of all the Poor IRI segment miles countywide. By focusing resurfacing/repaving projects in the area encompassed by Interval 5, smaller projects would reduce this percentage by a much greater amount than the larger projects that would take place in areas covered by Interval 1 which has a total of 290.46 Federal Aid Segment Miles compared to the 10.36 Federal Aid Segment Miles in Interval 5. This will be considered when adding repaving/resurfacing projects to the TIP.

Minority Concentrations with Road Conditions



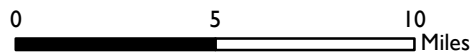
Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

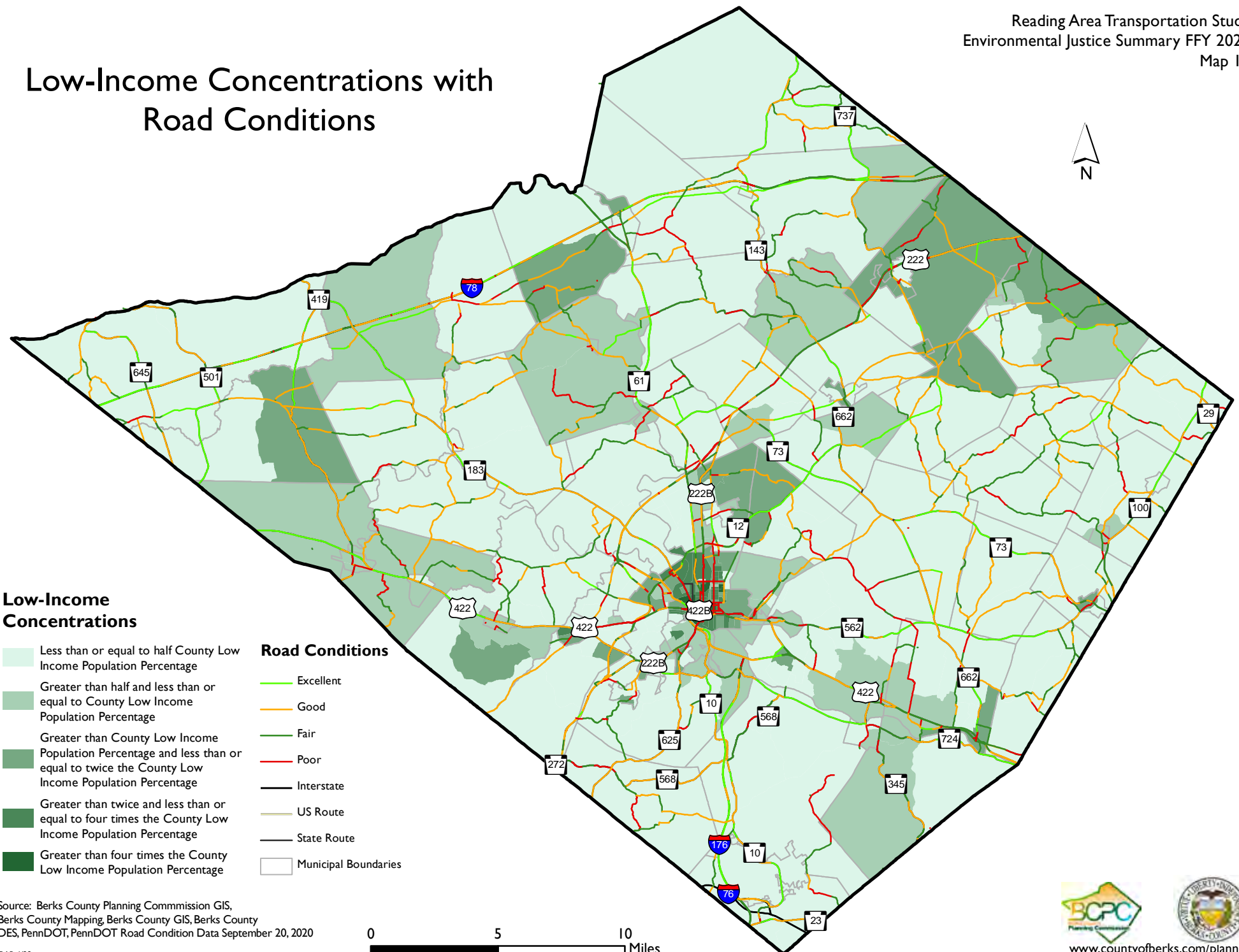
Road Conditions

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT, PennDOT Road Condition Data September 20, 2020



Low-Income Concentrations with Road Conditions



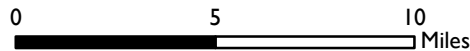
Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

Road Conditions

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT, PennDOT Road Condition Data September 20, 2020



Transit and Environmental Justice

While the 2023-2026 TIP looks to equitably manage where and how funds are spent relative to the population, one factor often overlooked is the impact of the access to public transportation within a geographic area. The transit system is primarily provided by the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA), which oversees the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA), that serves Berks County.

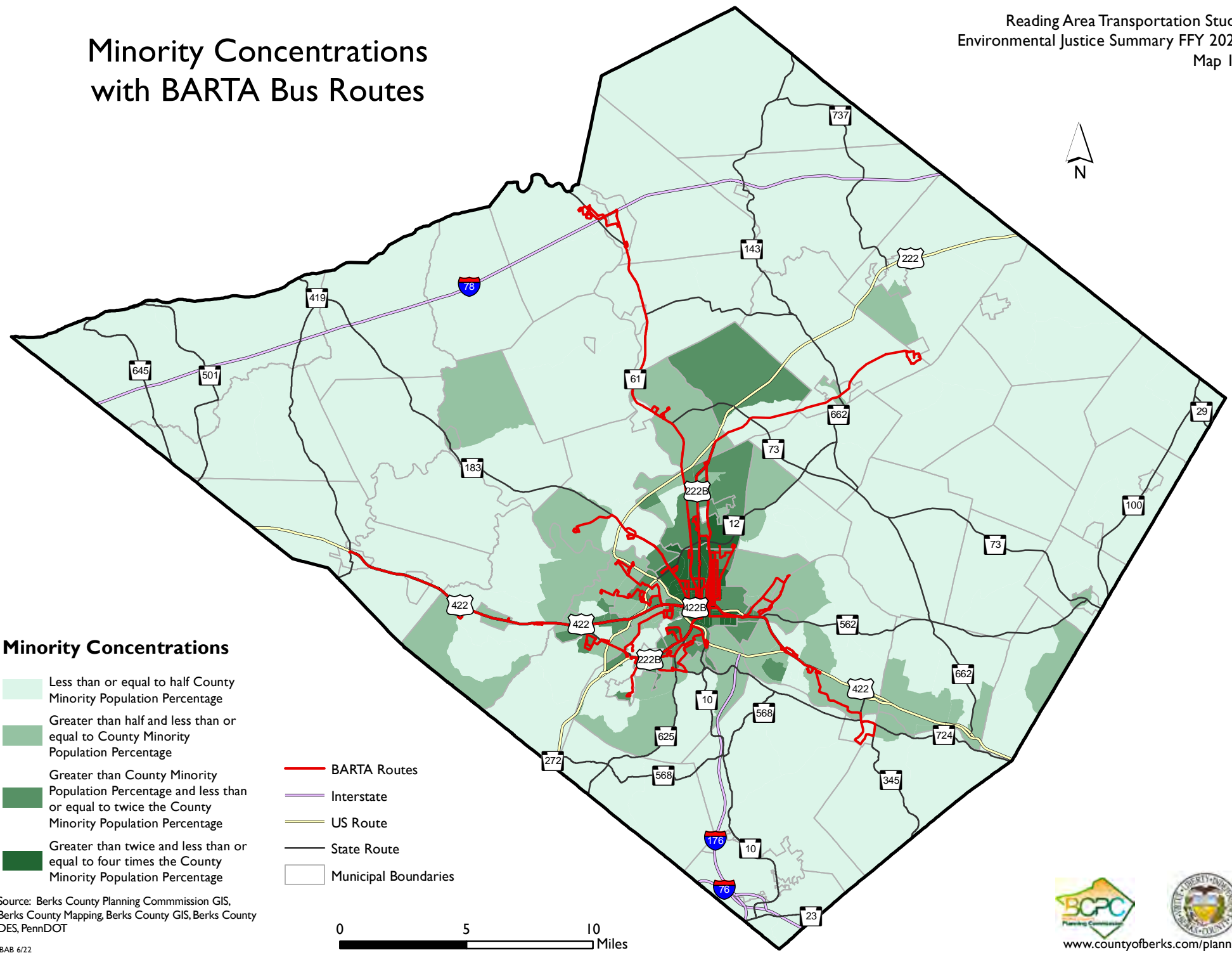
Transit projects are generated by the operating agency - the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) and include both fixed route and Special Services to provide transportation services to individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low-incomes. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that federally funded public transportation operators must accommodate passengers who live within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of a fixed bus route but are physically unable to access the service. To provide this accommodation, most public transportation providers use a paratransit service to provide eligible passengers service from their origin to their destination. The Special Services program is used to address that mandate.

The County has looked at potential pedestrian and potential bicyclist transportation needs in the Berks County Bicycle and Transportation Plan 2020 to grow and maintain access to BARTA's Fixed Route System. When considering potential pedestrian transportation needs to access this transit system a buffer of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile is used since the average transit user travels 10 minutes or less to and from their bus stop. When considering potential bicyclist transportation needs to access this transit system the buffer is raised to 2 miles, representing the distance a beginner or average cyclist can travel in 10 minutes. Through spatial analysis of **Maps 13 and 14**, these buffers were taken into consideration to determine whether a block group has access to the BARTA Fixed Route System or not.

Maps 13 and 14 display the proximity of residents to the transit system, especially concerning access for Minority and Low-Income populations. The population is broken into block groups identified by Minority and Low-Income populations in the following maps. **Map 13** shows that a majority of the block groups with Minority populations above the county average are along BARTA routes. Only two of these block groups do not have a BARTA route adjacent or running through their respective geographic area and are further than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the route, which limits pedestrian access. However, these block groups are within 2 miles of the BARTA Fixed Route System, which would allow for bicyclist access. **Map 14** shows that the Low-Income groups centrally located around the City of Reading are serviced by BARTA routes, however, six of the outlying block groups of with Low-Income populations above the county average are not along or within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the BARTA Fixed Route System. Five out of these six block groups are also more than 2 miles from these transit routes leaving residents without BARTA fixed route service even if accessed via bicycle.

In order to best facilitate the needs of all residents to access the public transportation system, regardless of type of bus including fixed route service, paratransit service, or express route service, coordination should continue to occur between Reading MPO and SCTA to make sure all avenues are being explored to improve accessibility.

Minority Concentrations with BARTA Bus Routes

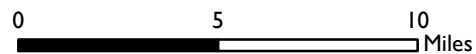


Minority Concentrations

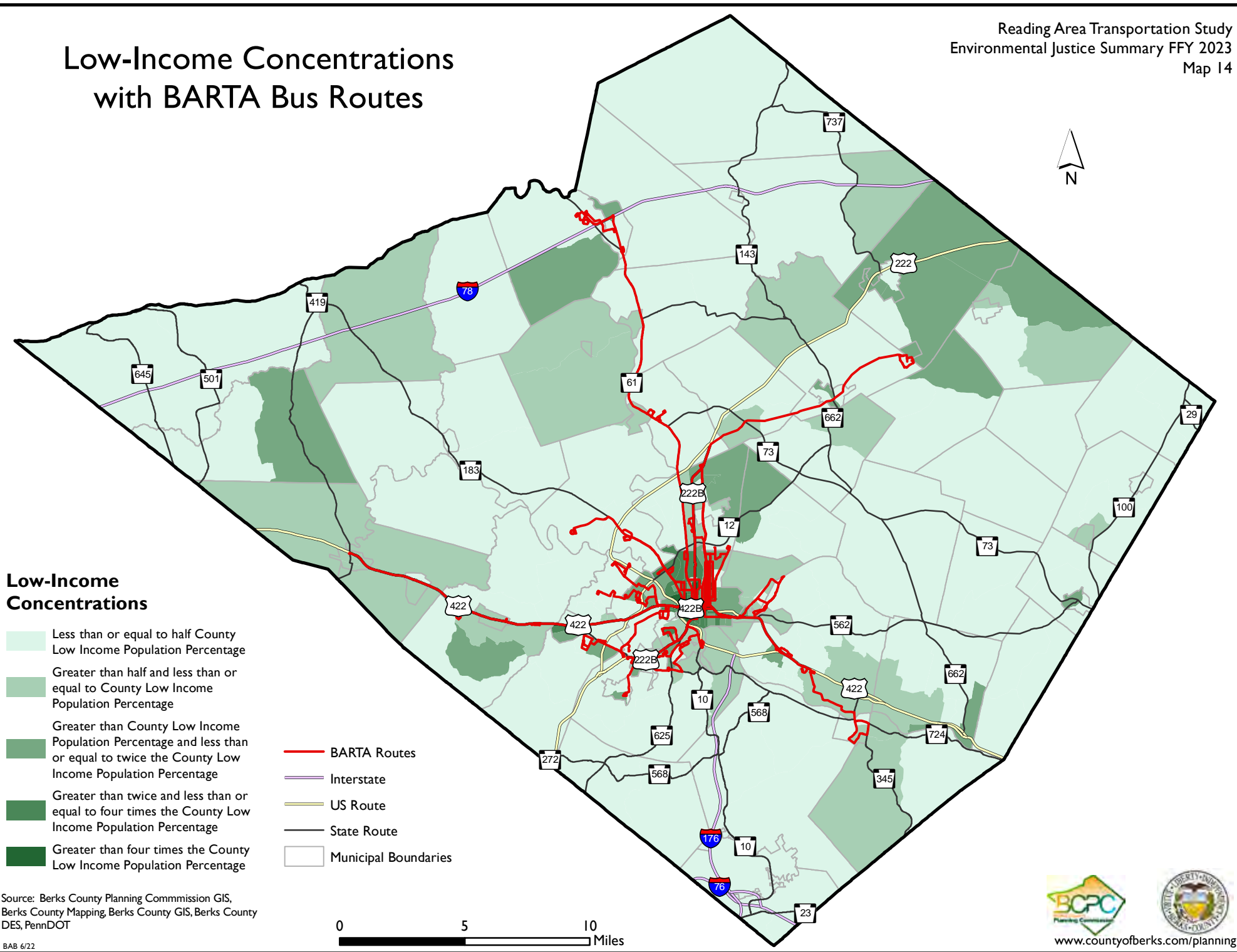
- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

- BARTA Routes
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations with BARTA Bus Routes



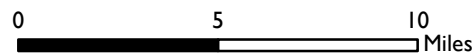
Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

- BARTA Routes
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT

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Types of Projects and Distribution

The 2023-2026 Highway and Bridge TIP totals \$241,352,000, while the Interstate TIP totals \$75,801,000 adding up to \$317,153,000. The projects include roadway and bridge, studies, bike and pedestrian, intermodal, as well as Interstate. Transit projects totaling \$61,891,000 are also proposed and are dedicated to maintaining the current operating system, as well as improving the local BARTA bus fleet through the SCTA Transit Asset Management Program and Capital Budget. The following chart gives a breakdown of the total cost of each project mode, the percent of the total cost and the total per capita cost.

Table 16

Project Mode	All Projects		
	Total Cost	Percent of Total Cost	Total Per Capita Cost
Bike/Ped	\$2,317,000	.6%	\$5.54
Bridge	\$84,926,000	22.4%	\$203.16
Intermodal/CMAQ/ Transit	\$86,954,000	22.9%	\$208.01
Interstate	\$75,801,000	20.0%	\$181.33
Roadway	\$107,286,000	28.3%	\$256.65
Miscellaneous	\$21,760,000	5.7%	\$52.05
Total	\$379,044,000	100%	\$906.74

Per **Table 16**, each project, including line items, has been grouped into a project mode: Bike/Ped, Bridge, Intermodal/CMAQ/Transit, Interstate, Roadway, and Miscellaneous. Within the Intermodal category, projects such as transit improvement and CMAQ line items have been grouped to give us a projected total of \$86,954,000. Furthermore, the Interstate maintenance program funding totals only come from the Interstate TIP, not the Highway & Bridge TIP and involve three (3) projects all associated with the I-78 corridor, which touches none of the block groups with Minority populations above the county average and one block group above the county average for Low-Income populations, which can be seen in **Maps 15 and 16**. Additionally, the total cost of the Interstate maintenance program accounts for 20% of the total 2023-2026 TIP allocation. Roadway projects include not only restoration and reconstruction projects, but also intersection improvements, safety improvements, and shoulder upgrades. The Miscellaneous category while \$21,760,000 is for Delivery and Consulting and line items, but no actual project has been associated with this project mode.

Benefits and Burdens

As part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adoption process, the Reading Area Transportation Study (RATS) is required to analyze the impact that TIP projects have on the surrounding environments. One aspect of this analysis is evaluating the benefits and burdens a project may have on the socio-economic population surrounding a project area. The benefits that the regional transportation program can bring are access, mobility, safety and environmental quality. The burdens of the program can be a reduction in any of those areas to a community. Many transportation projects require a trade-off between those aspects of the transportation system and the distribution of the benefits and burdens. For example, a project that will decrease congestion in one community may result in a decrease in the environmental quality of another as additional vehicles begin utilizing the improved route. Increased safety may require a trade off in access or mobility, and increased access may bring mobility concerns. Benefits and burdens analysis in respect to environmental justice is done to ensure that the benefits of transportation investment are being shared equally and that the burdens created by new projects are not being allowed by one part of the public over another.

Environmental Justice

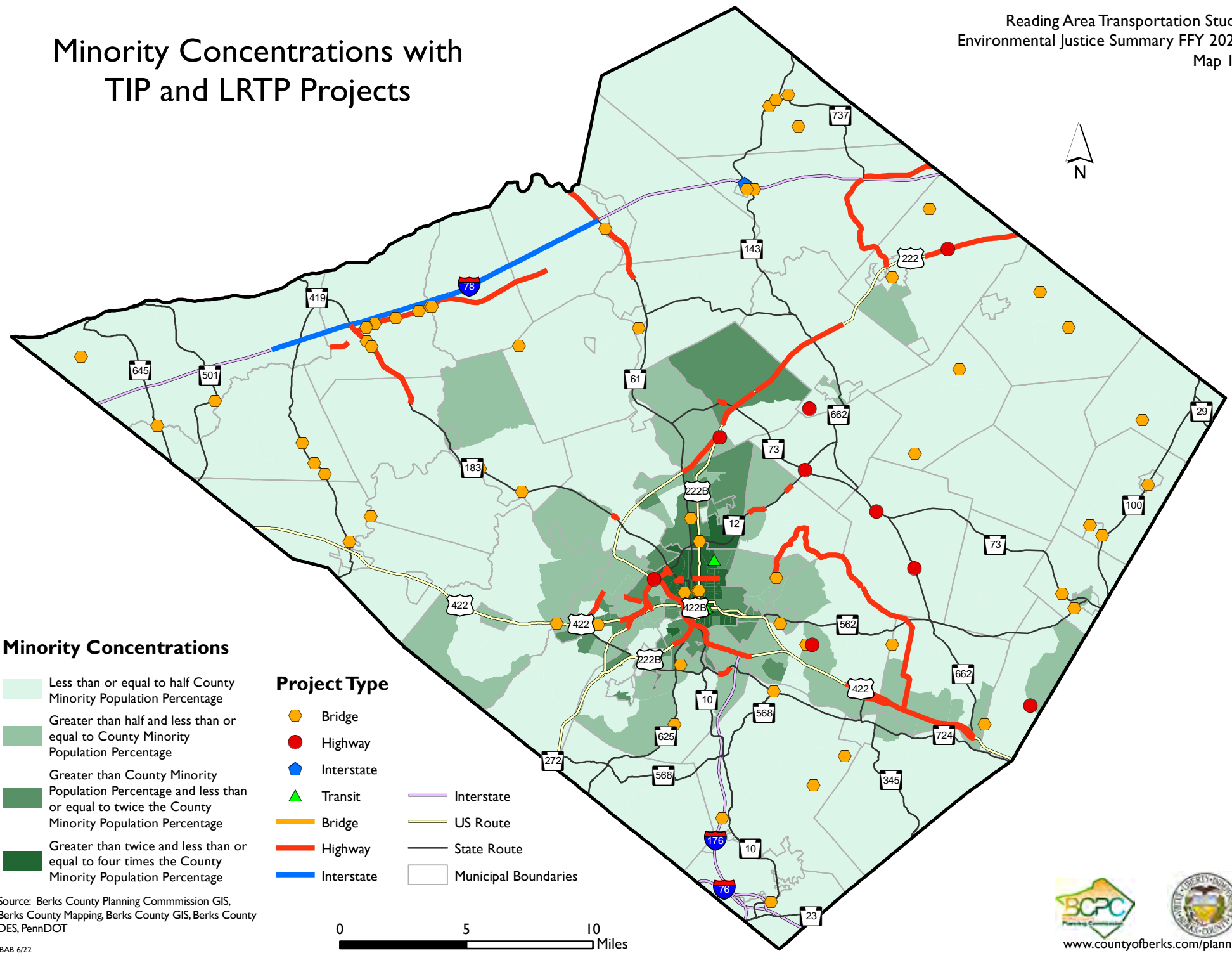
Projects on the FFY 2023 TIP are broken down into several categories including Maintenance, Bridges, Capacity, Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian, and Intermodal. Each type of project has a unique set of impacts and will affect individual populations differently. For example, maintenance projects tend to cause the least amount of impact on the population since they typically involve highway resurfacing or repaving work on existing roadways. Although these projects can cause delayed travel time and transit service, traffic detours, and work zone noise and debris, the projects are typically shorter in duration and result in improvements to the functionality of the roadway network by providing smoother driving surfaces and new roadway markings. While most bridge projects are identified as either a rehabilitation or replacement, both types of projects can lend itself to significant traffic detours, traffic delay, and noise. However, the benefits of these types of improvements result in safer bridge structures, improved roadway conditions, and updated signage.

Capacity projects, which can involve the addition of new lanes to existing roadways, new roadways to the existing network, or at times the realignment of intersections or interchanges, in an effort to provide for more traffic mobility. Special attention needs to be made when planning capacity projects, especially to low-income and minority populations. Not only can these projects result in right-of-way acquisitions to account for the additional capacity, but also construction impacts are normally more severe due to longer construction periods, travel pattern shifts, and delayed travel times among others. The consequences of the completion of capacity projects can involve the loss of property, increased traffic volumes, and decreased air quality, while other benefits can include improved transit service time, decreased travel delay, and safer roadway conditions which will result in improved quality of life for all residents and users of the roadway system.

For the RATS FFY 2023 TIP, the majority of projects will not require right of way acquisition, displace residents or cause burdens on the mobility, access, or environmental health of any community, EJ Sensitive or not. This is due to the majority of candidate projects found within the RATS Highway TIP are programmed to maintain or enhance the existing transportation system.

Maps 15 and 16 display the 2023 TIP Projects and FFY 2023-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Candidates by concentrations of Minority and Low-Income populations. The yellow hexagons denote locations of bridge candidate projects, while the red lines and circles identify highway reconstruction or resurfacing candidate projects. Any candidate projects shown in blue address the Interstate and green triangles denote Transit.

Minority Concentrations with TIP and LRTP Projects



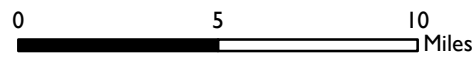
Minority Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

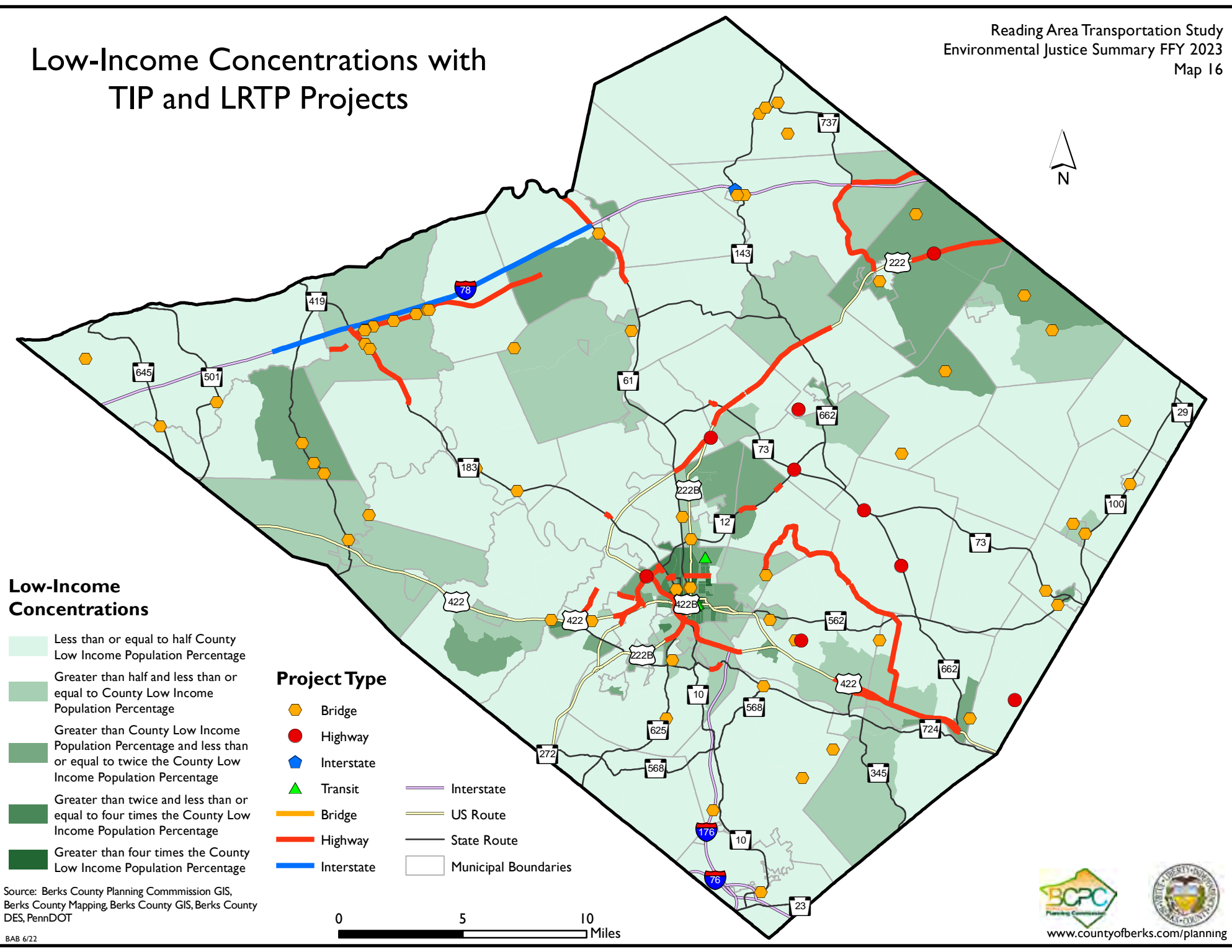
Project Type

- Bridge
- Highway
- Interstate
- Transit
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations with TIP and LRTP Projects

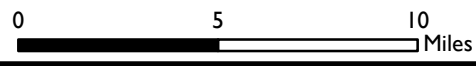


Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

Project Type

- Bridge
- Highway
- Interstate
- Transit
- Bridge
- Highway
- Interstate
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries



Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT
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Statewide Environmental Justice Analysis Methodology 2023-2026 Pennsylvania Transportation Improvement Program

Prepared by

Scott R Williams

Transportation Planning Supervisor

Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development

Williamsport Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (WATS MPO)

Step 1

Data collection

This analysis was conducted completely on “fresh” data acquired from the below identified sources in April 2021.

Topic	Data Set	Table
Census Block Group Boundaries	US Census Bureau, 2019 State Level Geodatabase for Pennsylvania	
Census County Boundaries	US Census Bureau, 2019 State Level Geodatabase for Pennsylvania	
Race	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	B03002 Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race
Minority	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	B03002 Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race
Low-Income Households	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	B17017 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Household Type by Age of Householder
Low-Income Population	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	S1701 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months
Minority Populations by Low-Income Status	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	S1701 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months
Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP02 Selected Social Characteristics in the United States
Persons with a Disability	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP02 Selected Social Characteristics in the United States
Elderly (65 years or older)	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP05 ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates
Carless Households	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics
Computerless Households	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics
Internetless Households	US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics
Crashes	PennDOT Crash Data	Statewide Crash Data for 2015 , 2016 , 2017 , 2018 , and 2019
Federal Aid Segment Miles	PennDOT RMS	FED_AID_PRIM_IND field = Y
Bridges	PennDOT BMS 2	

All US Census Bureau, 2015–2019 American Community Survey datasets were acquired for all Pennsylvania Counties and for all Pennsylvania Census Block Groups. Relevant columns from the Census tables were extracted into a two new tables to produce flat table profiles. These tables were then joined to the relevant Census geography features.

Step 2

Identifying EJ Populations

General Approach

Minority and low income populations was conducted substantially according to the methodology outlines in the South Central Pennsylvania Unified Environmental Justice Process and Methodology document distributed to Planning Partners ahead of the 2021-2024 TIP update cycle. As such, I will refer the reader to Appendix A and Appendix B of the South Central Pennsylvania Unified Environmental Justice Process and Methodology for detailed step-by-step recipes of how to bake the data ingredients into an analysis cake. However, my process differed in one crucial but important aspect that is necessary to allow a statewide uniform analysis.

The process followed for the 2021-2024 program update classified low income and minority population percentages based on natural breaks of the percentages of those populations present within the block groups of each county in Pennsylvania. The result of this was to create a custom classification of symbol intervals for each county. The presence of 67 different interval scales would lead to conducting 67 separate analyses downstream in the workflow.

Instead, I found that when Census block groups were classified into intervals based on the *ratio* of census block group minority/low income percentage to county or region overall minority/low income percentage (i.e. a ratio of “1” indicates a census block group has the same minority or low income percentage as the county average) that I was able to produce a uniform scale usable across all counties or regions in the state. One side effect of this approach is that it resulted in some counties not having all intervals. However, it gives us a uniform and easily communicated and understood way of classifying the relative concentrations of low income and minority populations across the state of Pennsylvania.

As an example, based on the procedure described above, I defined interval “1” as being all census block groups with a minority population percentage less than half the countywide or regional minority population percentage. The result is that any counties or regions with no census block groups that fit that criterion do not have that interval. By standardizing the intervals across the state we are able to make apples-to-apples comparisons between counties and regions and also the ability to scale the analysis up to larger geographic scales (or down to smaller scales) which gives us a stronger analytical product. This should make this product more useful for conducting analysis for multicounty planning partners and across PennDOT districts if we wanted to scale the analysis up to be more regional.

Definition of Minority Population and Low income Population Concentration Intervals

Minority Intervals	Ratio of Minority Population Percentage in Census Block Group to County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage
1	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage ≤ 0.5 (Census block group minority population percentage less than or equal to half of countywide or regional minority population percentage)
2	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage > 0.5 and ≤ 1 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than half and less than or equal to countywide or regional minority population percentage)
3	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage > 1 and ≤ 2 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the countywide or regional minority population percentage)
4	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage > 2 and ≤ 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the countywide or regional minority population percentage)
5	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Minority Population Percentage > 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than four times the countywide minority population percentage)

Low Income Intervals	Ratio of Low Income Population Percentage in Census Block Group to County or Planning Partner Low Income Population Percentage
1	Census Block Low Income Population Percentage / County Low Income Population Percentage ≤ 0.5 (Census block group Low Income population percentage less than or equal to half of countywide or regional Low Income population percentage)
2	Census Block Low Income Population Percentage / County Low Income Population Percentage > 0.5 and ≤ 1 (Census block group Low Income population percentage greater than half and less than or equal to countywide or regional Low Income population percentage)
3	Census Block Low Income Population Percentage / County Low Income Population Percentage > 1 and ≤ 2 (Census block group Low Income population percentage greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the countywide or regional Low Income population percentage)
4	Census Block Low Income Population Percentage / County or Planning Partner Low Income Population Percentage > 2 and ≤ 4 (Census block group Low Income population percentage greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the countywide or regional Low Income population percentage)
5	Census Block Minority Population Percentage / County Minority Population Percentage > 4 (Census block group minority population percentage greater than four times the countywide minority population percentage)

Step 3

Assessing Conditions

Assessment of conditions analysis was only conducted for components of the transportation system for which statewide datasets are available (namely pavement conditions of the Federal Aid System, bridges, and reportable crashes). All of these data are freely available from the PennDOT Open Data Portal (<https://data-pennshare.opendata.arcgis.com/>). Additional data that should be considered by planning partners would be walkway networks, transit stops, and bicycle infrastructure. If statewide datasets become available for these components of the state transportation system, they could be easily incorporated into future iterations of the analysis.

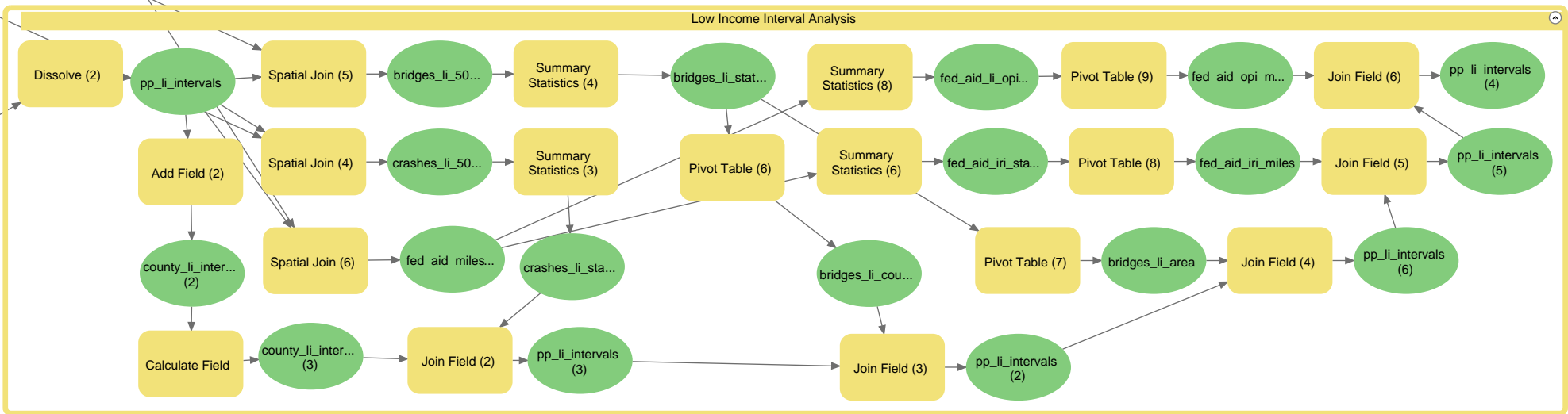
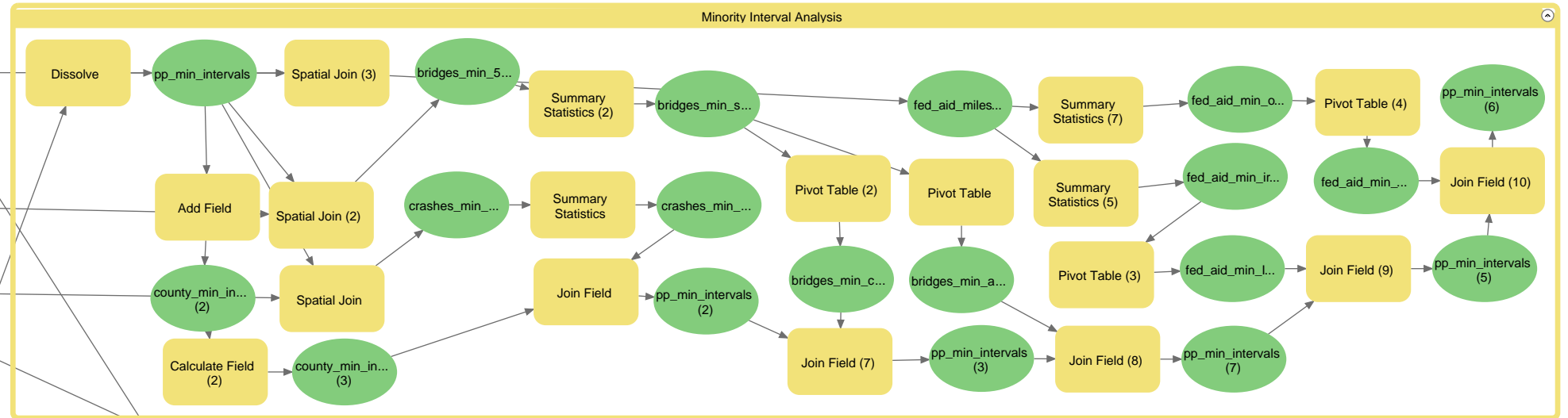
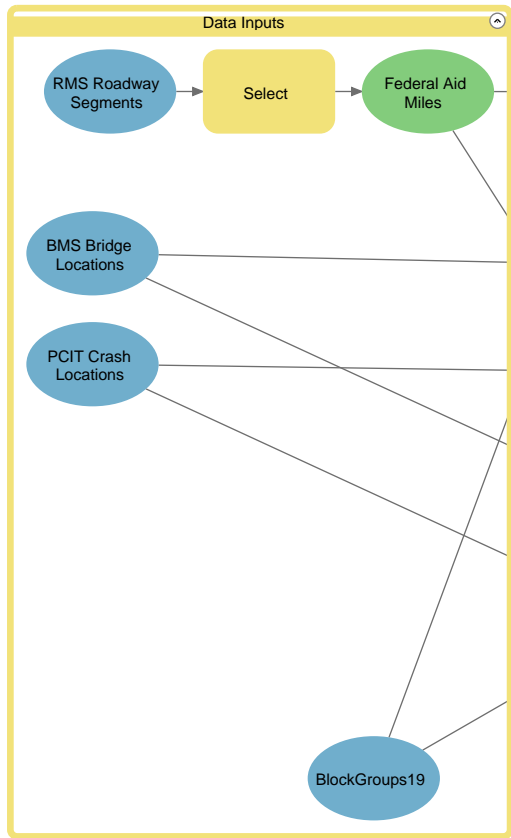
To perform the assessment of conditions analysis, two important steps were conducted:

1. A map layer was created from dissolving together block groups of the same interval classification within each county and region for low income and minority concentration. These “interval areas” describe the contiguous areas within a county that fall within the same classification.
2. Transportation assets and crash locations were considered in the analysis of an interval area if located within 50 meters of the boundary of the dissolved interval area. In other words, the dissolved interval areas were buffered 50 meters for the analysis. This would allow the capture of features on the border of block groups or providing access to them.

All analysis was conducted within ArcGIS Pro and any attempt to verify or replicate this analysis would most appropriately begin on that platform. As such, instead of trying to produce a written procedure of the analytical steps the next page shows the ArcGIS Pro model used to daisy-chain together the various geospatial processing tools that processed the data. In a general sense, the following aspects of the transportation system were summarized by county and low income and minority concentration interval:

- Federal aid segment miles with “excellent,” “good,” “fair,” “poor,” or “other” pavement condition
- Number and bridge deck area of poor/not poor bridges
- Reportable crashes occurring 2015–2019. The 5-year totals are provided in the data extract and can be divided by 5 to get the average annual amounts. Crashes of the following types were analyzed:
 - Total Crashes
 - Total Persons Involved in Crashes
 - All Bicycle Crashes
 - Bicycle Crash Fatalities

- Bicycle Crash Suspected Serious Injuries
- All Pedestrian Crashes
- Pedestrian Crash Fatalities
- Pedestrian Crash Suspected Serious Injuries
- All Nonmotorized Crashes
- Nonmotorized Fatalities
- Nonmotorized Suspected Serious Injuries
- All Horse and Buggy Crashes
- Total Crash Fatalities
- Total Crash Suspected Serious Injuries



APPENDIX K

Meeting the Mobility Needs of Minority Populations

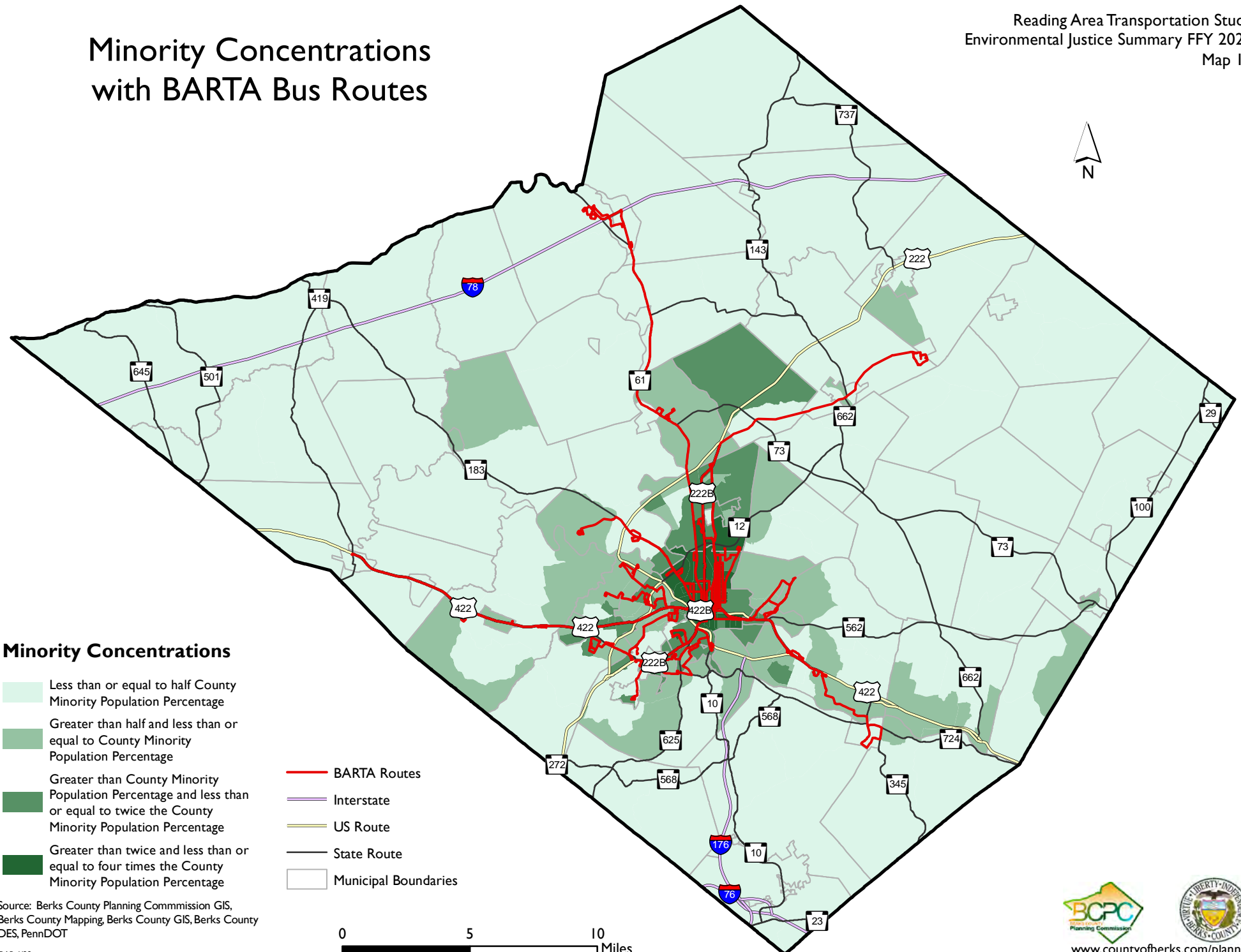
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APPENDIX L

**Demographic Maps and Supporting Materials Showing Distribution of State and Federal Funds
for Public Transportation Projects**

Minority Concentrations with BARTA Bus Routes

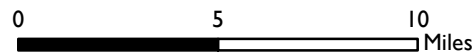


Minority Concentrations

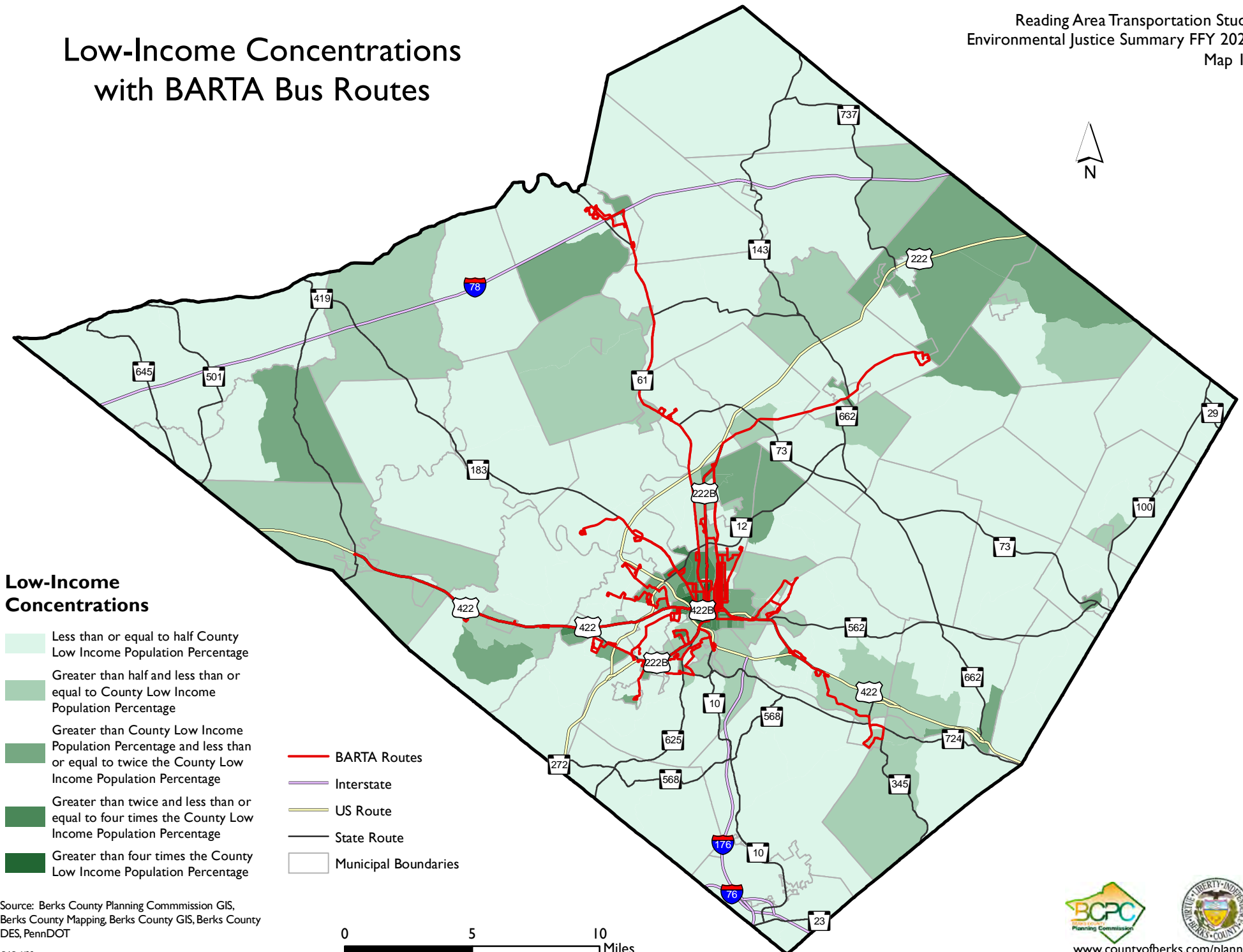
- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

- BARTA Routes
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT



Low-Income Concentrations with BARTA Bus Routes



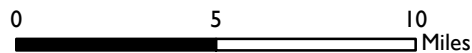
Low-Income Concentrations

- Less than or equal to half County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than County Low Income Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Low Income Population Percentage
- Greater than four times the County Low Income Population Percentage

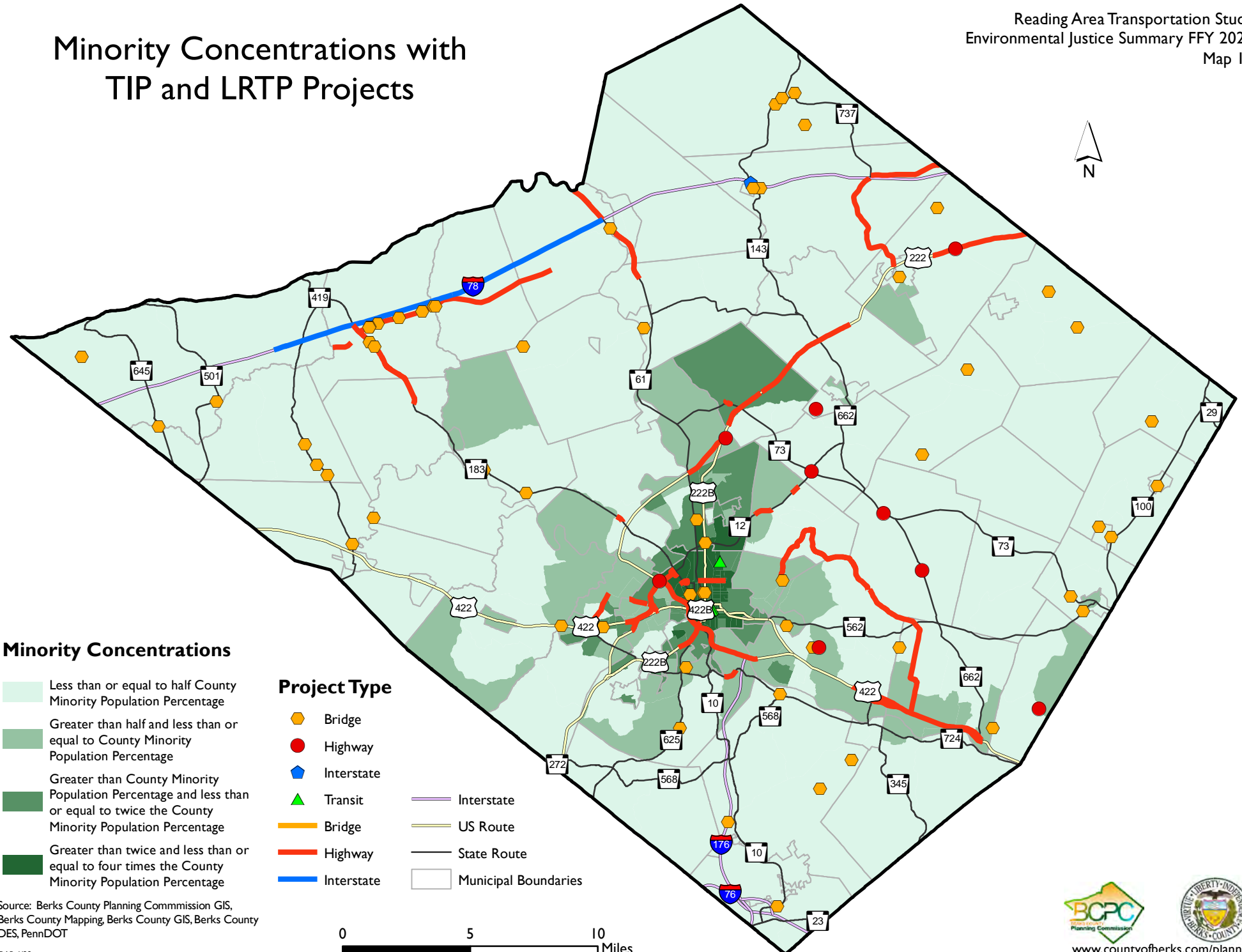
- BARTA Routes
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT

BAB 6/22



Minority Concentrations with TIP and LRTP Projects



Minority Concentrations

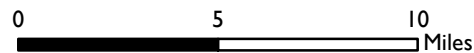
- Less than or equal to half County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than half and less than or equal to County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than County Minority Population Percentage and less than or equal to twice the County Minority Population Percentage
- Greater than twice and less than or equal to four times the County Minority Population Percentage

Project Type

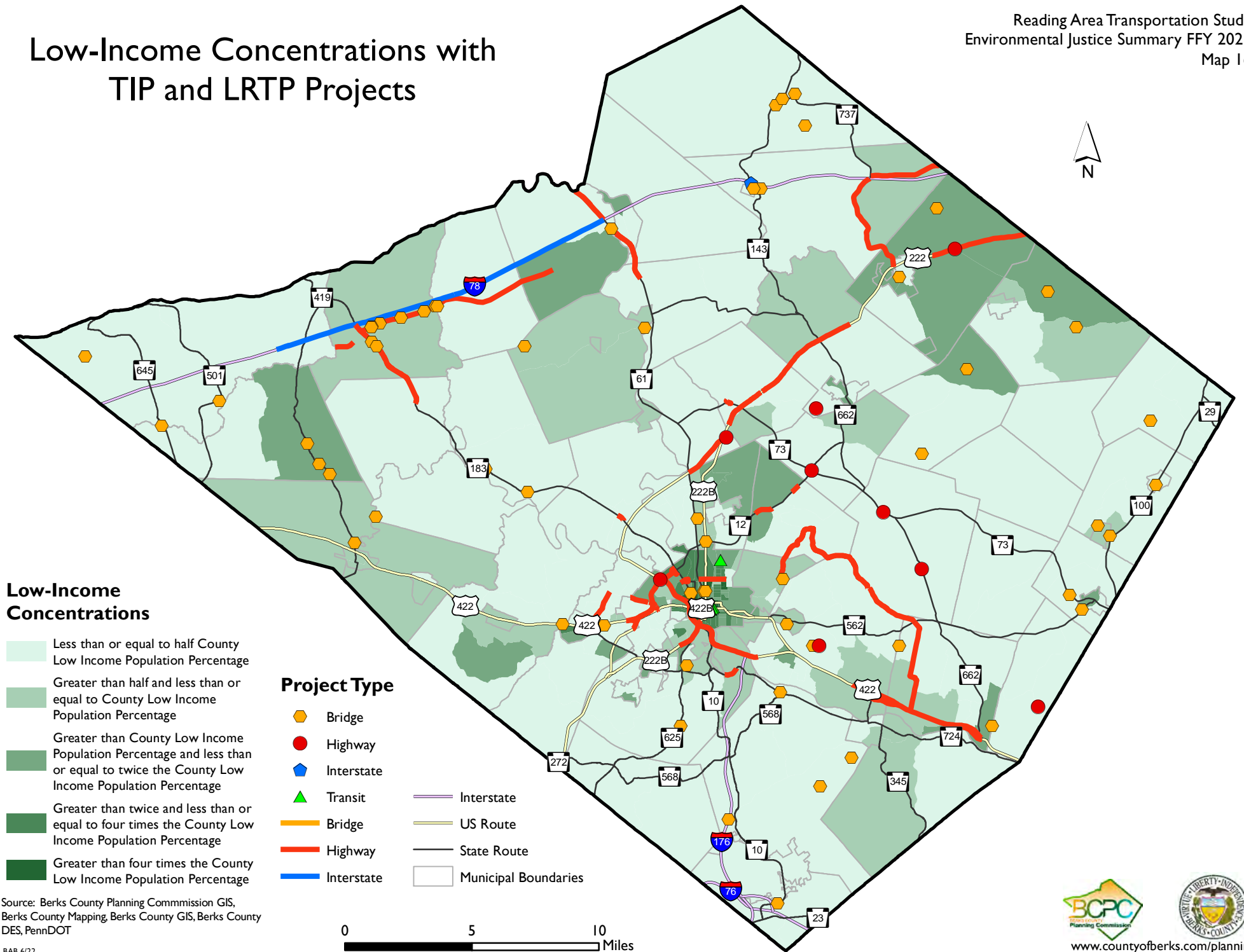
- Bridge
- Highway
- Interstate
- Transit
- Bridge
- Highway
- Interstate
- Interstate
- US Route
- State Route
- Municipal Boundaries

Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT

BAB 6/22



Low-Income Concentrations with TIP and LRTP Projects



Source: Berks County Planning Commission GIS, Berks County Mapping, Berks County GIS, Berks County DES, PennDOT

BAB 6/22



Section 3— Transit Projects



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**SOUTH CENTRAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
READING OPERATION dba
BERKS AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

June 2022

In accordance with FTA Circular 9030.1E, the following is provided as documentation by the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) that SCTA have the financial capacity to carry out the operating and capital projects included in the Reading MPO FFY 2023-2026 Transit Improvement Program to support its Reading Operation.

A. **Background**

On November 12, 2014 and on November 13, 2014, the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners and the Berks County Board of Commissioners, respectively, approved organizing the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) under the Municipalities Authorities Act of 2001. SCTA was formed as a result of the consolidation of the management and administrative functions of the Red Rose Transit Authority (RTA) in Lancaster County and the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA) in Berks County. Both BARTA and RTA will remain in existence as the agencies operating public transportation service in their respective counties. SCTA signed Management, Administrative and Support Services Agreements with both BARTA and RTA to provide all executive, management, administrative and support services to BARTA and RTA. SCTA assumed the management and administrative responsibilities for the operation of BARTA and RTA as of January 1, 2015.

SCTA is the designated recipient of the federal Section 5307 and 5339 funds apportioned to the Lancaster, PA and Reading, PA Urbanized Areas. Since the funds are apportioned to the individual Urbanized Areas, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires SCTA to submit separate grant applications requesting approval of the proposed projects funded with the Lancaster apportionment of 5307 and 5339 funds and for the proposed projects funded with the Reading apportionment of 5307 and 5339 funds. Funds from one urbanized area cannot be used on a project in the other urbanized area. As a result, the proposed FFY 2023-2026 TIP only includes the proposed projects funded with the projected Berks apportionment of 5307 and 5339 funds over the next four years.

The proposed FFY 2023-2026 TIP also programs Operating Assistance provided by PennDOT under Act 89 to fund the operation of public transportation service in Berks County. SCTA receives the Operating Assistance and the funds programmed in the TIP reflects the amount apportioned to the Berks County service based on an agreement between PennDOT, SCTA and the MPO.

Based on its role and responsibilities described above, SCTA provides the following documentation that itself and the Reading Operation have the financial capacity to carry out the projects included in the FFY 2023-2026 TIP.

**SCTA READING OPERATION
FINANCIAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

June 2022

B. Historical Trends

The historical trends for the Reading Operation are outlined in the attached fiscal year summary for the year ending June 30, 2021. This summary shows operating and financial statistics for the past six fiscal years, FY 2016 through FY 2021.

Overall, operating expenses from FY 2016 (\$15,866,215) to FY 2021 (\$17,011,279) increased by 7.2%. The significant increase in Operating Expenses that occurred in FY 2018 is due to the operation of additional service. Operating Expenses between FY 2018 and FY 2021 remained relatively stable as expenses ranged between \$16,547,405 and \$17,011,279. The stability of Operating Expenses occurred in FY 2020 and FY 2021 even with the impact of COVID.

SCTA/BARTA experienced a different pattern with operating revenue. Total revenues decreased from \$15,718,085 in FY 2016 to \$15,336,220 in FY 2017. Total revenue increased from FY 2017 to \$17,673,474 in FY 2018 and \$17,705,218 in FY 2019. This overall increase in operating revenue is attributed to a significant increase in operating revenue during this time period as a result of two shared ride service fare increases. After FY 2019, revenue decreased to \$16,945,690 in FY 2020 and to \$16,648,680 in FY 2021. The decrease in revenue is attributed to COVID and the decrease in ridership. The impact of COVID is evident in the significant decrease in Operating Revenues between FY 2020 and FY 2021. The significant increase in Operating Grants over this same period, which helped support Total Revenues, reflects the receipt of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds (CARES) and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) funds.

During this six-year period, Total Revenues exceeded Operating Expenses by \$1,749,181. This favorable result is due to the approval of two shared ride service fare increases during this period and the receipt of the CARES and CRRSAA funds.

The Hours of Service of Fixed Route Service operated in FY 2016 and FY 2017 remained relatively stable at 122,517 hours and 122,269 hours respectfully. In FY 2018, the Hours of Service operated increased to 129,297 and the Hours of Service operated in FY 2019 totaled 130,398. The increase in Hours of Service in FY 2018 is attributed to the additional service added to Route 1 and Route 3. The Hours of Service remained relatively unchanged from FY 2019 in FY 2020 at 130,013 hours. Hours of Service increased to 132,292 in FY 2021.

C. Current Condition

During FY 2021, the most recently completed fiscal year for which comparative information is available, SCTA's cost per hour for its Reading operation was \$92.24. This is an increase over the \$78.54 reported in FY 2019. The increase is not surprising. SCTA experienced increased Operating Expenses in operating the scheduled fixed route bus service during COVID and there are still basic operating costs that are incurred to maintain even a reduced level of service. The \$92.24 cost per hour includes both the fixed route service and the shared ride service.

**SCTA READING OPERATION
FINANCIAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

June 2022

During the six fiscal years being reported, Shared Ride ridership peaked at 248,047 passengers in FY 2016. By FY 2019, Shared Ride ridership had decreased by 3.8% to 238,518 passengers. Shared ride ridership decreased to 198,938 passengers in FY 2020 and 130,138 passengers in FY 2021. The FY 2020 ridership reflects the partial impact of COVID beginning in March 2020. The FY 2021 ridership reflects the full impact of COVID with a minimum number of trips to Senior Centers, Adult Day Care Centers and Sheltered Workshops due to very limited openings, limited trips for shopping and personal services due to conditions and closures and a focus on medical trips only.

For the first nine months of FY 2022, shared ride ridership has increased 11.8% compared to the first nine months of FY 2021; 105,865 passengers in FY 2022 and 94,650 passengers in FY 2021. However, shared ride ridership at the end of FY 2022 is still expected to be significantly below pre-COVID levels.

In FY 2016, 2017 and 2018, fixed route ridership remained relatively stable at approximately 2.9 million passengers cared. Fixed route services experienced a decrease of 5.1 percent in ridership from FY 2018 to FY 2019. With the impact of COVID beginning in March 2020, fixed route ridership decreased to 2,338,943 passengers. The FY 2021 ridership with the full impact of COVID totaled 1,822,068 passengers.

For FY 2022, SCTA projects expenses of \$17,485,810 with revenue of \$17,278,696 for its Reading BARTA fixed route and shared ride operations. An operating deficit of \$207,115 is anticipated for this fiscal year. This deficit is attributed to the Shared Ride operation.

D. Financial Projections

SCTA's five-year operating projections for fixed route and ADA funded services include financial projections through FY 2027 for its Reading operation. Shared ride costs are not shown in the attached projections as they are fully funded by the participating programs/agencies and fares.

From FY 2022 through FY 2027, SCTA is projecting a 33% increase in Operating Costs. During this period, SCTA is projecting Operating Costs will increase from \$12,117,000 in FY 2022 to \$16,121,000 in FY 2027.

SCTA is projecting BARTA will operate 137,232 hours of service in FY 2022. SCTA is projecting an increase of 2,000 service hours in FY 2024 and an increase of 2,000 service hours in FY 2026. There is no increase in service hours projected for FY 2023, FY 2025 and FY 2027. During this five year period, the total projected increase in service hours is 4,000. These additional hours of service are projected to address identified service needs with service delivery options recommended in a Transit Development Plan Update. Work will begin on the Update in the fall of 2022.

The five-year projections assume the base fixed route fare will increase by \$.20 to \$2.00 in FY 2026. The base fare is projected to remain at \$1.80 in FY 2023, FY 2024 and FY 2025. The base fare is projected to remain at \$2.00 in FY 2027. From FY 2022 through FY 2027,

**SCTA READING OPERATION
FINANCIAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

June 2022

SCTA is projecting a 24.2% increase in Operating Revenues. SCTA is projecting Operating Revenue will increase from \$2,194,000 in FY 2022 to \$2,813,000 in FY 2027.

During this five-year period, SCTA will have the flexibility to use its 5307 federal funding for operating assistance based on the provisions of the FAST Act. SCTA is projecting it will use no federal funding for operating assistance over the next five years. SCTA is projecting it will capitalize preventive maintenance costs in FY 2024 through FY 2027 by investing \$800,000 in each fiscal year. Over the next five years, SCTA is projecting it will continue to capitalize ADA costs, but the ADA costs are projected to be capped at 10% of SCTA's total federal apportionment in each fiscal year in accordance with federal guidelines.

The passage of Act 89 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in late 2013 contributed to an increase in State operating assistance. For FY 2022-23, PennDOT is projecting SCTA will receive \$12,122,581 in State operating assistance. State operating assistance is projected to remain flat based on the FY 2023 level of \$12,122,581 in FY 2024 through FY 2027 based on SCTA's consideration of potential long-term funding issues and the financial guidance provided by PennDOT for the preparation of the TIP.

Act 89 calls for a 15% local match requirement of the amount of PennDOT operating assistance provided. At the time of the passage of Act 89, if the local match funds currently provided were less than the 15% requirement a 5% increase in the local subsidy is required in each succeeding fiscal year until the 15% local match requirement is met. In FY 2023, Berks County will provide a subsidy of \$455,000. This amount is less than the 15% local match requirement based on a state operating subsidy of \$12,122,581. As a result, based on the annual 5% increase, the local subsidy provided will increase to \$553,000 in FY 2027.

SCTA has sufficient operating reserves available to support its Berks operation. The available reserves will be used to fund costs incurred in FY 2024 through FY 2027 exceeding Revenue, State Operating Assistance and Local Operating Assistance. The use of the reserves ensures that the Surplus/Deficit at the end of the fiscal year is \$0.

E. **Capital Program**

SCTA's capital program for its Reading operation for FFY 2022 includes funding for the purchase of four (4) replacement buses for its fixed route service; the purchase of seven (7) replacement vehicles for SCTA's Reading Shared Ride Vehicle fleet; upgrades to the Reading Operations Center and the BARTA Transportation Center; replace maintenance shop and office equipment; a Transit Development Plan Update; advancing elements of SCTA's Public Transportation Safety Plan; an investment in IT, communications and security equipment; and replace bus shelters and bus stop signs.

The State-of-Good-Repair program SCTA is proposing to advance over the next four years for Reading as reflected in the FFY 2023-2026 TIP will focus on replacing fixed route and shared ride vehicles that have reached the end of their useful service life; upgrading and rehabilitating the BARTA Transportation Center, the 11th Street Operations Center and the

**SCTA READING OPERATION
FINANCIAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

June 2022

Park-n-Transit Parking Garage; purchasing replacement bus shelters and service vehicles; purchase and installation of solar panels; preventive maintenance and ADA services; and purchasing the support equipment needed for the operation and maintenance of its vehicles and facilities, i.e. communications equipment, new fareboxes, maintenance equipment, IT equipment and office equipment/furniture.

The capital improvement program for Reading will be advanced with the federal 5307 and 5339 funds apportioned to the Berks Urbanized Area, State Act 89 Discretionary Funds and local funds. State operating assistance is also programmed on the TIP.

The FFY 2023-2026 TIP does not include flexing CMAQ funds flexed to SCTA for use in its vehicle replacement program based on the past investment in the bus replacement program and available 5307 and 5339 funding. However, SCTA will need the flexing of CMAQ funds to resume in FFY 2027 in order to fund its bus replacement program. The flexing of the CMAQ funds has a positive impact on SCTA's ability to replace buses on a schedule that reflects when a vehicle reaches the end of its useful life.

The projects included in the FFY 2023-2026 TIP are based on SCTA's Transit Asset Management Plan and will ensure SCTA meets its annual performance targets.

F. Financial Capability

Two years ago when the Financial Capacity Assessment was prepared for the FFY 2021-2024 TIP Update and SCTA had been operating under COVID-19 conditions for three months, there were a number of unknowns with respect to operating costs, service levels, fare revenue, and ridership as the Authority looked to the future. A reduced level of service was operated between March 30, 2020 and October 19, 2020. Operator layoffs occurred based on reduced levels of service which reduced operating expenses. No fares were collected between March 23, 2020 and August 10, 2020. In the initial months of COVID, there was a 70% decline in ridership.

The ability to successfully navigate the financial challenges of the last two years and to provide a firm foundation for moving forward over the next five years is due to a number of factors outlined below. The CARES Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided funds to SCTA/Reading to fund operating expenses. These funds contributed to maintaining the financial viability of the system as the Authority incurred additional costs related to addressing safety and mitigation of COVID-19 for its employees and customers.

The passage of Act 89 resulted in a significant increase in State operating assistance. The increase in the State operating assistance over the last several years has been beneficial. Future concerns include a growing source of funds over the years is not reflected in the projections of state operating assistance remaining flat over the next five years and the need for Pennsylvania to address future transit funding needs with the ending of \$400 million in transit funding provided through the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

**SCTA READING OPERATION
FINANCIAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

June 2022

The ability to use federal funds for general operating needs as provided for in the FAST Act has a positive impact on SCTA’s operating budget and on the flexibility the Authority has in using its allocated federal funds in the most efficient manner possible and in accordance with SCTA priorities for its Reading operation.

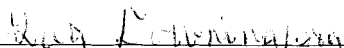
Prudent operating and financial decisions made by SCTA over the last two years and the availability of operating reserves also contributed to meeting these past challenges and preparing for the future.

BARTA ridership continues to remain below pre-COVID levels and is projected to increase 1% to 2% over the next five years. SCTA is projecting BARTA will carry 1,829,000 passengers by the end of FY 2022 with a projected increase to 2,000,000 passengers by the end of FY 2027. Ridership in FY 2019 before COVID totaled 2,756,040 passengers. SCTA is committed to encouraging the growth in ridership by operating safe, secure and timely service; implementing GoMobile, a contactless mobile fare payment option, in January 2021; and offering new service options and opportunities through the implementation of recommendations from its upcoming Transit Development Plan Update. The projections for federal, state and local funding based on the passage of the FAST Act and Act 89 have enabled SCTA to project the addition of 4,000 hours of service for its Reading operation over the next five years and the ability to sustain such service through this period.

SCTA and BARTA have shown in the past it has the financial experience and ability to maintain the transit system at its present levels of service. The management of SCTA and BARTA have also demonstrated it can operate the system at a fare that is not beyond the economic reach of its many daily passengers. As it moves forward, SCTA will maintain a focus on the economic performance of the system in Reading. Towards that end, SCTA will continue to develop a five-year financial plan as part of its budget process and maintain adequate reserves to meet projected operating and capital needs in the future for its Reading operation.

CERTIFICATION

In accordance with FTA Circular 9030.1E and based on the Fiscal Year Summaries, the FY 2022-23 Reading Financial Projections and updated operating and capital needs as outlined in this Financial Capacity Assessment, SCTA certifies it has the financial capacity to provide the services planned over the next five years and to advance the capital program included in the FFY 2023-27 Transit Improvement Program in support of its Reading operation dba Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority operation.



 Greg Downing, Executive Director
 South Central Transit Authority
 June 30, 2022

BERKS AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
FISCAL YEAR SUMMARIES

	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	% Change FY 20 to FY 21
Operating Days-FR	356	358	358	359	359	357	-0.6%
Operating Days-SR	251	358	358	358	358		0.0%
Passengers Carried Fixed Route	3,134,820	3,037,789	3,133,130	2,994,558	2,537,886	1,952,206	-23.1%
Farepaying	2,254,486	2,132,912	2,198,929	2,046,970	1,434,068	1,166,756	-18.6%
Senior Citizens	415,799	413,914	459,677	453,786	398,214	313,268	-21.3%
Transfer	180,259	217,822	210,627	220,772	148,995	93,619	-37.2%
Other	40,870	36,584	34,553	34,512	357,671	248,425	-30.5%
TOTAL	2,891,414	2,801,232	2,903,786	2,756,040	2,338,943	1,822,068	-22.1%
		-3.1%	3.7%	-5.1%	-15.1%		
Shared Ride							
Senior Citizens	78,088	94,600	92,269	100,429	72,692	47,508	-34.6%
DPW-MATP	85,867	72,635	80,042	87,334	83,790	63,770	-23.9%
BH/DS	15,839	33,159	25,028	21,678	14,405	323	-97.8%
ADA Services	55,381	20,770	17,574	18,241	16,822	12,904	-23.3%
Access to Jobs	0	47	158	143	214	0	-100.0%
Area Agency on Aging	2,446	4,501	2,333	955	149	0	-100.0%
Other Agencies	10,426	10,901	11,940	9,738	10,866	5,633	-48.2%
TOTAL	248,047	236,613	229,344	238,518	198,938	130,138	-34.6%
Operating Revenues	\$7,845,889	\$9,370,507	\$10,112,489	\$9,419,573	\$7,536,890	\$4,851,943	-35.6%
Operating Grants	\$7,872,196	\$5,965,713	\$7,560,985	\$8,285,645	\$9,408,800	\$11,796,737	25.4%
Total Revenues	\$15,718,085	\$15,336,220	\$17,673,474	\$17,705,218	\$16,945,690	\$16,648,680	-1.8%
Operating Expenses	\$15,866,215	\$15,393,610	\$16,551,755	\$16,547,405	\$16,907,922	\$17,011,279	0.6%
Surplus (Deficit) (Shared Ride Only)	-\$148,130	-\$57,390	\$1,121,719	\$1,157,813	\$37,768	-\$362,599	-1060.1%
Cost Recovery	49.45%	60.87%	61.10%	56.92%	44.58%	28.52%	-56.0%

READING
Financial Projections
Fixed Route Services
FY 2022-231

	Actual FY2020-21	Projected FY2021-22	Estimated FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
Expenses							
Hours	132,292	137,232	137,232	139,232	139,232	141,232	141,232
Exp Factor	-	-	-	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050
Ser Factor	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	0
Op Cost/Hr	90.60	88.29	93.91	98.60	103.53	108.71	114.14
Op. Costs	11,985	12,117	12,887	13,728	14,415	15,353	16,121
Revenues							
Passengers	1,822	1,829	1,847	1,884	1,922	1,960	2,000
Pass Factor	-	-	1.01	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02
Pass/Hr	13.58	13.33	13.46	13.53	13.80	13.88	14.16
Rev/Pass	1.03	1.20	1.25	1.28	1.30	1.38	1.41
Base Fare	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80	2.00	2.00
Revenue	1,879	2,194	2,310	2,403	2,501	2,704	2,813
FR Recovery	15.7%	18.1%	17.9%	17.5%	17.3%	17.6%	17.4%
Subsidy Required	10,106	9,923	10,577	11,325	11,914	12,649	13,308
Funding							
Fed Asset Maint.	0	0	0	800	800	800	800
Fed Optg/CARES	7,563	8,735	600	0	0	0	0
State Operating	2,141	759	9,522	10,047	10,613	11,323	11,955
Local	402	429	455	478	502	527	553
Total	10,106	9,923	10,577	11,325	11,914	12,650	13,308
Surplus/Deficit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOUTH CENTRAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**FFY 2023-2026 TRANSIT TIP UPDATE****TRANSIT PERFORMANCE MEASURES NARRATIVE DOCUMENTATION**

June 2022 Update

Background on Transit Asset Management Plan

The final rule on metropolitan and statewide planning, published in the Federal Register on May 27, 2016, addressed changes to the metropolitan planning process stemming from the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST) and discussed Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP).

As part of the implementation of the PBPP requirements, States, MPOs, and providers of public transportation must jointly agree upon and develop specific written provisions for cooperatively developing and sharing information related to transportation performance data, the selection of performance targets, and the reporting of performance targets, with the reporting of performance to be used in tracking progress toward attainment of critical outcomes for the MPO region.

As a Tier II provider as defined under the Transit Asset Management (TAM) final rule, the South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) decided to develop and maintain its own Transit Asset Management Plan (TAMP). SCTA's TAMP 2021 update was adopted by its Board in July 2021, by the Lancaster MPO in September 2021 and by the Reading MPO in September 2021. The TAMP outlines the performance measures, targets, and implementation strategies SCTA will use to maintain its transit system assets. The TAMP also outlined the Authority's performance philosophy and policy, and covered performance management related to Rolling Stock, Facilities and Equipment used by SCTA in providing service.

The goal of the TAMP is for SCTA to reach and maintain a state of good repair for all of its capital assets through the Performance Based Planning and Programming process. Annually, a Performance Target is to be developed for the three Asset Classes the FTA has identified in its implementing guidelines. The expectation is that by achieving the annual Performance Targets SCTA will reach and maintain a state of good repair for the Asset Class identified.

Performance Targets

The TAM process requires SCTA to annually set performance measure targets and report performance against those targets. Required measures are:

- Rolling Stock – Percentage of revenue vehicles within a particular vehicle asset class past their Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) (age only)
- Facilities – Percentage of facilities that are below a 3 on the Transit Economic Recovery Model (TERM) Scale
- Equipment – Percentage of non-revenue, support-service and maintenance vehicles and equipment with a value of \$50,000 or more past their ULB (age only)

SCTA's Performance Targets are authority-wide and reflect consideration of Rolling Stock, Facilities and Equipment supporting its Lancaster (RRTA) and Reading (BARTA) operations. It was decided to prepare authority-wide targets, since SCTA is required to report its National Transit Database (NTD) data as SCTA with the RRTA and BARTA operating information combined.

In addition, SCTA presents its Performance Targets for Rolling Stock in three separate groups: Fixed Route Buses/Directly Operated, Shared Ride Vehicles/Directly Operated and Shared Ride Vehicles/Purchased Transportation.

Annual performance measure targets are developed by SCTA for each asset class. The update of the performance targets is based on an annual inventory to provide a current picture of each asset, the prior year's performance and anticipated/obligated funding levels for the upcoming fiscal year available to advance the planned projects in each asset class.

The performance targets are approved by SCTA's Executive Director as the Plan's Accountable Executive. Coordination occurs with the Lancaster and Reading MPO's on the report and adoption of the performance targets by the SCTA Board and the MPO Boards.

Performance targets, and how those targets translate into project prioritization, is discussed in the TAMP. The SCTA TAMP is available on the SCTA website under the "About" tab at www.sctapa.com.

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans

The FTA issued a final rule on Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP), effective July 19, 2019. The PTASP final rule (49 C.F.R. Part 673) is meant to enhance safety by creating a framework for transit agencies to manage safety risks in their organization. It requires recipients of FTA funding to develop and implement safety plans that support the implementation of Safety Management Systems (SMS).

As part of the plan development process, performance targets must be established for the following areas:

1. Fatalities,
2. Injuries,
3. Safety Events, and
4. System Reliability.

SCTA developed its own PTASP in accordance with the final rule. SCTA's initial Safety Plan and Safety Performance Targets were adopted by the SCTA Board and the Berks and Lancaster MPO's in September 2020. As required by FTA guidelines, the Safety Plan is updated annually along with the preparation of the annual Safety Performance Targets. The updated Safety Plan and CY 2022 Performance Targets were adopted by the SCTA Board and the Berks and Lancaster MPO's in September 2021.

Safety has always been a factor in SCTA's selection of capital projects to advance for funding in a fiscal year. The approved Safety Plan and its safety measures and targets will inform the prioritization of capital projects for advancement and the selection of projects for inclusion in the Transit TIP.

Development of FFY 2023-2026 Transit TIP

SCTA prepares a 20-year Long-Range Capital Improvement Program based on the Asset Inventory, Condition Assessment, and project based prioritization process described in SCTA's TAMP. The first four year years of the Long-Range Capital Improvement Program became the basis for identifying projects for inclusion in the proposed FFY 2023-2026 Transit TIP. As the TIP was being developed, consideration was given to the financial guidance provided for the development of the TIP; how the projects will contribute to achieving the performance targets in each asset class and maintain SCTA's Rolling Stock, Facilities and Equipment in a state-of-good- repair; and the impact the project will have on safety. The proposed FFY 2023-2026 Transit TIP does not reflect any increased funding SCTA will receive as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Additional projects will be programmed pending confirmation of the increased level of funding and the review and development of plans to invest the additional funds.

SCTA's Long-Range Capital Improvement Program also programs funding for the purchase of support and maintenance equipment with a value under \$50,000. These projects include Computer Hardware/Software Upgrades (IT Equipment) and Purchase Shop/Maintenance Equipment. These projects are important to fund and advance in order to operate safely and efficiently and maintain the SCTA system in a state-of-good-repair.

Overall, the implementation of the proposed projects included in the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program are expected to assure SCTA achieves its goal of maintaining its Rolling Stock, Facilities and Equipment in a state-of-good-repair, achieve the current or higher Performance Targets in the future and address long-term operating and capital improvement needs.

Transit Projects

Project Descriptions

Project listings typically include the following information: MPMS#; project title; improvement type; geographic limits of the project if applicable; and a narrative description of the project. Each project listing also provides information on the total program period cost, cost by fiscal year, phase of work, and funding sources. Costs are shown in thousands of dollars.

Project Maps

The maps on pages 109 through 119 show the location of the projects included in the FFY 2023–2026 Transportation Improvement Program for the Reading MPO area (Berks County). Highway, Bridge, Enhancement, Interstate Management and Transit projects are shown on six maps - Map 1, showing the entire county and Maps 2 through 6 showing each of the five planning regions of the County. Projects are referenced according to their PENNDOT “MPMS Number” and are keyed to the preceding pages.

Certain projects that have no specific location or are line items that reserve funds for future assignment to specific projects are not mapped.

Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA)

PennDOT Project Id: 110615

Title: Bus Shelter Replacement

County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M8 - Recon. or renov. transit bldgs & structures

Narrative:

This project will provide for the purchase & installation of 30 bus shelters in the Reading operations area that have exceeded their useful life. Some of the current bus shelters have become worn-down and unsightly. New, visibly appealing shelters will contribute to the retention of current riders and help to attract new riders to the system.

		Project Costs(In Thousands)					
Fund		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
	Federal 5307:	\$240	\$0	\$120	\$0	\$0	\$0
	State 339:	\$58	\$0	\$29	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Local/Other:	\$2	\$0	\$1	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Period Totals	\$300	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$450					

PennDOT Project Id: 114357

Title: Replace Comm Equipment

County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M4 - Purch off., shop, & op. eq. for exist. facility

Narrative:

Radio communications between the Reading Operations Center and buses in service is critical. Funding is programmed for this project because the equipment will have reached the end of its useful service life, and to maintain the operating safety of the system in accordance with the overall goals of the adopted Transit Agency Safety Plan.

		Project Costs(In Thousands)					
Fund		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
	Federal 5307:	\$200	\$40	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	State 339:	\$48	\$10	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Local:	\$2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Period Totals	\$250	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$300					

PennDOT Project Id: 114359

Title: Replace Farebox System

County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M5 - Purch op. eq. for vehcls (eg. radio, frbx, lifts)

Narrative:

The Farebox System Replacement project provides for the upgrade/replacement of the fareboxes on the Reading fixed route buses and the fare collection support equipment that have exceeded their useful life. The purchase of new fareboxes will also enable SCTA to purchase fareboxes that reflect current technology.

		Project Costs(In Thousands)					
Fund		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
	Federal 5307:	\$0	\$0	\$320	\$800	\$0	\$0
	State 339:	\$0	\$0	\$77	\$194	\$0	\$0
	Local:	\$0	\$0	\$3	\$6	\$0	\$0
	Period Totals	\$0	\$0	\$400	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
	Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$1,400					

PennDOT Project Id: 114361

Title: Preventive Maintenance

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

County: Berks

Narrative: 80% federal funding will be used to support eligible Preventive Maintenance expenses. As provided for under federal guidelines, this project funds eligible maintenance costs incurred for maintaining vehicles, support facilities, structures and equipment.

Fund	Project Costs(In Thousands)						
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034	
Federal 5307:	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$0	\$0	
State 338:	\$193	\$193	\$193	\$193	\$0	\$0	
Local:	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$0	\$0	
Period Totals	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$4,000						

PennDOT Project Id: 114369

Title: Vehicle Replacement 23

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

County: Berks

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M10 - Purch new buses & cars for rplcmnt or mnr expan.

Narrative:

In accordance with the Transit Asset Management Plan targets, during this TIP period, BARTA will be replacing (1) 2015 Fixed Route Electric Hybrid Bus with a 2027 Electric Hybrid bus that has exceeded its useful life. Once a vehicle has reached the end of its useful life of 12 years and/or 500,000 miles, it becomes eligible for replacement.

Fund	Project Costs(In Thousands)						
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034	
Federal 5307:	\$451	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Federal 5339:	\$425	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
State 339:	\$212	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Local:	\$7	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Period Totals	\$1,095	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$1,095						

PennDOT Project Id: 114370

Title: Vehicle Replacement 24

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

County: Berks

Air Quality Exempt Reason: 10 - Purch new buses & cars for rplcmnt or mnr expan.

Narrative: In accordance with the Transit Asset Management Plan targets, during this TIP period, BARTA will be replacing three (3) 2015 Fixed Route Electric Hybrid Buses that have exceeded their useful lives with three (3) 2027 Electric Hybrid buses. Once the vehicles have reached the end of their useful life of 12 years and/or 500,000 miles, they become eligible for replacement.

Fund	Project Costs(In Thousands)						
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034	
Federal 5339:	\$0	\$425	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
State 339:	\$0	\$103	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Local:	\$0	\$3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Period Totals	\$0	\$531	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$531						

PennDOT Project Id: 114371

Title: ADA Services

County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M1 - Operating assistance to transit agencies

Narrative:BARTA provides ADA paratransit service complementary to existing fixed route service. Funding amounts are fiscally constrained by the allowable amount 10% of BARTA's 5307 allocation that is permitted to be expended for these services.

Project Costs(In Thousands)							
Fund	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034	
Federal 5307:	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$373	\$0	\$0	
State 338:	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$90	\$0	\$0	
Local:	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$0	\$0	
Period Totals	\$466	\$466	\$466	\$466	\$0	\$0	
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$1,864						

PennDOT Project Id: 114372

Title:Paratransit Van Purchases

County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M10 - Purch new buses & cars for rplcmnt or mnr expan.

Narrative: In accordance with the Transit Asset Management Plan targets, BARTA will be replacing 35 paratransit vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life and are eligible for replacement. The FTA/PennDOT useful life requirement for shared ride vehicles is 5 years.

FFY2023 Replace eleven (11) 2018 Paratransit Vans exceeding useful lives with 2023 Paratransit Vans

FFY2024 No vehicle replacements

FFY2025 Replace Sixteen (16) 2021 Paratransit Vans exceeding useful life with 2026 Paratransit Vans.

FFY2026 Replace eight (8) 2022 Paratransit Vans exceeding useful life with 2027 Paratransit Vans

Project Costs(In Thousands)							
Fund	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034	
Federal 5307:	\$725	\$0	\$1,155	\$605	\$0	\$0	
State 339:	\$175	\$0	\$280	\$146	\$0	\$0	
Local:	\$6	\$0	\$9	\$5	\$0	\$0	
Period Totals	\$906	\$0	\$1,444	\$756	\$0	\$0	
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$906						

PennDOT Project Id: 114373

Title:Operating Assistance

County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M1 - Operating assistance to transit agencies

Narrative: BARTA's estimate for funding amounts for state and local operating assistance are based on the allocation to the Reading MPO by PennDOT.

Project Costs(In Thousands)							
Fund	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034	
Federal:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
State 338:	\$9,786	\$9,786	\$9,786	\$9,786	\$0	\$0	
Local:	\$459	\$483	\$508	\$533	\$0	\$0	
Period Totals	\$10,245	\$10,269	\$10,294	\$10,319	\$0	\$0	
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$41,127						

Reading MPO 2023-206 Public Transit TIP Narrative DRAFT

PennDOT Project Id: 114375**Title:** BARTA Ops Center Imp**County:**Berks**Air Quality Status:** Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis**Air Quality Exempt Reason:** M8 - Recon. or renov. transit bldgs & structures

Narrative: This project is to complete facility improvements at the BARTA Operations Center that include but not limited to the replacement of the underground gasoline storage tank. The completion of the planned improvements will advance this facility toward the goal of being a 4 on the TERM scale and in accordance with the Transit Asset Management Plan.

The last major rehabilitation of the Operations Center located at 1700 North 11th Street was completed in 2005.

Fund	Project Costs(In Thousands)					
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
Federal 5307:	\$360	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State 339:	\$87	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local:	\$3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Period Totals	\$450	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$450					

PennDOT Project Id: 114376**Title:** PNT Garage Imprv.**County:**Berks**Air Quality Status:** Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis**Air Quality Exempt Reason:** M8 - Recon. or renov. transit bldgs & structures

Narrative: This project is to complete facility improvements at the Park and Transit (PNT) parking garage that include upgrades and installation of parking garage control equipment. The PNT is located on Franklin Street and was opened in 2005. The completion of the planned TIP improvements will assure this facility is a 4 on the TERM scale and in accordance with the Transit Asset Management Plan.

Fund	Project Costs(In Thousands)					
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
Federal 5307:	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State 339:	\$48	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local:	\$2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Period Totals	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$250					

PennDOT Project Id: 114377**Title:** BTC Rehab and Upgrade**County:**Berks**Air Quality Status:** Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis**Air Quality Exempt Reason:** M8 - Recon. or renov. transit bldgs & structures

Narrative: BARTA will perform additional rehabilitation and upgrades to the BARTA Transportation Center (BTC). After seventeen years of operation, there are systems and components of the BTC that need to be upgraded. The planned improvements include but are not limited to the replacement of the heat curtains at the entrances to the customer waiting area, the rehabilitation of the elevator and its support systems and upgrades to the public address system, passenger information system and signage. The completion of these planned improvements will assure this facility remains at 4 on the TERM scale in accordance with the Transit Asset Management Plan.

Fund	Project Costs(In Thousands)					
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
Federal 5307:	\$0	\$480	\$80	\$0	\$0	\$0
State 339:	\$0	\$116	\$19	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local:	\$0	\$4	\$1	\$0	\$0	\$0
Period Totals	\$0	\$600	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$700					

PennDOT Project Id: 114382
Title:Non-Revenue Vehicles 23
County:Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis
Air Quality Exempt Reason: M2 - Purchase of support vehicles

Narrative: During this TIP cycle, BARTA plans to replace one (1) 2004 supervisory vehicle that has reached the end of its useful service life and is eligible for replacement.

		Project Costs(In Thousands)					
Fund		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
	Federal 5307:	\$32	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	State 339:	\$8	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Local:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Period Totals	\$40	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$40					

PennDOT Project Id: 114383
Title:Capital Improv IT Equip
County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis
Air Quality Exempt Reason: M4 - Purch off., shop, & op. eq. for exist. facility

Narrative:During this TIP cycle, BARTA plans to upgrade/replace office/computer hardware, software (including Maintenance and Finance software), and communications/security equipment that has exceeded its useful life or is needed to support operations. The replacement cycle is based on the PennDOT Useful Life Standard.

		Project Costs(In Thousands)					
Fund		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
	Federal 5307:	\$140	\$120	\$60	\$120	\$0	\$0
	State 339:	\$34	\$29	\$14	\$29	\$0	\$0
	Local:	\$1	\$1	\$0	\$1	\$0	\$0
	Period Totals	\$175	\$150	\$74	\$150	\$0	\$0
	Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$549					

PennDOT Project Id: 114384
Title:Office Equip/Furniture
County:Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis
Air Quality Exempt Reason: M4 - Purch off., shop, & op. eq. for exist. facility

Narrative: Upgrade and replace office equipment and furniture that has exceeded its useful life and to support improved office operations.

		Project Costs(In Thousands)					
Fund		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
	Federal 5307:	\$48	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	State 339:	\$12	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Local:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Period Totals	\$60	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$60					

Reading MPO 2023-206 Public Transit TIP Narrative DRAFT

PennDOT Project Id: 114385

Title:Capital Improv Shop Equip

County:Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M4 - Purch off., shop, & op. eq. for exist. facility

Narrative:

During this TIP cycle, BARTA plans to upgrade/replace maintenance and shop equipment that has exceeded its useful life based on the 12-year cycle of the PennDOT Useful Life Standard. The improvements include but not limited to:

FFY 2023 -- 2009 Bulk Fluid System, Floor Sweeper, Scissor Lift and Diesel Fuel Dispenser

FFY 2024 --portable lifts, wheel aligner and 2010 Bobcat

FFY 2025 -- two 2016 Ventrats, 2011 Jack Stands, two Floor Sweepers, two Floor Scrubbers and portable lifts

FFY 2026 -- Fuel Management System

Project Costs(In Thousands)							
Fund	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034	
Federal 5307:	\$160	\$240	\$200	\$100	\$0	\$0	
State 339:	\$39	\$58	\$48	\$24	\$0	\$0	
Local:	\$1	\$2	\$2	\$1	\$0	\$0	
Period Totals	\$200	\$300	\$250	\$125	\$0	\$0	
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$875						

PennDOT Project Id: 118026

Title:Solar Panel Installation

County:Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M8 - Recon. or renov. transit bldgs & structures

Narrative: This project consists of the installation of solar panels on the Operations Center bus storage facility roof and on the roof at the BARTA Transportation Center (BTC). This project continues SCTA's focus on utilizing green infrastructure and having a positive impact on SCTA's operating budget.

Project Costs(In Thousands)							
Fund	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034	
Federal 5307:	\$0	\$1,491	\$580	\$0	\$0	\$0	
State 339:	\$0	\$361	\$140	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Local:	\$0	\$12	\$5	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Period Totals	\$0	\$1,864	\$725	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$2,589						

PennDOT Project Id: 118041

Title:Vehicle Replacement 25

County:Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M10 - Purch new buses & cars for rplcmnt or mnr expan

Narrative:In accordance with the Transit Asset Management Plan targets, this project will provide partial funding to replace one (1) 2015 Fixed Route Electric Hybrid bus that has exceeded its useful life with a 2027 hybrid electric bus. Once a vehicle has reached the end of its useful life of 12 years and/or 500,000 miles, it becomes eligible for replacement.

Project Costs(In Thousands)							
Fund	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034	
Federal 5339:	\$0	\$0	\$425	\$0	\$0	\$0	
State 339:	\$0	\$0	\$103	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Local:	\$0	\$0	\$3	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Period Totals	\$0	\$0	\$531	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$531						

PennDOT Project Id: 118042

Title: Vehicle Replacement 26

County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M10 - Purch new buses & cars for replcmnt or mnr expan

Narrative: In accordance with the Transit Asset Management Plan targets, this project will provide partial funding to support the replacement of four (4) fixed route buses that have exceeded their useful life: two (2) 2015 Electric Hybrid Bus with two (2) 2027 electric hybrid buses and two (2) 2016 Electric Hybrid buses with 2028 Electric Hybrid buses. Once a vehicle has reached the end of its useful life of 12 years and/or 500,000 miles, it becomes eligible for replacement.

Fund	Project Costs(In Thousands)					
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
Federal 5307:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$930	\$0	\$0
Federal 5339:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$425	\$0	\$0
State 339:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$328	\$0	\$0
Local:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11	\$0	\$0
Period Totals	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,694	\$0	\$0
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$1,694					

PennDOT Project Id: 118061

Title: Non-Revenue Vehicles

County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M2 - Purchase of support vehicles

Narrative: During this TIP cycle, BARTA plans to replace 2 vehicles that have reached the end of their useful service lives and are eligible for replacement. The vehicles that will be replaced are a 1981 tow truck and a 2014 service vehicle.

Fund	Project Costs(In Thousands)					
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
Federal 5307:	\$0	\$264	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State 339:	\$0	\$64	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local:	\$0	\$2	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Period Totals	\$0	\$330	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$330					

PennDOT Project Id: 118062

Title: Non-revenue Vehicles 25

County: Berks

Air Quality Status: Exempt from Regional Conformity Analysis

Air Quality Exempt Reason: M2 - Purchase of support vehicles

Narrative: During this TIP cycle, BARTA plans to replace a 2011 Ford F350 Pick-up Truck that has reached the end of its useful life and is eligible for replacement.

Fund	Project Costs(In Thousands)					
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 - 2030	2031 - 2034
Federal 5307:	\$0	\$0	\$40	\$0	\$0	\$0
State 339:	\$0	\$0	\$10	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Period Totals	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total FY 2023-2034 Cost	\$50					

Reading MPO TIP - Transit Projects

Fund Category Appendix

Fund Category Code	Fund Category Description	Fund Category Code	Fund Category Description
ACT13	Local at risk bridges - Marcellus Legacy Fund	RFAP	Rail Freight Assistance Program
ACT3	Act 3 Public Transportation Grant	RRX	Highway Safety
ACT4A	Act 4A Supplemental Operating Grant	SBY	Scenic Byways
ACT83	Transit Bond	SECT9	FTA Federal Formula - Section 9
ADMUO	Administration Use Only - Do Not Use	SIB	State Infrastructure Bank
AIP	FAA Airport Improvement Program	SPOPR	Supplemental Operating Assistance
APD	Appalachia Development	SPR	State Planning/Research
APL	Appalachia Local Access	SRTSF	Federal Safe Routes to Schools
BDP	Bridge Discretionary Program	SR2S	State Safe Route to School
BGENT	FAA Block Grant Entitlement	SSE	Supportive Services Enterprise
BND	Bridge Bonding	STE	Surface Transportation Enhancement
BOF	Bridge Off System	STN	STP - Nonurbanized
BRIP	Bridge Investment Program	STP	Surface Transportation Prog-Flexible
BUILD	BUILD Discretionary Grants	STR	Surface Transportation Rural
CAQ	Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality	STU	Surface Transportation Urban
CB	Capital Budget Nonhighway	SXF	Special Federal Funds (Demo)
COVID	COVID Relief	TAP	Transportation Alternatives (TAP) Flexible
CRP	Carbon Reduction Program	TAU	Tap > 200,000 Population
CRPU	Carbon Reduction Program Urban	TCS	Transpo & Community System Pres.
DAR	Defense Access Roads	TIGER	Trans Investment Generating Economic Recovery
DBE	Disadvantages Business Enterprise	TIGGR	Transit Investment for Greenhouse Gas and Energy R
D4R	Discretionary Interstate Maintenance	TPK	Turnpike
EB	Equity Bonus	TTE	Transit Transportation Enhancements
ECONR	Economic Recovery	073	Green Light-Go
EV	EV Charging	137	Municipal Bridge Improvements and Bundling
FAABG	FAA Block Grant	138	Rural Commercial Routes
FAAD	FAA Discretionary	140	Intelligent Transportation System
FAI	Interstate Construction	144	302-87-3 Transportation Assistance
FB	Ferry Boat/Ferry Terminal Facilities	160	Community Transport.-Equip Grant
FFL	Federal Flood	163	Community Transport.- Equip Grant
FHA	Public Lands Highways	164	PTAF
FLAP	Federal Lands Access Program	175	FTA- Capital Improvements
FLH	Forest Highways	179	Local Bridge Construction (Act 26 Counties)
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration	183	Local Bridge Construction
FRB	Ferry Boat	184	Restoration - Hwy Transfer
FTAD	FTA Discretionary Funds	185	State Bridge Construction
GEN	PA General Fund	208	FTA- Discretionary Capital
HCB	Historic Covered Bridge	244	ARLE Projects
HPR	Highway Planning/Research	278	Safety Admin
HRRR	High Risk Rural Roads	338	PT - 1513 Mass Transit Operating
HSIP	Highway Safety Improvement Program	339	PT - 1514 Asst Imprvmnt / Capitl Budg
H4L	Highway for Life - 10% Limiting Amount	340	PT - 1517 Capital Improvement
INFRA	INFRA Discretionary Award	341	PT - 1516 Progrms of Statewide Signif
ITS	Intelligent Transportation System	342	Transit Administration and Oversight
IVB	Innovative Bridge	361	FTA- Capital Improvements
LOC	Local Government Funds	383	DGS Delegated Facilities projects
LRFA	Local Rail Freight Assistance	403	Act 89 - Aviation Grants
MBP3	Major Bridge P3 Initiative	404	Act 89 - Rail Freight Grants
MSFF	Marcellus Shale Fee Fund	405	Act 89 - Passenger Rail Grants
NFP	National HWY Freight Program	406	Act 89 - Port and Waterways Grants
NHPP	National Highway Performance Program	407	Act 89 - Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Grants
OTH	Other Local Government Agencies	408	Act 89 - Multimodal Admin and Oversight
OTH-F	Other Federal Govt Agencies	409	ACT 89 - Roadway Maintenance
OTH-S	Other Pa State Government Agencies	411	Act 89 - Statewide Program Grants - Non HWY
PIB	State Infrastructure Bank - 100% state	471	COVID Highway & Safety Capital Projects
PL	Planning	5208	ITS
PRIV	Private Party	5303	FTA Metropolitan Planning Program
PRTCT	Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative	5305	FTA- Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone(HOPE)
PTAF	Act 26 PA Transportation Assist Fund	5307	FTA Urban Area Formula Grants
RAISE	Rebuild American Infra. Sustainability Equity	5308	FTA Clean Fuels Formula Grants
REC	Recreational Trails	5309	FTA New Starts Capital Program
RES	Funds Restoration	5310	FTA Elderly & Handicapped Program

APPENDIX M

**Analysis of the MPO's Transportation System Investments that Identifies and
Addresses any Disparate Impacts**

(No Content)

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