

Reading Area Transportation Study

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TO: Reading Area Transportation Study Technical Committee

FROM: Michael D. Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler

RE: Draft *Reading Area Transportation Study Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan*

DATE: April 28, 2023

The MPO adopted its current Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan in 2017. During that time, the composition of various non-English speaking groups in Berks County has changed. Given the varying demographics of the County, it is time to update this document.

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 (LEP) 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 come in contact with 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.

The 2020 Certification Review found that certain recommendations contained in the current Plan have not been carried out specifically as written but did address the 'spirit' of the LEP Plan. This Draft LEP Plan addresses the issues found during the Certification Review and analyzes updated Census language information.

At the May 4th Technical Committee meeting, staff will be asking for a motion to the Coordinating Committee to recommend that this document be released for a 45-day Public Comment period concurrent with the draft *Public Participation Plan (PPP)*. At the conclusion of the comment period, comments will be evaluated, and the draft document will be presented for a recommendation to approve at the July 6th Technical Committee meeting.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call (Ext. 6304) or email (mgolembiewski@countyofberks.com).

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