



northern tier
regional planning &
development
commission



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



February 2025

Final

Northern Tier Rural Planning Organization
312 Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848





NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission Alliance will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

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The ADA does not require the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Bonnie Warner, ADA Coordinator, at 570-265-1513 or warner@northerntier.org.

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**NORTHERN TIER RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (NORTHERN TIER RPO)
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It is the policy of the Northern Tier RPO to utilize its best efforts to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, disability, low income, national origin, or Limited English Proficiency, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under its programs and planning activities, as provided by civil rights statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies applicable to the programs and activities it administers. This includes Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Any person who believes they – or with a specific class of persons – have been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice may file a complaint. All complaints received are documented and investigated by the appropriate agency.

For more information about the Northern Tier RPO's civil rights program and the procedures to file a complaint, or to get information in another language, please contact:

Title VI Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator

Attn: Bonnie Warner

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission

312 Main Street

Towanda, PA 18848

570-265-1513

warner@northerntier.org

Once a complaint is submitted, an acknowledgement of receipt will be provided to the individual submitting the complaint in writing within 15 calendar days. The complaint will then be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the appropriate federal agency for further review and investigation. Complaints and/or allegations received in alternative formats, such as by phone, will be transcribed and provided to the complainant for review and signature.

Alternatively, complaints may be filed with PennDOT, the Federal Highway Administration's Pennsylvania Division Office, the Federal Highway Administration's Headquarters Office of Civil Rights, the Federal Transit Administration, the United States Department of Transportation, the US Department of Justice, or the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (staff agency for the Northern Tier RPO).

ATTENTION If you speak another language other than English, language assistance services can be made available to you. Call (570) 265-9103.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla otro idioma que no sea inglés, habrá servicios de asistencia en otros idiomas disponibles. Llame al (570) 265-9103.

Language Taglines

English

ATTENTION: If you speak another language other than English, language assistance services can be made available to you. Call (570) 265-9103.

Spanish

ATENCIÓN: Si habla otro idioma que no sea inglés, habrá servicios de asistencia en otros idiomas disponibles. Llame al (570) 265-9103.

Polish

UWAGA: Jeśli posługujesz się językiem innym niż angielski, możesz skorzystać z usługi pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer (570) 265-9103.

Vietnamese

LƯU Ý: Nếu quý vị nói một ngôn ngữ khác không phải tiếng Anh, các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ có thể được cung cấp cho quý vị. Gọi (570) 265-9103.

Korean

주의: 영어 이외의 다른 언어를 사용하는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 이용할 수 있습니다. (570) 265-9103 으로 전화하십시오.

French

« ATTENTION : Si vous parlez une autre langue que l'anglais, des services d'assistance linguistique peuvent être mis à votre disposition. Appelez le (570) 265-9103. »

Somali

FIIRO GAAR AH: Haddii aad ku hadasho luqad kale aanan ahayn Ingiriisiga, adeegyada gargaarka luqadda ayaa lagu diyaarin karaa. Wac (570) 265-9103.

Russian

ВНИМАНИЕ: если вы говорите на другом языке, вам может быть оказана языковая помощь. Обратитесь в информационно-справочную службу по номеру: (570) 265-9103.

Ukrainian

УВАГА: якщо ви розмовляєте іншою мовою, вам може бути надана мовна допомога. Зверніться до інформаційно-довідкової служби за номером: (570) 265-9103.

Simplified Chinese

请注意：如果您说英语以外的另一种语言，我们可以为您提供语言帮助服务。请致电 (570) 265-9103。

Traditional Chinese

請注意：如果您說英語以外的另一種語言，我們可以為您提供語言幫助服務。請致電 (570) 265-9103

Arabic

تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث لغة أخرى غير اللغة الإنجليزية، يمكننا توفير خدمات المساعدة اللغوية لك. اتصل بالرقم 570 265 9103

Burmese

သတိပြုရန်- သင်သည် အင်္ဂလိပ် ဘာသာစကား မဟုတ်သော အခြား ဘာသာစကားကို ပြောလျှင် သင့်အတွက် ဘာသာစကား အကူအညီ ဝန်ဆောင်မှုကို ရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။ 1(570) 265-9103 သို့ ခေါ်ဆိုပါ။

Japanese

注意：英語以外の言語を話す場合は、言語支援サービスを利用できるようにすることができます。
電話 (570) 265-9103

Italian

ATTENZIONE: Se parli una lingua che non sia l'inglese, i servizi di assistenza linguistica possono essere messi a tua disposizione. Chiama (570) 265-9103.

Nepali

ध्यान दिनुहोस्: यदि तपाईं अंग्रेजीबाहेक अन्य भाषा बोल्नुहुन्छ भने तपाईंलाई भाषा सहायता सेवा उपलब्ध गराउन सकिन्छ। (570) 265-9103 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्।

Urdu

توجہ دیں: اگر آپ انگریزی کے علاوہ کوئی اور زبان بولتے ہیں تو آپ کی زبان میں مدد کے لیے آپ کو خدمات فراہم کرائی جاسکتی ہیں۔ براہ کرم (570) 265-9103 پر کال کریں۔

Greek

ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ: Εάν μιλάτε άλλη γλώσσα διαφορετική από τα αγγλικά, οι υπηρεσίες γλωσσικής βοήθειας μπορούν να σας διατεθούν. Καλέστε (570) 265-9103.

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Introduction

About Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission

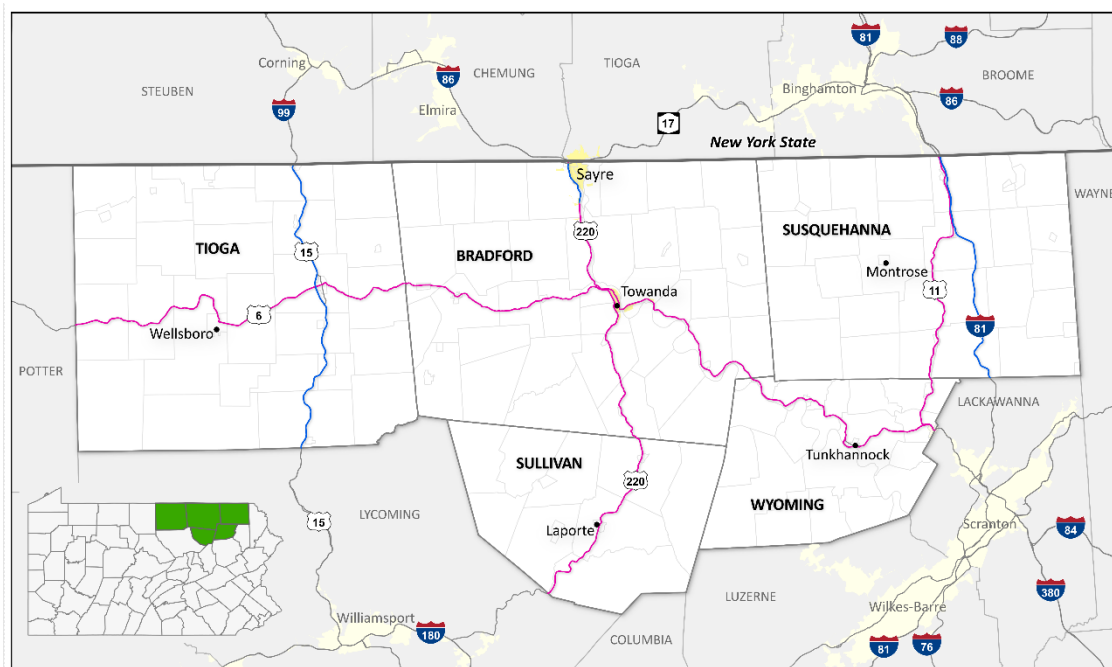
The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC) is one of seven sub-state regional agencies designated as a Local Development District (LDD) by the state and federal governments to enhance economic and community development activities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. NTRPDC's service area encompasses the counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming. The Commission offers a wide range of programs and services, including: business financing, export counseling, government contract assistance, internet and technology assistance, grant writing services, transportation planning, and workforce development.

Under its transportation planning services, NTRPDC serves as the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) for the region's five counties and guides the transportation planning and decision-making process. It works with partners at all levels of government for the ongoing development, maintenance, and operation of the region's multimodal transportation system. Through memoranda of understanding with PennDOT, the NTRPDC and other RPOs in Pennsylvania are held to the same federal transportation planning requirements as the state's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

Regional Overview

The Northern Tier's five-county region includes 166 municipalities and is home to a population of approximately 181,000 people. With a land area of over 4,000 square miles, the region's transportation network includes nearly 7,600 linear miles of public roadways with major corridors including Interstate 81, US 6, US 15, and US 220. Additionally, the region's infrastructure includes over 2,100 bridges, 2 transit providers, 143 miles of railroad, and 3 public use airports.

Figure 1: Northern Tier Regional Position



Northern Tier RPO Organizational Structure

The Northern Tier RPO's activities are guided by a two-committee structure, comprised of the NTRPDC's Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) and the NTRPDC Executive Committee.

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

The RTAC acts as an advisory body on all regional transportation planning activities. Voting membership consists of three representatives from each of the region's five counties, PennDOT Districts 3-0 and 4-0, and PennDOT Central Office. Other regional stakeholders such as transit agency representatives, local municipal officials, and other community groups with interests in transportation and community and economic development in the Northern Tier region are also invited to participate. In addition to the development of major documents like the four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the RTAC is responsible for establishing policy and prioritizing all major capital projects throughout the region in accordance with federal and state regulations as well as other guiding principles for transportation planning and programming.

NTRPDC Executive Committee

The RTAC advises the NTRPDC's Executive Committee on transportation planning initiatives and decision-making. The Executive Committee provides oversight to the strategic direction of the broader NTRPDC organization and also serves as the decision-making body on regional transportation planning processes and programs.

The meetings of both the RTAC and the Executive Committee are open to the public and are held both in-person and virtually over Zoom. Specifically, RTAC meeting dates are advertised in January of each calendar year. Meeting agendas, materials, and minutes for both committees are posted to the NTRPDC website.

What is the Public Participation Plan?

Public participation is described as an effort, plan, or program designed to engage and/or gather input or feedback from the public. It encourages a continuous process, consisting of a series of activities and actions that both inform the public and regional stakeholders as well as to obtain their input on decisions that affect their lives. The Northern Tier RPO's goal for public participation is to provide a reasonable opportunity and means for any member of the public to have input and take part in the transportation planning process. As such, this public participation plan demonstrates the RPO's ongoing efforts to provide timely and meaningful opportunities for public participation in the transportation planning and decision-making process throughout its five-county region in compliance with federal and state regulations, laws, acts, and guidelines. Regulations that require public involvement in the transportation planning processes include, but are not limited to:

- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 23 §450.316
- Presidential Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990
- Executive Order 13166 (Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency)
- Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments)
- Commonwealth Sunshine Law (65 PA C.S. §701-716)

The Northern Tier RPO understands that the ongoing development and maintenance of any transportation system is performed best when the users of the system participate, bringing diversified viewpoints into the process that shapes how transportation investments will be made. To that end, the RPO is performing this update to its Public Participation Plan to expand the reach and increase the effectiveness of its public participation efforts in support of current and future transportation planning and programming within its five-county region.

The outreach strategies outlined in this public participation plan are intended to encompass a full range of public interests. In the case of transportation planning, it is especially important to engage those who may have difficulty accessing essential needs and services, such as jobs, education, healthcare, recreation, and shopping than the greater population. This need emphasizes the importance of meaningful and equitable public involvement.

Meaningful public involvement occurs early in the process and engages a full representation from all communities affected by a plan or program. Equitable access to public involvement opportunities ensures that underserved or overburdened populations are included in the process.¹ The Northern Tier RPO is committed to implementing targeted efforts to identify, seek out, and engage Environmental Justice (minority, low-income) populations and others who may be underserved by the transportation system. Having several options for public engagement can benefit underserved populations who commonly face impediments to public involvement processes due to cultural, economic, and/or linguistic disparities. **Figures 2-6** show the spatial distribution of minority, low-income, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations, as well as concentrations of persons with disabilities in the region.

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) defines “*meaningful public involvement*” as a process that proactively seeks full representation from the community, considers public comments and feedback, and incorporates that feedback into a project, program, or plan when possible.”

¹ USDOT’s Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making, October 2022.

Figure 2: Minority Population Concentrations by Census Block Group

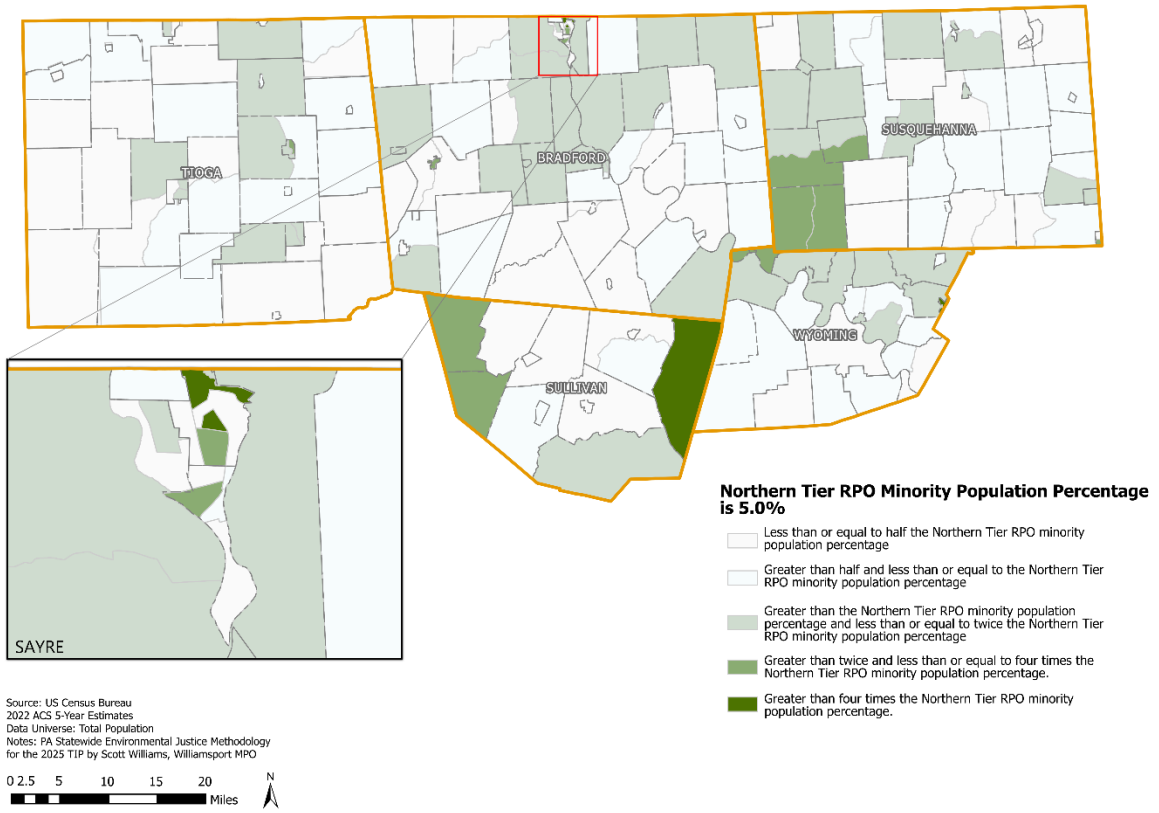


Figure 3: Low Income Concentrations by Census Block Group

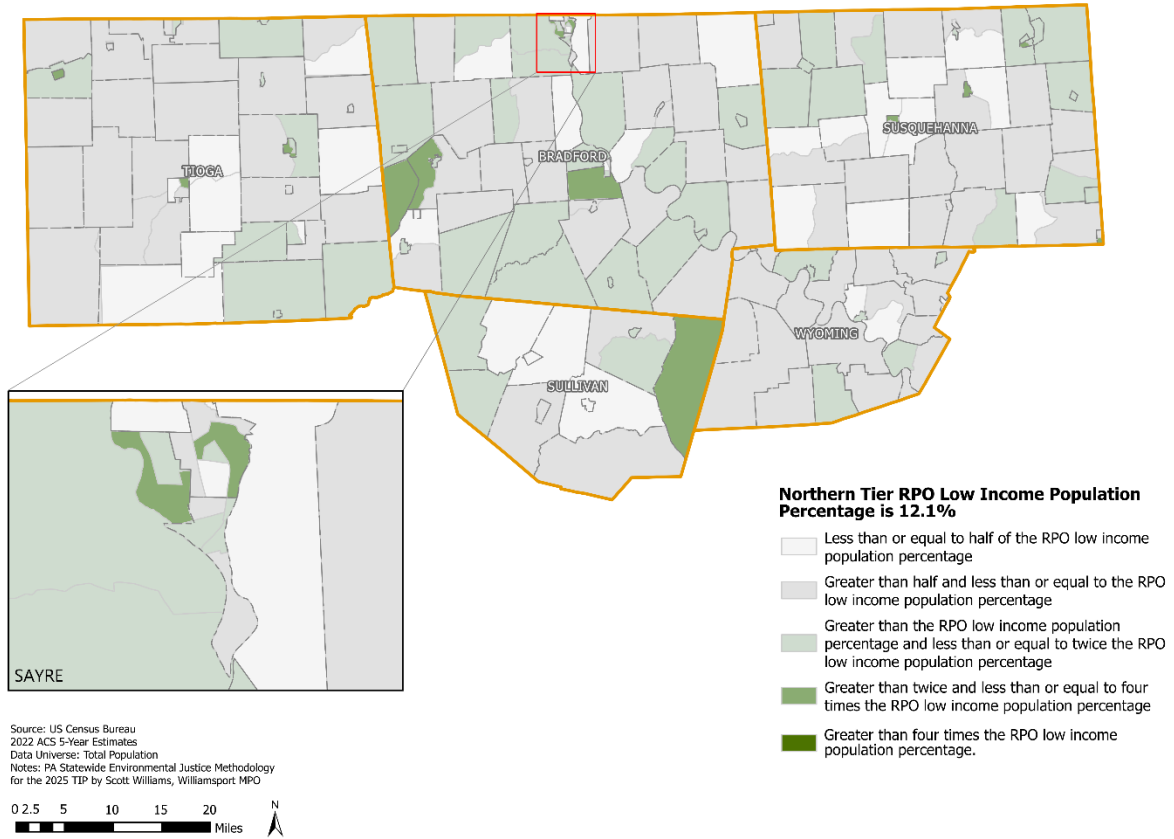
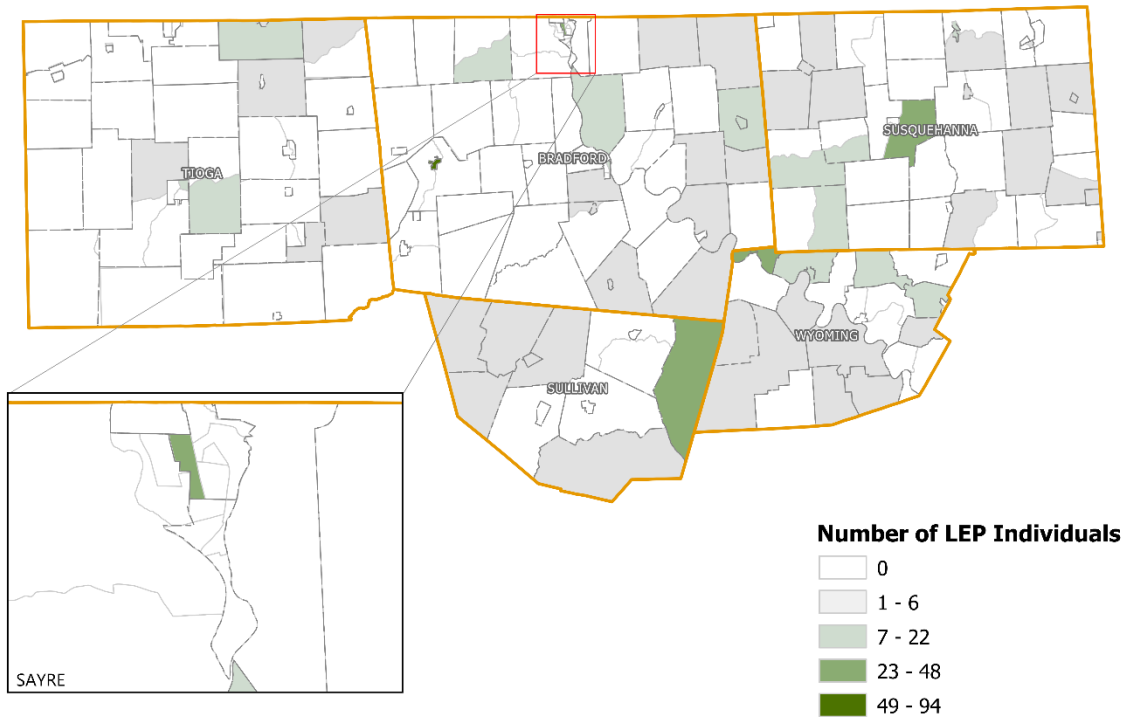


Figure 4: Limited English Proficiency Concentrations by Census Block Group



Source: US Census Bureau
 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates
 Data Universe: Population 5 Years and Older, Speak English "Not Well" or "Not at All"
 Notes: PA Statewide Environmental Justice Methodology
 for the 2025 TIP by Scott Williams, Williamsport MPO

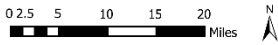


Figure 5: Concentrations of Persons with Disabilities by Census Block Group

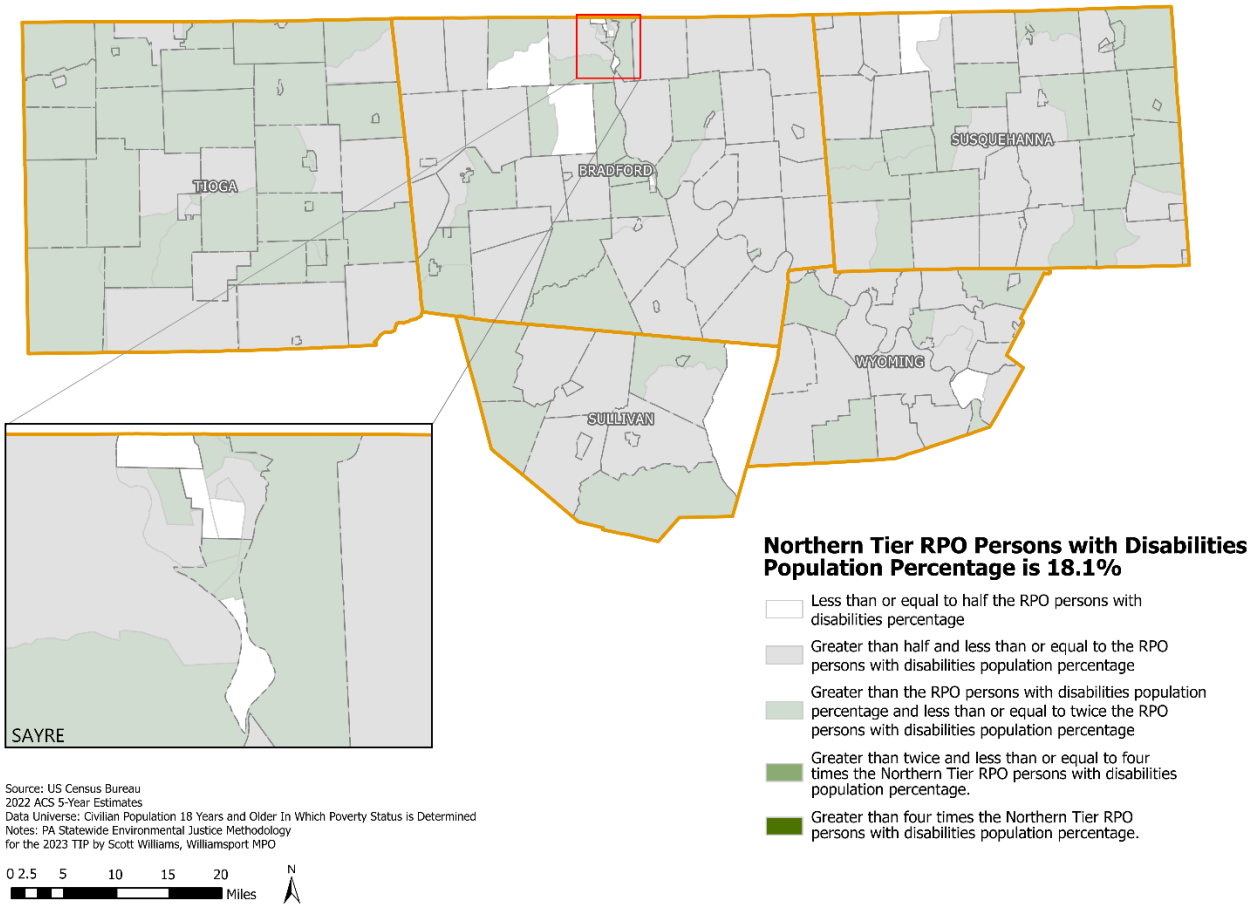
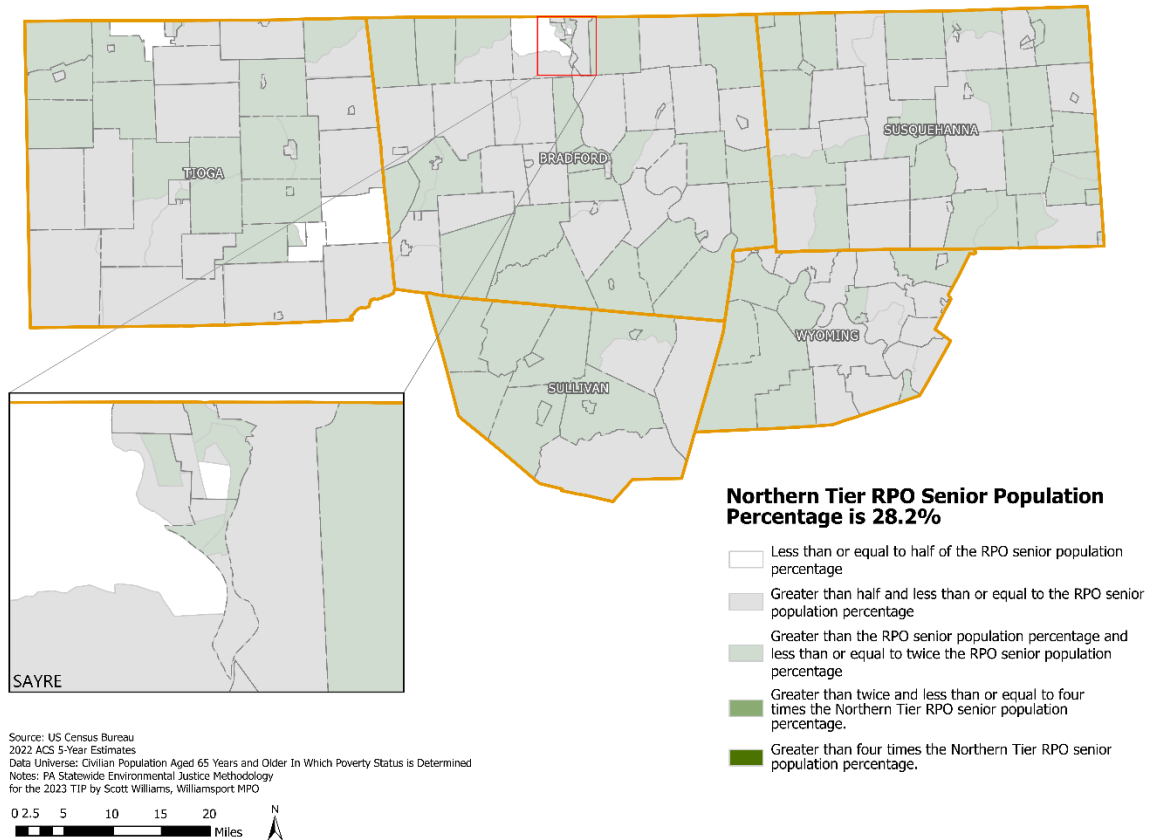


Figure 6: Senior (65+) Population Concentrations by Census Block Group



In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Executive Order 13166, and USDOT’s implementation guidance, the Northern Tier RPO is committed to using outreach strategies and tools that ensure meaningful access to its transportation planning services, information, and other important components of its planning efforts for those who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). The RPO’s framework and targeted strategies for providing access to LEP persons is outlined in its Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, which has been produced as a separate document.

The Northern Tier RPO’s Public Participation Plan (PPP) is viewed as a living document, designed to provide a wide range of tools and resources to assist the public in engaging with the RPO and to provide ample opportunity to provide meaningful input on transportation plans, programs, and initiatives. This PPP is subject to routine evaluation and periodic updates to correspond with the various needs and abilities of communities within the Northern Tier region. These routine evaluations also allow the RPO to expand its public participation and outreach programs to account for new, innovative outreach techniques and technological advancements.

Public Participation Plan Goals

The Northern Tier RPO is committed to a process that is open, cooperative, collaborative, and continuing – also referred to as a “3-C” process - and upholds a priority to ensure the public is involved in regional transportation planning and decision-making processes. This focus on meaningful public involvement continues to be a shared priority with agencies at the federal, state, and local levels since the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991 and continues today through the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021.

The RPO has adopted the following goals to ensure that efforts to provide effective public involvement opportunities and communications clearly demonstrate adherence to federal guidance for public participation (23 CFR 450.316), at a minimum. The specific methods and processes by which these goals will be achieved is further described in the Public Participation Tools, Methods, and Strategies section.

The goals of the Northern Tier RPO’s public participation plan are:

- Provide ample opportunities for public review and input in the development of all planning and programming documents.
- Ensure technical information and notices of public comment opportunities are available in accessible, understandable formats and communicated in a timely manner.
- Ensure efforts are made to gather input from diverse and potentially underserved populations on RPO plans, programs, and activities.
- Demonstrate consideration toward public input received in regard to RPO plans and programs by ensuring members of the public and their views are treated fairly and with respect.

Public Participation Tools, Methods, and Strategies

Overview

There is no “one-size-fits-all” solution to a meaningful public participation strategy. The Northern Tier RPO leverages a range of outreach and communication methods to optimize public involvement as part of all transportation planning processes. This robust list of outreach tools and techniques are intended to raise public awareness of the RPO and its activities, engage with stakeholders and the public at key decision points in the planning process, and provide the public with ample opportunity to comment on draft RPO planning documents.

The RPO reviewed its existing list of public outreach and communication methods as part of the development of this public participation plan and identified areas where modifications could be made to reflect changes that the RPO has made to its public engagement strategy in recent years. This includes the integration of strategies and engagement options, particularly around hybrid and virtual engagement methods. The COVID-19 pandemic required organizations like Northern Tier to leverage new, innovative outreach strategies to engage with the region’s residents virtually in the interest of public health. The United States Department of Transportation also evolved its approaches and guidance to public involvement to include hybrid and virtual options. Many of these strategies continue to be used today as an alternative or additional option to traditional in-person approaches.

This section describes the existing tools and methods that have proven effective within the RPO region as well as new resources that will be explored and/or implemented to extend the reach of the RPO's public involvement efforts. This also includes strategies and initiatives designed to provide more accessible, equal opportunities for members of all social, economic, and diverse groups.

Communication of Technical Information

The Northern Tier RPO remains committed to ensuring public information, technical planning documents, mapping and visual aids, and other informational/graphic explanations are accessible and easy for the public to understand. This includes the use of “plain language” wherever possible and the minimal use of industry acronyms (or use of full term in advance of an acronym for clarity). The use of visualization tools like geographic information systems (GIS) mapping and infographics are helpful in public comprehension of highly technical information, maps, or other supporting documentation.

Focus Groups

Focus groups are a way to host a facilitated discussion with a smaller, more targeted group to gauge public opinion and collect feedback. Focus groups tend to provide a balance of perspectives as individuals who participate in these discussions are usually selected to participate by RPO staff and could include representatives of underrepresented communities and/or local citizens who live in close proximity to a study area or project.

Local Outreach and Meeting Attendance

To remain cognizant of local transportation issues and concerns, the Northern Tier RPO staff (along with other members of NTRPDC staff) will continue to attend meetings and participate in events held by local or regional groups with interest in the transportation network. This participation provides an outlet to share information about the RPO's transportation activities. Northern Tier RPO staff have participated in countywide conventions and other similar events to share information about the RPO's planning activities and gather feedback from local officials on transportation concerns. The RPO also participates in meetings of local chambers of commerce, municipal, and economic development groups.

Other opportunities include meetings of the regional Citizens Advisory Board, which are typically held twice each year. Participants include PennDOT District 4-0, local municipalities, and representatives from the RPO (focused on Susquehanna and Wyoming counties). These meetings have yet to restart since the COVID-19 pandemic, but the RPO will work with other board members to reconvene this group in the near future.

Equipment Shows

Northern Tier RPO staff are also involved with the planning and coordination of two regional equipment shows that are held annually and have historically had participation from over 500 attendees. One show covers Bradford and Tioga counties while the other covers Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. The two equipment shows focus on local municipal needs around the region and provides a platform for RPO staff to gather further input on issues impacting its planning work.



Media Relations

News releases, public notices/legal advertisements, and feature stories are written by the Northern Tier RPO staff and disseminated to appropriate media outlets based on targeted coverage areas. The RPO specifically advertises public engagement opportunities in five newspapers (in both digital and print formats) throughout the region:

- The Daily Review
- The Wellsboro Gazette
- The Sullivan Review
- The Susquehanna County Independent
- The New Age Examiner

With the exception of the Daily Review, all papers listed above have a weekly circulation schedule.

NTRPDC Website

The [NTRPDC website](#) currently serves as the primary digital resource and communication tool to disseminate information related to transportation planning processes and programs. The website was updated in 2024 and includes a dedicated section for the RPO's activities and documents under the Transportation Planning tab. The website is maintained by NTRPDC staff, and the public can access the following information in the [Transportation Planning section](#) of the website:

- An overview of transportation planning and the RPO, including a short summary video
- Repository of RPO documents, such as approved/draft plans and other documents related to local, state, and federal transportation planning and programming.
- RTAC meeting information, including Microsoft Teams meeting links and call-in information, agendas, minutes, and a listing of current members.

The newly updated website, including the Transportation Planning webpage, is mobile friendly, includes translation capabilities into many languages, and is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

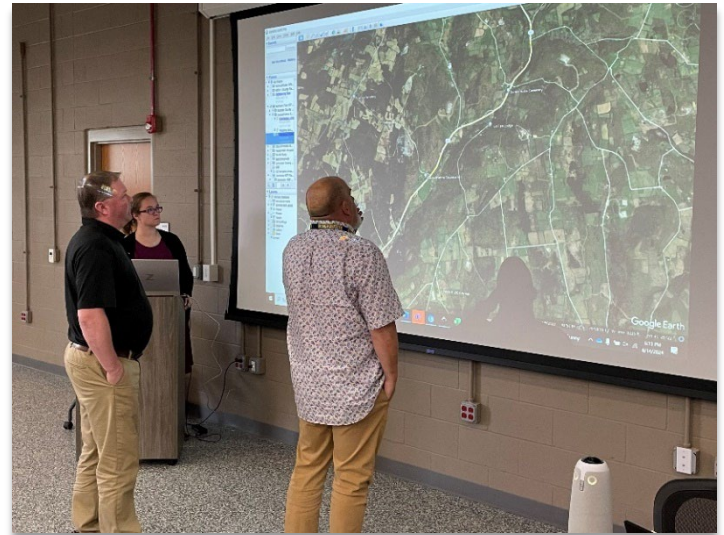
Newsletters

The Northern Tier RPO reports on current planning initiatives and public comment opportunities in a dedicated section of the broader NTRPDC's quarterly newsletter titled "Northern Tier News". When published, the newsletter is distributed to the agency-wide stakeholder list through a Constant Contact email blast. While the public is not directly solicited to subscribe to the NTRPDC newsletter, copies are published on the NTRPDC website's [News and Events page](#).



Open Houses

Open houses are just one public meeting format that the Northern Tier RPO has leveraged in its planning efforts. These meetings are usually follow a more informal structure (compared to a public meeting) and allow for the RPO staff to interact with the public on a small group or one-on-one scale. These events may include short presentations or activities, display boards/maps or other visual aids, feedback forms, and informational handouts. Open houses serve the purpose of informing the public about the RPO's planning program in addition to gathering input on specific plans or programs.



Public Meetings

Virtual Public Meetings

The RPO currently provides online options for public attendance at meetings of its Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) and Executive Board meetings. To accommodate as many communication preferences as possible, the RPO will continue to provide online options for public meetings, when possible. The online option will be made available using Microsoft Teams as the primary platform or through another virtual platform if Teams is unavailable. Providing this option allows the public to participate using their smartphone, computer, or by phone through an audio-conferencing bridge. All online meeting links, identification numbers, and call-in numbers will be included in meeting invitation where the option is provided. The Northern Tier RPO staff will record meeting minutes and prepare formal responses to all oral and/or written comments received during the public meeting.

In-Person Meetings/Procedures

While a significant shift toward virtual public engagement options has occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many agencies have also started to return toward traditional in-person approaches for public meetings or offering “hybrid” options (both in-person and online engagement). In-person public meetings continue to provide an opportunity for the public to hear about and share feedback on the RPO's transportation planning activities.

Public meeting details are planned in advance in order to identify, develop, and create all meeting materials needed to ensure a successful meeting. These materials include advertisements, formal presentations, sign-in sheets, comment/feedback forms (if desired), and securing a meeting location that is both adequate and accessible. Venues for public meetings are determined based on target audiences, project locations, access to public transportation, and ADA compliance, among other factors that can vary. As with online formats, the RPO will record meeting minutes and provide formal responses to all written and oral comments received to demonstrate the influence that public input has on regional transportation processes.

In terms of meeting procedures, the RPO will hold public meetings and comment periods in conjunction with the initial adoption of its core transportation planning documents such as the Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the Public Participation Plan. The RPO may also engage the public through online, in-person, or hybrid meetings as part of other planning initiatives to ensure meaningful opportunities for public input through all aspects of the RPO's business.

All public meeting minutes will be recorded by RPO staff and formal responses will be provided to all comments received throughout the public comment period. Meeting minutes will be published to the NTRPDC website and included as part of specific plan document appendices, as appropriate.

Public Notices

The Northern Tier RPO will advertise its public meeting dates, times, and locations as well as public review and comment period dates as public notices in legal sections of the five newspapers published throughout the region no less than 14 days in advance of the scheduled meeting or comment period. As listed above, these papers include:

- The Daily Review
- The Wellsboro Gazette
- The Sullivan Review
- The Susquehanna County Independent
- The New Age Examiner

An example of a public notice that is used by the RPO to communicate opportunities for comment on transportation planning documents can be found in **Appendix C**.

Public Review and Comment Periods

Federal regulations require a public review and comment period as a critical step in the development of major planning documents, including the Long-Range Transportation Plan (30 days), the Transportation Improvement Program (30 days), and the Public Participation Plan (45 days). These dedicated timeframes intend to provide the public and regional stakeholders on with ample opportunity to provide their input on the RPO's plans and programs.

The Northern Tier RPO uses multiple outreach tools and techniques to engage the public and disseminate information about plan/program updates, including but not limited to:

- Ensuring paper copies of draft documents are available at accessible locations throughout the region for those without internet/computer access.
- Acceptance of comments by mail or e-mail.
- Availability of documents on the NTRPDC website.
- Communication of public input opportunities via media outlets like newspapers, social media, NTRPDC newsletters and webpages in a timely manner.

The RPO will provide and display hard copies of draft planning documents at the following locations:

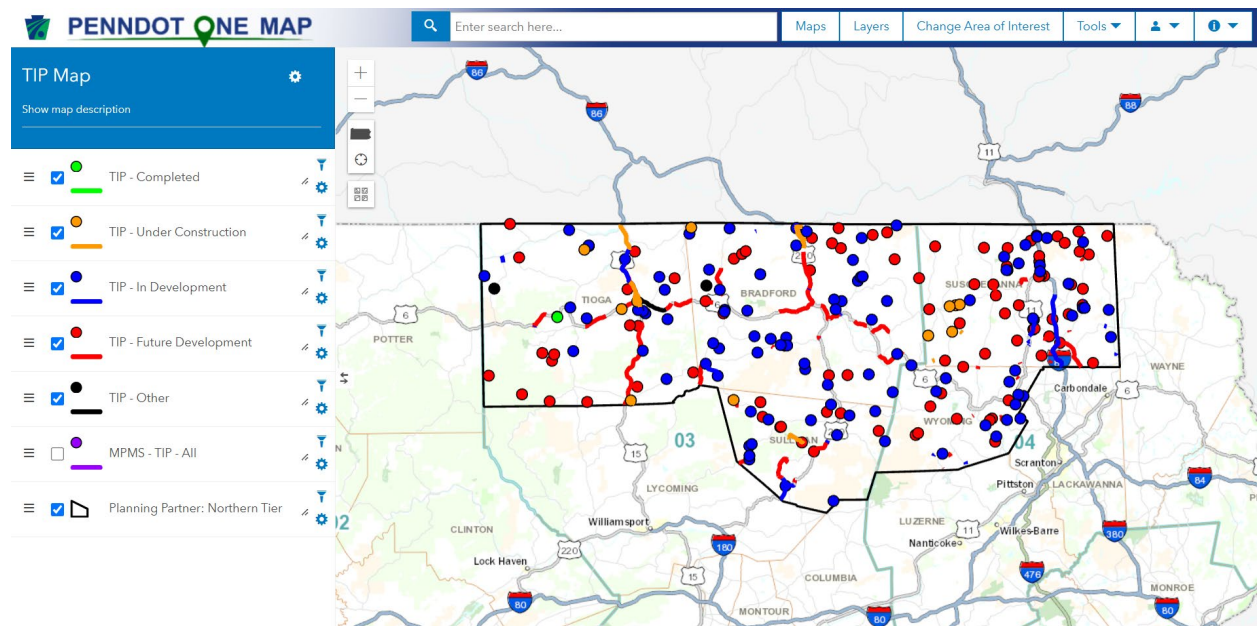
Organization/Agency Name	Address	Location
Bradford County Community Planning & Mapping	29 VanKuren Drive, Suite 1	Towanda
Sullivan County Planning & Development	245 Muncy Street, Suite 110	Laporte
Susquehanna County Planning & Development	31 Lake Ave	Montrose
Tioga County Planning Office	118 Main Street	Wellsboro
Wyoming County Planning Office	1 Courthouse Square, 3 rd Floor	Tunkhannock
Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission	312 Main Street	Towanda

The RPO may identify additional locations based on the content of the plan, local project impacts, and targeted outreach efforts. This could include schools, senior centers, and local libraries. As substantive public comments are received by the RPO on its planning documents and initiatives, the staff will develop formal response letters for transmittal to the individual who provided the comment. These letters can confirm receipt of the comment and describe how their feedback was incorporated into a planning document or influenced the planning process. Additional information on plan-specific public review and comment periods (e.g., length of time, public meeting requirements, etc.) is provided in the “Public Participation Processes and Compliance” section.

Visualization Techniques

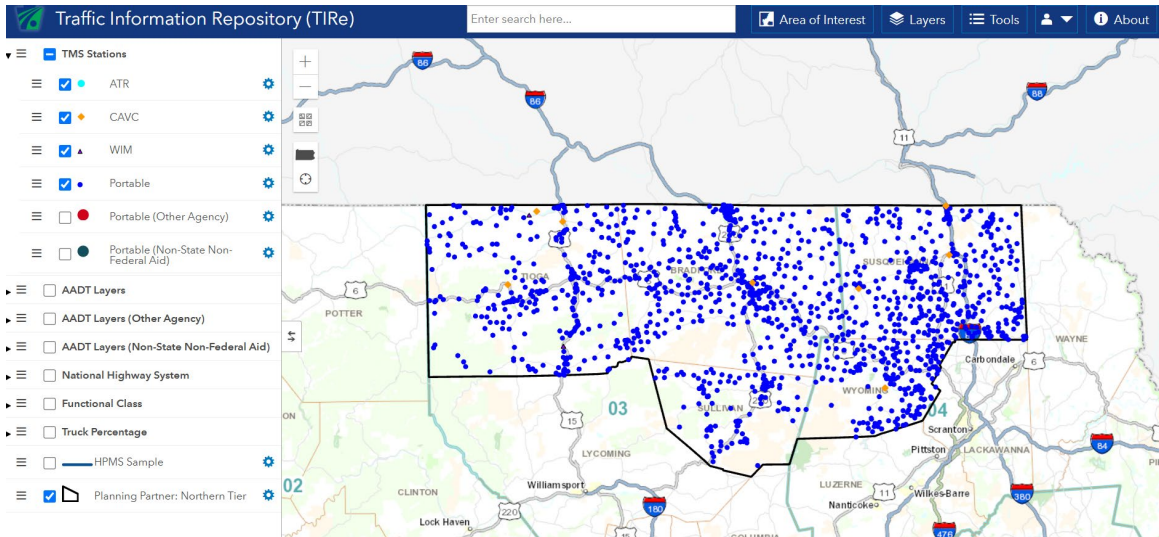
PennDOT OneMap

Serving as a “one-stop shop” tool for transportation data, PennDOT OneMap is a free, web-based mapping application that is available for use by the public, the state’s MPOs and RPOs, and other transportation stakeholders throughout Pennsylvania. PennDOT OneMap can be used to access highway and bridge project information throughout Pennsylvania as well as other transportation-related information such as asset condition data, traffic signal/ITS device locations, and multimodal asset information (e.g., bike lanes, freight rail lines). Users can create their own interactive maps that can help with transportation planning initiatives.



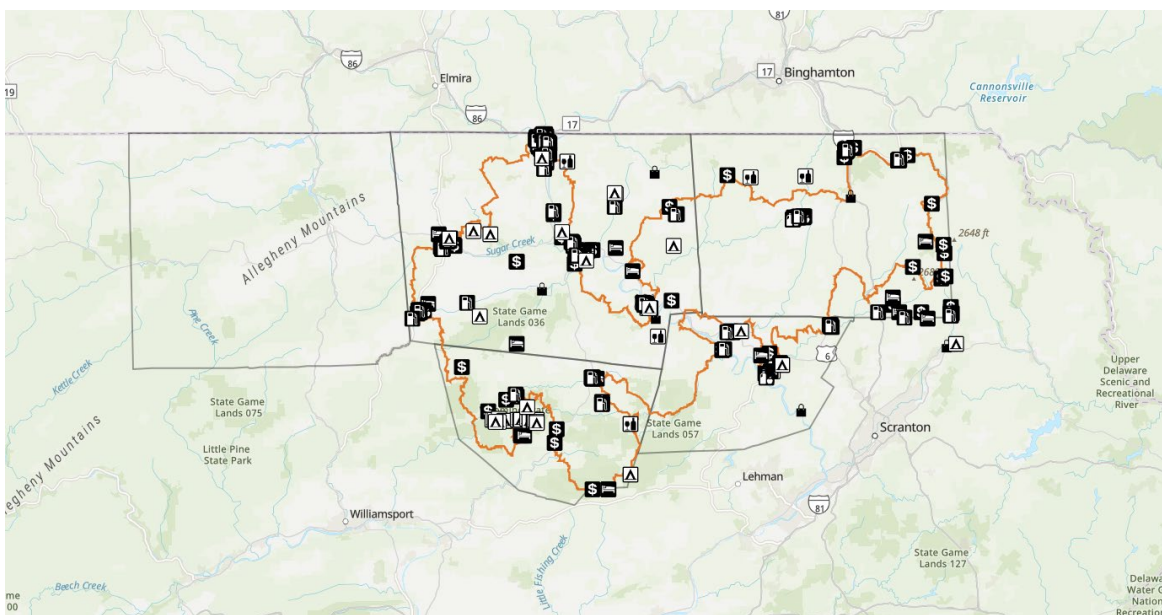
PennDOT Traffic Information Repository (TIRe)

PennDOT's Traffic Information Repository is another web-based application that provides information such as traffic count information, truck traffic volumes, and the location of traffic counter devices. The application provides several interactive base maps and is free to access by the public and transportation stakeholders.



Internal Geographic Information System Tools and Services

The Northern Tier RPO also provides geographic information systems (GIS) services for the region, including the development of maps for in-house plans and programs, such as the long-range transportation plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The RPO's GIS services serve other departments within the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission as well as local businesses and municipal governments. One example of a visualization tool that the RPO developed is an interactive map for the Endless Mountains Gravel Bikepacking Loop, hosted by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. The map provides wayfinding and amenity information along the loop that traverses four of the region's five counties.



Social Media

The use of social media provides a fast, inexpensive way to engage with large audiences and continues to be a strong means in which the RPO can connect with the public. The Northern Tier RPO uses the NTRPDC's social media accounts to disseminate information regarding its transportation planning activities and opportunities for public involvement. These accounts include Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube, all of which appeal to different audiences. In addition to static social media posts on Facebook and LinkedIn, the NTRPDC YouTube channel includes informational videos about each NTRPDC department, including one about the RPO and its core functions. This video is also featured on the RPO's webpage on the NTRPDC website.

Northern Tier RPO encourages public interaction through these outlets; however, it is important to note that the views expressed in the comments reflect those of the author and are not reflective of the views of the RPO.

Stakeholder Listing

The NTRPDC maintains an agency-wide stakeholder listing of over 1,000 contacts, which includes members of the RTAC and local officials from the region's five counties and 166 municipalities. The RPO staff collaborate with other departments within the NTRPDC organization to conduct routine updates to ensure the listing remains current and is reflective of any staff changes that occur at partner agencies or as municipal officials change.

Public Surveys

The RPO also uses public surveys as a means of gathering community input on specific planning activities as they occur. In recent years, public surveys have been conducted online with alternative options available upon request. Several online platforms are available for public surveys, such as SurveyMonkey, Microsoft Forms, and ESRI's Survey123. One example of a regional survey effort was the development of the region's 2045 long-range transportation plan. The RPO used SurveyMonkey to gather public feedback on regional transportation concerns and priorities. These opportunities for input are advertised on the NTRPDC website, through email distribution to RTAC and NTRPDC's stakeholder lists, and on social media.

In addition to surveys developed specifically for the Northern Tier region, the RPO has also received public input through the result of statewide surveys to supplement its own outreach efforts. The Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission (STC) conducts a biennial public survey in developing the state's Twelve-Year Program (TYP). The survey gathers feedback on transportation priorities and concerns. While the survey gathers feedback from across the state, PennDOT staff gather and assess the survey feedback at the MPO/RPO level. Results are made publicly available on the TalkPA Transportation website. The RPO will continue to coordinate with PennDOT and leverage the results of this survey in developing its planning documents, specifically the LRTP. The results of the 2023 survey for the Northern Tier region are included in **Appendix E**.

Virtual and Hybrid Public Participation

Advancements in virtual public engagement were accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic and have since become "commonplace" techniques in the post-pandemic environment. The Northern Tier RPO has continued to adapt and evolve its public participation and outreach techniques in the virtual world as technology continues to evolve. This includes "hybrid" approaches to meetings, which are a combination of in-person and virtual engagement. For virtual and hybrid meetings that are open to the public, the RPO uses Microsoft Teams as its primary digital platform. All meeting links, identification numbers, and call-in

information are made available in meeting advertisements in local newspapers, meeting agendas, and by request to the Northern Tier RPO staff.

Many hybrid meetings and outreach opportunities are hosted in-person at the NTRPDC offices in Towanda. To effectively carry out public meetings in the hybrid format, the RPO has had an opportunity to leverage technology upgrades within its office meeting spaces, including the acquisition and use of an Owl Lab video/audio conferencing system.

In designing its approaches to virtual and hybrid public participation opportunities, the RPO takes several considerations into account, including:

- Availability and advertisement of a call-in option/telephone number for members of the public who wish to attend a meeting, but do not have a computer or access to the internet.
- Ensuring that the process of requesting special assistance, regardless of attendance type, is available and clearly communicated as part of all advertisements (ADA, translation or interpretation needs, etc.)
- Selecting in-person venues for hybrid meetings that are in compliance with ADA and are accessible by transit.
- Providing notice to the public of their protections under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Title VI and Environmental Justice

Overview

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. In addition to Title VI, Executive Order 12898 titled “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” was signed by President Bill Clinton in February 1994, which identified Title VI as one of the laws that should be applied to prevent minority and low-income communities from being subject to disproportionate and adverse environmental effects.

The Northern Tier RPO maintains its own Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan as part of its public participation processes. The plan defines and documents the policies and procedures administered by the RPO and ensures that its plans and programs are in compliance with Title VI and related non-discrimination laws, statutes, and regulations. It also outlines the procedures for any individual to file a complaint if they feel they have been excluded from, denied benefits of, or subjected to discrimination prohibited under Title VI, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and other non-discrimination laws.

Targeted Outreach Strategies

Outreach strategies as defined in the RPO’s Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan were designed to align with this public participation plan and document the RPO’s efforts to engage with individuals that are potentially underserved by the regional transportation system (e.g., minority, low income, zero-car households, seniors, persons with disabilities, etc.). These strategies serve as a “toolkit” and can be employed to improve or expand upon its engagement with these individuals, including:

- Researching and cataloging forums and processes minority/ethnic persons would prefer to discuss transportation planning issues.

- Conducting focus groups with affected communities or groups in smaller settings to inform, educate, and solicit input.
- Establishing partnerships and engage in ongoing dialogue with groups that represent minority, low-income, and other populations that may be potentially underserved by the regional transportation system.
- Seeking opportunities to speak at meetings of groups involving minority, low-income, and other potentially underserved populations.
- Using a range of meeting locations when engaging with the public on a single subject in an effort to reach affected populations and ensuring locations are accessible by transit, biking, and walking.
- Consulting with the region's housing authorities to gain further understanding on where low-income housing populations may be located.
- Providing meeting notices and information at transit stops and on transit vehicles. This could include paratransit and social service vehicles to expand outreach to seniors and persons with disabilities.

Limited English Proficiency Engagement

Overview

In addition to Title VI, Executive Order 13166 prohibits the denial of meaningful access for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons to programs and services receiving federal financial assistance. The RPO maintains a separate LEP plan that establishes a clear strategy to ensure access to its planning and decision-making processes for individuals for whom English is not their primary language and have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. It identifies where these individuals are geographically located, how those individuals may be coming into contact with the RPO's planning activities, and provides action strategies to reduce/eliminate barriers that may be impeding access.

In the Northern Tier region, there is a very small share of the region's population considered to be LEP (0.7%). The most prominent LEP language group in the region is Spanish. The four factor analysis conducted as part of the plan found that LEP populations in the region do not trigger the Safe Harbor provision²; however, the RPO will continue to provide language translations of its planning documents upon request.

Targeted Outreach Strategies

The LEP plan includes language assistance measures that the RPO implements to ensure that LEP populations have meaningful access to its planning processes and initiatives, such as language interpretation and translation, providing notices of language services, and written communications among others. The plan also includes additional strategies the RPO can employ to further expand its outreach to LEP populations, including:

- Inclusion of translated notices as part of legal ads/press releases (language taglines in Spanish)

² The federal Safe Harbor provision is triggered for LEP populations that comprise 5% of the regional population or meet/exceed 1,000 speakers, whichever is less.

- Post the RPO’s notice of language services on the NTRPDC Transportation Planning webpage in text only format for easy translation using the embedded translation widget.
- Coordination with member counties to identify community representatives or organizations that cater to LEP populations to identify the most efficient means of providing translation/interpretation services.
- Increase overall use of visual aids, such as maps and graphics.
- Consider whether LEP populations are literate in English, their native language, or neither.

Transportation Planning Activities

The Northern Tier RPO is responsible for carrying out the transportation planning process for the five-county region, and in doing so, is responsible for regularly updating, amending, and adopting a core set of plans and programs required by federal transportation regulations. The development and update of these plans include opportunities for public comment and feedback. The following summarizes these core documents:

Planning Document or Activity	Current Plan Adoption Date	Next Required Adoption Date	Targeted Completion
Long-Range Transportation Plan	April 2020	April 2025	April 2025
Transportation Improvement Program	June 2024	June 2028	June 2028
Public Participation Plan	December 2016		February 2025
Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan	December 2018		2025
Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	May 2019		2025-2026

Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) sets the vision and priorities for the regional transportation system. It identifies existing conditions/trends, needs, goals, policies, and projects for a minimum 20-year horizon. The plan also sets the direction for transportation/economic investments and decision making, addressing areas such as asset management, network deficiencies, safety concerns, mobility constraints, accessibility limitations, and performance measurement. Developing the LRTP involves coordination with local, state, and federal agencies as well as transportation stakeholders and the public. As of this writing, the RPO’s next LRTP will be adopted in April 2025.

Transportation Improvement Program and Amendments

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the listing of programmed projects within the region and covers the first four-years of PennDOT’s Twelve-Year Program (TYP). The TIP consists of multimodal projects including highway, bridge, and transit projects along with active transportation (bicycle, pedestrian, etc.) and freight-related improvements. It also assigns federal and/or state transportation funds to those projects. While the TIP is updated every two years, it is regularly amended to reflect the current state of the program. TIP amendments address major changes, including the addition or deletion of a project from the TIP or substantial changes to project costs, schedule, design, or overall scope of work. These amendments are reviewed and voted on by the Northern Tier RTAC while administrative modifications are shared for informational purposes.

The Northern Tier RPO is responsible for developing the region's TIP; while PennDOT is responsible for developing the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). PennDOT is also responsible for the Interstate Management TIP, which identifies projects for the Interstate system. The STIP is the official transportation improvement program document mandated by federal regulations and recognized by FHWA and FTA. The TYP is updated every two years as required by state law. FHWA and FTA will only authorize projects and approve grants for projects that are programmed on the current approved STIP.

Public Participation Plan

The Public Participation Plan is the RPO's commitment to ensuring meaningful and equitable opportunities for public participation in the regional transportation planning and decision-making processes. It addresses public outreach tools and resources used by the RPO to effectively engage a broad range of community interests while also ensuring compliance with applicable federal and state transportation planning regulations. The plan is a key component of the broader Title VI Program Document, which also includes the RPO's Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan and its Limited English Proficiency Plan.

Air Quality Conformity Reports and Determinations

As part of its planning activities, notably the LRTP and the TIP, the RPO is required to develop an air quality conformity report and determination in partnership with PennDOT. The Clean Air Act of 1990 (CAA) identifies the actions that states and MPOs/RPOs must take to reduce emissions from on-road mobile sources in nonattainment and maintenance areas. In addition, any regionally significant projects identified in the LRTP should be in sufficient detail to develop cost estimates, including a design concept and design scope description, of all existing and proposed transportation facilities regardless of funding source in nonattainment and maintenance areas under the EPA's transportation conformity rule. In these areas, FHWA and FTA as well as the MPO or RPO must make a conformity determination on any new or revised plan (TIP, LRTP) in accordance with the CAA and other EPA conformity regulations to ensure that projects are not inconsistent with state obligations to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In the Northern Tier region, Tioga County and a portion of Wyoming County are designated as maintenance areas under the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. In the case of the South Coast Air Quality Management District vs. EPA in 2018, the United States Court of Appeals determined that air quality conformity determination is required for areas that are in non-attainment or maintenance for the 1997 ozone standards. Under these designations, the RPO is required to include an air quality conformity determination for any regionally significant projects in these areas as well as the TIP and LRTP in coordination with the Interagency Coordination Group (ICG). Air quality conformity reports are included for public review during the formal comment periods for both the TIP and LRTP.

Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan

The Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan (also known as a "Local Coordinated Plan") aims to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes by ensuring that communities coordinate resources available for public transportation. Coordination of these services enhances overall transportation access, minimizes duplication of services, and facilitates the most cost effective transportation possible with available resources. Federal transit regulations require projects selected for funding under the following FTA programs be derived from a coordinated plan:

- Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program
- Job Access and Reverse Commute Program
- New Freedom Program

MPOs and RPOs are not required to be the lead agency in the development of the local coordinated plan; however, federal guidance states that the coordinated plan may be developed separately or as part of an MPO or RPO's transportation planning process. In any case, the plan must be consistent with the region's transportation planning process. The RPO's most recent plan was developed and adopted in 2018 and an update will be initiated in 2025.

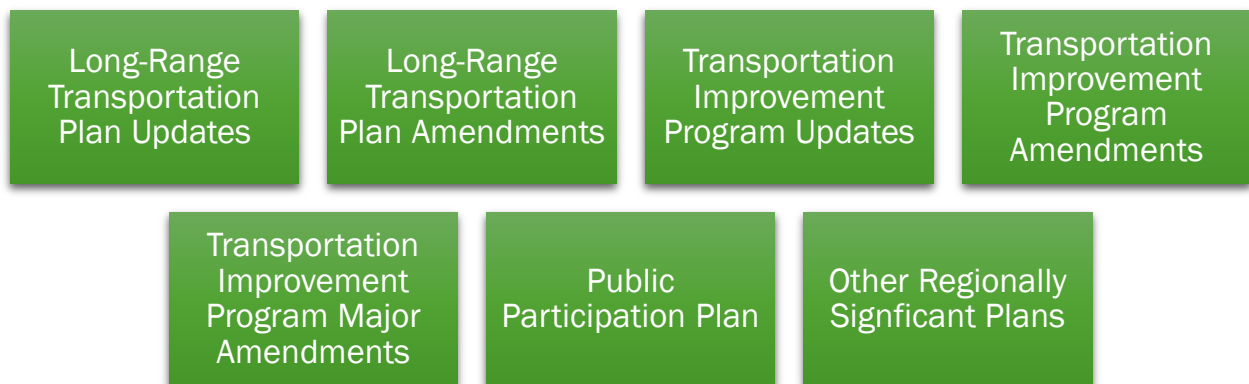
Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The RPO also maintains a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan, which was adopted in 2019. Also known as an "Active Transportation Plan", the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan serves as a comprehensive resource that guides the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of bicycle, pedestrian, and other non-motorized programs, policies, guidelines, and infrastructure improvements. Although a bicycle/pedestrian plan does not require a formal public review and comment period, development of these plans requires extensive community engagement tailored specifically to the needs of those who use these modes – whether it be for recreation, health, or transportation. This could include populations that may be underserved by the existing transportation system or rely heavily on walking, biking, or wheeling to access essential services and employment. The RPO will be undertaking an update of this plan in 2025-2026.

As other regionally significant planning activities occur, the RPO will remain proactive in engaging the public using a variety of methods and techniques to ensure its planning processes remain transparent and accessible.

Public Participation Processes and Compliance

This section contains a series of process "checklists" designed to offer step-by-step public participation guidance in support of specific planning activities conducted by the Northern Tier RPO, including:



Each process includes steps that are generally chronological, although certain elements of each step may happen earlier or later in the process. Statutory or regulatory requirements – such as timeframes for public comment and involvement of FHWA – are provided at their minimum or better values, and their source (federal or state) are indicated, where applicable. The following checklists lay out the key steps of the RPO's public participation process for its core planning documents, plan updates, amendments, and modifications.

Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Updates



The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) serves as the blueprint for making transportation decisions. It sets the policy, vision, and goals used to guide transportation investments, planning, and programming within the Northern Tier region. The following applies to the adoption of a new LRTP or a regular update cycle.

Process

- 1. Review Current Public Participation Plan.**
 - ✓ Conduct a review of the RPO's current Public Participation Plan and appropriate the plan for the LRTP effort or implement an update, as required to comply with new transportation legislation, regulations, executive orders, and guidance.
- 2. Develop and Implement LRTP Public Engagement Strategy.**
 - ✓ Develop and implement a public engagement strategy that is consistent with the RPO's adopted PPP to support the LRTP development.
- 3. Release DRAFT LRTP document for public and agency comment.**
 - ✓ Provide a reasonable opportunity for comment on the plan and all related components (e.g., Air Quality Conformity, Environmental Justice), including a public comment period of 30 calendar days.
 - ✓ Provide DRAFT LRTP document to FHWA and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the public comment period for their review and comment.
 - ✓ Distribute related documents in hard copy by mail or electronically by email to the various Indian Tribes and Nations with interests in the Northern Tier region.
 - ✓ Make document available in an accessible electronic format on the RPO website.
 - ✓ Make document available in a hard copy format at the county government offices and the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission office.
- 4. Notify the public and local agencies with transportation interests of opportunities to comment.**
 - ✓ Publish notifications prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date and at least 14 calendar days prior to the public meeting date. This includes:
 - Legal notices in local newspapers, such as The Daily Review, Wellsboro Gazette, Sullivan Review, Susquehanna County Independent, New Age Examiner, at a minimum.
 - News releases distributed to other newspapers and broadcast media outlets.
 - Interested parties notified via email using the RPO's stakeholder database.
 - Web notification on the RPO webpage in an accessible electronic format.
 - Social media outreach.
 - ✓ Conduct at least one (1) public meeting at an accessible location.
- 5. Conduct inter-agency consultation as required in Pennsylvania.**
 - ✓ Request presentation time at a regularly scheduled Agency Coordination Meeting (ACM); or
 - ✓ Conduct a meeting with representatives from state and local agencies in the RPO region.
- 6. Document and record public participation efforts.**
 - ✓ Compile comments received and provide a formal response to all unique and significant comments. These responses should indicate how the comment was incorporated or why a different approach was taken.
 - ✓ Incorporate all comments and comment responses into the draft LRTP document.
 - ✓ Post comment responses on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format as part of the final, adopted LRTP after adoption.

- ✓ If contact information has been provided, provide summary of comments and responses to those who provided comments within seven (7) calendar days.

7. Provide an additional seven (7) calendar day comment period if the final draft of the LRTP significantly differs from the version that was made available for public comment.

- ✓ Publish notifications prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date and at least 14 calendar days prior to the public meeting date. This includes:
 - Legal notices in local newspapers, such as The Daily Review, Wellsboro Gazette, Sullivan Review, Susquehanna County Independent, New Age Examiner, at a minimum.
 - News releases distributed to other newspapers and broadcast media outlets.
 - Interested parties notified via email using the RPO’s stakeholder database.
 - Web notification on the RPO webpage in an accessible electronic format.
 - Social media outreach.
- ✓ Provide notification (by email) of the additional comment period to interested parties and all those who commented previously (and included an email address) prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date.
- ✓ Provide revised document to FHWA and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the additional public comment period.
- ✓ Distribute related documents in hard copy by mail or electronically by email to the various Indian Tribes and Nations with interests in the Northern Tier region.

8. Adopt the LRTP.

- ✓ The RTAC recommends and the NTRPDC Executive Board approves the Air Quality Conformity Report by vote, followed by adoption of Air Quality Adopting Resolution by vote.
- ✓ The RTAC recommends and the NTRPDC Executive Board adopts the final version of the LRTP by vote at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- ✓ Make the final version of the LRTP available on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format.
- ✓ Post notice of the LRTP adoption to the RPO webpage and social media to raise awareness.
- ✓ Submit final Air Quality Conformity Determination Report and provide copies of final LRTP and related documents to PennDOT and FHWA for approval.

9. Maintain the LRTP.

- ✓ Work with local, state, and federal partners to review the LRTP and identify need for any amendments prior to the next update cycle.

10. Implement the LRTP.

- ✓ Coordinate with PennDOT, county planners, municipal officials, and other transportation stakeholders in the implementation of the LRTP’s action items. Document and track progress.

Things to Remember

- Ensure FHWA and FTA are provided with an opportunity to participate in the LRTP development process.
- Written and oral comments received on the draft LRTP will need to be summarized and documented in the final plan. A response must be generated for comments considered significant.
- The LRTP must conform to all air quality regulations and processes (Tioga and Wyoming counties).

Optional & Non-Required Activities

- At the discretion of the RPO, the RPO staff may meet with local stakeholders, county staff, and county commissioners/other elected officials at their regularly scheduled and advertised meetings.
- Leverage social media and issue a news release upon plan adoption to raise awareness.

Development Summary



Update Schedule

Every 4 Years

*(Include a kickoff meeting
and allow 18-24 months for
development)*



Document Horizon

20+ Years



Public Review Period

30 Calendar Days

*Minimum requirement prior
to plan adoption*



Public Meeting

One (1) meeting

*Minimum requirement prior
to plan adoption*

Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendments



The LRTP may be modified between plan update cycles. Where the update is triggered by a TIP Amendment, the public participation activities may be conducted jointly. The public participation effort should follow more stringent requirements (TIP Amendment or LRTP Amendment). The following applies to modifications that occur between LRTP update cycles.

Process

1. Release the DRAFT LRTP Amendment(s).

- ✓ Provide a reasonable opportunity for comment on the plan and other related plan components (e.g., revised Air Quality Conformity Report, Environmental Justice Assessment), including a public comment period of 30 days.
- ✓ Provide DRAFT LRTP document to FHWA and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the public comment period.
- ✓ Make document available in an accessible electronic format on the RPO website.
- ✓ Distribute related documents in hard copy by mail or electronically by email to the various Indian Tribes and Nations with interests in the Northern Tier region.
- ✓ Make document available in hard copy format in the county government offices and the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission office.

2. Determine the need to provide targeted outreach for project amendments that disproportionately burden populations or concentrations of Minority, In-Poverty, LEP, or Disabled Persons.

**TRIGGER: Burdensome action or project in an area defined by one or both of the following: in a project area where the likely affected Minority, In-Poverty, LEP or Disabled persons exceeds 1,000 persons or in a Census tract where the concentration of Minority, In-Poverty, LEP, or Disabled persons exceeds two times the regional average of that population.*

- ✓ If in an area with a high concentration of LEP persons:
 - Conduct a targeted outreach activity within the project area to engage the affected population.
 - Advertise the activity in the LEP language.
 - Make amendment(s) available in an accessible electronic format on the RPO website in the affected LEP language.
- ✓ If in an area with a high concentration of Minority, In-Poverty, or Disabled persons:
 - Conduct a targeted outreach activity within the project area to engage the affected population.
 - Advertise the activity through at least two (2) agencies, community organizations, or advocacy groups that serve the affected population.
 - Make amendment(s) available in print copy format at the nearest municipal office or relevant agency or community center to the project area for easy access by the targeted population.

3. Notify the public and agencies with transportation interests of opportunities to comment.

- ✓ Publish notifications prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date and at least 14 calendar days prior to the public meeting date. This includes:
 - Legal notices in local newspapers, such as The Daily Review, Wellsboro Gazette, Sullivan Review, Susquehanna County Independent, and New Age Examiner at a minimum.
 - News releases distributed to other newspapers and broadcast media outlets.
 - Interested parties notified via email using the RPO's stakeholder database.
 - Web notification on the RPO webpage in an accessible electronic format.
 - Social media outreach.
- ✓ Distribute related documents in hard copy by mail or electronically to the various Indian Tribes and Nations with interests in the Northern Tier region.

- ✓ Conduct at least one (1) public meeting at an accessible location.
- 4. Document the public participation efforts.**
- ✓ Document the participation activities conducted.
 - ✓ Compile comments received and provide responses to unique and significant comments that indicate how the comment was incorporated or why a different approach was taken.
 - ✓ Post comment responses on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format as part of the final, amended LRTP after adoption.
 - ✓ If contact information has been provided, provide summary of comments and responses to those who provided comments within seven (7) calendar days.
- 5. Provide an additional seven (7) calendar day comment period if the final version of the LRTP significantly differs from the version that was made available for public comment.**
- ✓ Provide notification (by email) of the additional comment period to interested parties and all those who commented previously (and included an email address) prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date.
 - ✓ Provide the draft of the amended LRTP to FHWA and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the additional public comment period.
 - ✓ Distribute related documents in hard copy by mail or electronically to the various Indian Tribes and Nations with interests in the Northern Tier region.
 - ✓ Make document available in an accessible electronic format on the RPO website.
- 6. Adopt the LRTP Amendment(s).**
- ✓ The RTAC recommends and the NTRPDC Executive Board approves the Air Quality Conformity Report by vote, followed by adoption of Air Quality Adopting Resolution by vote.
 - ✓ The RTAC recommends and the NTRPDC Executive Board adopts the final version of the LRTP by vote at a regularly scheduled meeting (open to the public).
 - ✓ Make the final version of the LRTP available on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format.
 - ✓ Post notice of the LRTP adoption to the RPO webpage.
 - ✓ Submit final Air Quality Conformity Determination Report and provide copies of final LRTP and related documents to PennDOT and FHWA for approval.
 - ✓ Make the final version of the LRTP Amendment(s) available on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format.
 - ✓ Post notice of the LRTP Amendment(s) to the RPO website and social media to raise awareness.

Things to Remember

- Ensure FHWA and FTA are provided with an opportunity to participate in the process.
- Amendments and modifications to the LRTP should be processed in coordination with local, state, and federal partners.
- LRTP Amendment(s) must be accessible to those that may be affected by the proposed amendment(s). Targeted outreach strategies to these populations must also be included as part of the public participation process.

Optional & Non-Required Activities

- Upon the discretion of the RPO, the RPO staff may meet with local stakeholders, county staff, and county commissioners/ other elected officials at their regularly scheduled and advertised meetings.
- Engage and form partnerships with community organizations to identify outreach strategies and proactively expand the RPO's reach to populations affected by an LRTP amendment.

Development Summary



Public Review Period

30 Calendar Days

*Minimum requirement prior
to adoption*



Public Meeting

One (1) meeting

*Minimum requirement prior
to adoption*

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Updates



The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a four-year, short-range program that consists of a prioritized list of federally funded multimodal transportation projects within the RPO region. The TIP supports the vision of the LRTP and is updated every two years. The following applies to the regular update of the TIP/STIP and the Twelve-Year Program (TYP) according to the statewide program. These procedures, notice of public involvement activities, and the time established for public review and comment also satisfy the Program of Projects requirements of Section 5307.

Process

1. Release the DRAFT TIP.

- ✓ Provide the public with reasonable opportunity to comment on the DRAFT TIP, including a public comment period of 30 days (minimum).
- ✓ Provide the DRAFT TIP update to FHWA and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the public comment period.
- ✓ Make the DRAFT TIP available in accessible electronic format on the RPO website.
- ✓ Make the DRAFT TIP available in hard copy format at county government offices and the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission office.

2. Notify the public and agencies of opportunities to comment.

- ✓ Publish notifications prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date and at least 14 calendar days prior to the public meeting date. This includes:
 - Legal notices in local newspapers, such as The Daily Review, Wellsboro Gazette, Sullivan Review, Susquehanna County Independent, New Age Examiner, at a minimum.
 - News releases distributed to other newspapers and broadcast media outlets.
 - Interested parties notified via email using the RPO's stakeholder database.
 - Web notification on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format.
 - Social media outreach.
- ✓ Distribute related documents in hard copy by mail or electronically by email to the various Indian Tribes and Nations with interests in the Northern Tier region.
- ✓ Conduct at least one (1) public meeting at an accessible location.

3. Document public participation efforts.

- ✓ Document the participation activities conducted.
- ✓ Compile comments received and provide responses to all unique and significant comments. These responses should indicate how the comment was incorporated or why a different approach was taken.
- ✓ Post comment responses on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format as part of the final, approved TIP.
- ✓ If contact information has been provided, provide summary of comments and responses to those who provided comments within seven (7) calendar days.

4. Provide an additional seven (7) calendar day comment period if the final version of the TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment.

- ✓ Provide notification (by email) of the additional comment period to interested parties and all those who commented previously (and included an email address) prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date.
- ✓ Provide revised DRAFT TIP to FHWA and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the additional public comment period.
- ✓ Distribute related documents in hard copy by mail or electronically to the various Indian Tribes and Nations with interests in the Northern Tier region.

- ✓ Make the revised DRAFT TIP available in an accessible electronic format on the RPO website.

5. Adopt the TIP.

- ✓ The RTAC recommends and the NTRPDC Executive Board approves the Air Quality Conformity Report by vote, followed by adoption of Air Quality Adopting Resolution by vote.
- ✓ The RTAC recommends and the NTRPDC Executive Board adopts the final version of the TIP by vote at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- ✓ Make the final version of the TIP available on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format.
- ✓ Post notice of TIP adoption to the RPO website and social media to raise awareness.
- ✓ Submit final Air Quality Conformity Determination Report and provide copies of final TIP and related documents to PennDOT and FHWA for approval.

6. Maintain the TIP.

- ✓ Work with local, state, and federal partners to process amendments and modifications to the TIP as needed (See TIP Amendments and TIP Administrative Modifications).

Things to Remember

- At least one (1) public meeting is required to present the draft TIP.
- Written and oral comments received on the draft TIP will need to be summarized and documented in the final submission. A response must be generated for comments considered significant.
- The final TIP will be made available on the RPO’s website.

Optional & Non-Required Activities

- At the discretion of the RPO, the RPO staff may meet with local stakeholders, county staff, and county commissioners/other elected officials at their regularly scheduled and advertised meetings.
- Leverage social media and issue a news release upon TIP adoption to raise awareness.

Development Summary



Update Schedule
Every 2 Years



Document Horizon
4 Years



Public Review Period
30 Calendar Days
Minimum requirement prior to TIP adoption



Public Meeting
One (1) meeting
Minimum requirement prior to TIP adoption

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments



An “amendment” to the RPO’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a modification that occurs between TIP cycles but does not trigger a “major amendment”. The following changes qualify as an “amendment” to the TIP:

- Any action affecting air quality conformity regardless of project cost or funding source.
- Adds a new federally funded project or federalizes a project that previously was 100% state and/or locally funded.
- Removes an existing project that utilizes federal funds*
- Adds a new project phase(s), increases a current project phase, deletes a project phase(s), or decreases a current project phase that utilizes federal funds where the modification exceeds \$2 million but does not exceed \$10 million.
- Adds federal funds to a 100% non-federal funded project, exception being projects from Statewide Managed Programs.
- Results in a major change in the scope of work or schedule of a project.
- Creates a new federally funded line item.

**Exceptions that would be handled as Administrative Modifications include: (1) removal of a project that was fully obligated in the previous STIP/TIP and no longer requires federal funding; (2) a project being added from a Statewide Managed Program; (3) a project being added in response to an emergency.*

Process

1. Release the Proposed TIP Amendment(s).

- ✓ Provide the proposed TIP amendment(s) to FHWA and FTA for review.
- ✓ Make TIP amendment(s) available in accessible electronic format on the RPO website.
- ✓ Notify the RTAC of the TIP amendment(s) via the meeting packet distributed prior to committee meetings.
 - The agenda packet with the proposed TIP Amendment is distributed to the RTAC at least one week prior to each scheduled meeting.

2. Notify any interested parties of the TIP Amendment(s) via email.

3. No public review or comment period is required for a proposed TIP Amendment.

4. Adopt the TIP Amendment(s).

- ✓ The RTAC approves the final version of the TIP amendment(s) by vote at a regularly scheduled public meeting.
- ✓ Make the final version of the TIP Amendment(s) available on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format.

Things to Remember

- A TIP amendment does not require a public comment period or a public meeting.
- Advance notice to the RTAC is required for members to review the proposed Amendment(s) ahead of a regularly scheduled meeting.

Development Summary



Public Review Period
Not Required



Public Meeting
Not Required

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Major Amendments



An “major amendment” of the TIP is an interim modification that occurs between update cycles. The following activities qualify as a “major amendment”:

- Flexing highway funds to transit projects.
- Air quality significant amendments proposed to the TIP.
- Candidate projects deemed high profile by the RTAC.
- Adds a new project(s) from a Federal discretionary funding initiative.
- Adds a new project/project phase(s), increases current project phase, deletes a project/project phase, or decreases a current project phase where the modification exceeds \$10 million. Exceptions that would be handled as Amendments include bridge/pavement preservation projects or events requiring Urgent Remedial Measures.

Process

1. Release the Proposed TIP Major Amendment(s).

- ✓ Provide the proposed TIP amendment(s) to FHWA and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the public comment period.
- ✓ Make TIP amendment(s) available in accessible electronic format on the RPO website and in hard copy format at the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission office and county government offices.
- ✓ Notify the RTAC of the TIP amendment(s) via the meeting packet distributed prior to committee meetings.
 - The agenda packet with the proposed TIP Amendment is distributed to the RTAC at least one week prior to each committee’s scheduled meeting.

2. Determine the need to provide targeted outreach for major project amendments that disproportionately burden populations or concentrations of Minority, In-Poverty, LEP, or persons with disabilities.

**TRIGGER: Burdensome action or project in an area defined by one or both of the following: in a project area where the likely affected Minority, In-Poverty, LEP or Disabled persons exceeds 1,000 persons or in a Census tract where the concentration of Minority, In-Poverty, LEP, or Disabled persons exceeds two times the regional average of that population*

- ✓ If in an area with a high concentration of LEP persons:
 - Conduct a targeted outreach activity within the project area to engage the affected population.
 - Advertise the activity in the LEP language.
 - Make the major amendment(s) available in an accessible electronic format on the RPO website in the affected LEP language.
- ✓ If in an area with a high concentration of Minority, In-Poverty, or Disabled persons:
 - Conduct a targeted outreach activity within the project area to engage the affected population.
 - Advertise the activity through at least two (2) agencies, community organizations, or advocacy groups that serve the affected population.
 - Make the major amendment(s) available in print copy format at the nearest municipal office, relevant agency, or community center to the project area for easy access by the targeted population(s).

3. Notify the public and interested parties of opportunities to comment.

- ✓ Publish notifications prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date and at least 14 calendar days prior to the public meeting date. This includes:
 - Legal notices in local newspapers, such as The Daily Review, Wellsboro Gazette, Sullivan Review, Susquehanna County Independent, New Age Examiner at a minimum.
 - News releases distributed to other newspapers and broadcast media outlets.
 - Interested parties notified via email using the RPO's stakeholder database.
 - Web notification on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format.
 - Social media outreach.
- ✓ Conduct at least one (1) public meeting at an accessible location.

4. Document all public participation efforts.

- ✓ Document all public participation activities conducted.
- ✓ Compile comments received and provide responses to all unique and significant comments. These responses should indicate how the comment was incorporated or why a different approach was taken.
- ✓ Post comment responses on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format as part of the final, approved TIP major amendment.
- ✓ If contact information has been provided, provide a summary of comments and responses to those who provided comments within seven (7) calendar days.

5. If the final version of the proposed major amendment differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment, provide an additional seven (7) calendar day public comment period.

- ✓ Provide notification (by email) of the additional comment period to interested parties and all who commented previously (and included an email address) prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date.
- ✓ Provide the revised TIP Major Amendment to FHWA and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the additional public comment period.
- ✓ Distribute related documents in hard copy by mail or electronically to the various Indian Tribes and Nations with interests in the Northern Tier region.
- ✓ Make the revised TIP Major Amendment available in accessible electronic format on the RPO website.

6. Adopt the TIP Major Amendment(s).

- ✓ The RTAC recommends, and the NTRPDC Executive Board approves the Air Quality Conformity Report by vote (if the amendment is air quality significant).
- ✓ The RTAC recommends, and the NTRPDC Executive Board approves the TIP Major Amendment at a regularly advertised and scheduled meeting.
- ✓ Submit approved TIP Major Amendment and all related documentation to PennDOT and FHWA.
- ✓ Make the final version of the TIP available on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format.
- ✓ Post notice of the TIP Major Amendment to the RPO website to raise awareness.

Things to Remember

- A TIP major amendment will require a public comment period and public meeting, which differs from a standard TIP amendment.
- Outreach related to a TIP major amendment may require targeted outreach efforts to Minority, In-Poverty, or LEP populations if the action or project is occurring in an area where these populations exceed 1,000 persons.

Development Summary



Public Review Period

30 days

Minimum requirement prior to adoption



Public Meeting

One (1) Meeting

Minimum requirement prior to adoption

Public Participation Plan



The Public Participation Plan (PPP) serves as the guidebook for how the RPO conducts its public outreach. It outlines the RPO's public participation methods, the strategies for public engagement and outreach, and state and federal regulations regarding public participation. The PPP provides the public with an overview of opportunities to be engaged.

Process

- 1. Conduct a review of the RPO's current Public Participation Plan and Title VI Program Document.**
 - ✓ Review the current PPP with the RTAC and identify the scope of the updates required.
- 2. Implement updates to the Public Participation Plan/Title VI Program Document.**
 - ✓ Determine whether the update will be completed by the RPO staff or if the update will require the help of a consultant or other third party.
- 3. Release the DRAFT PPP for public and agency comment.**
 - ✓ Provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the plan, including a public comment period of 45 days.
 - ✓ Provide the DRAFT Public Participation Plan and associated documents (e.g., Title VI, Limited English Proficiency Plans) to PennDOT's Bureau of Equal Opportunity (BEO), FHWA, and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the public comment period.
 - ✓ Make DRAFT Public Participation Plan available in an accessible electronic format on the RPO website.
 - ✓ Make DRAFT Public Participation Plan available in a hard copy format at the county government offices and the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission office.
- 4. Notify the public and agencies with transportation interests of opportunities to comment.**
 - ✓ Publish notifications prior to the beginning of the public comment period ending date and at least 14 calendar days prior to any public meeting date. This includes:
 - Legal notices in local newspapers, such as the Daily Review, Wellsboro Gazette, Sullivan Review, Susquehanna County Independent, and the New Age Examiner at a minimum.
 - News releases distributed to other newspapers and broadcast media outlets.
 - Interested parties notified via email using the RPO's stakeholder database.
 - Web notification on the RPO webpage in an accessible electronic format.
 - Social media outreach.
 - ✓ Conduct at least one (1) public meeting at an accessible location.
- 5. Document the public participation effort.**
 - ✓ Compile comments received and provide responses to unique and significant comments that indicate how the comment was incorporated or why a different approach was taken.
 - ✓ Incorporate comments and comment responses into the final Public Participation Plan document.
 - ✓ If contact information has been provided, provide summary of comments and responses to those who provided comments within seven (7) calendar days.
- 6. Provide an additional seven (7) calendar day comment period if the final version of the Updated PPP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment.**
 - ✓ Provide notification (by email) of the additional comment period to interested parties and all those who commented previously (and included an email address) prior to the beginning of the public comment period start date.

- ✓ Provide revised Public Participation Plan document to PennDOT’s Bureau of Equal Opportunity, FHWA and FTA for review prior to the beginning of the additional public comment period.
- ✓ Provide notice of the second public comment period and make the revised Public Participation Plan document available in an accessible electronic format on the RPO website.

7. Adopt the Updated PPP.

- ✓ The RTAC recommends and the NTRPDC Executive Board adopts the Public Participation Plan by vote at a regularly scheduled public meeting.
- ✓ Make the Public Participation Plan available on the RPO website in an accessible electronic format.
- ✓ Post notice of plan adoption to the RPO webpage and social media to raise awareness. Notify interested parties through electronic mailings.

8. Implement the Updated PPP.

- ✓ Implement the documented processes for each plan document/update to ensure public participation processes are both compliant. Begin work in implementing strategies that make the transportation planning and decision-making processes more accessible and meaningful to the public. Document the actions taken in implementing these strategies.
- ✓ Evaluate the PPP every two years and document the findings of this evaluation.

Things to Remember

- A 45-day public review and comment period is required for updates of the PPP.
- At least one (1) public meeting is required to present the draft PPP.
- Written and oral comments received on the draft plan will need to be summarized and documented in the final submission. A response must be generated for comments considered significant.
- The final plan will be made available on the RPO’s website.

Optional & Non-Required Activities

- At the discretion of the RPO, the RPO staff may meet with local stakeholders, county staff, and county commissioners/elected officials at their regularly scheduled/advertised meetings.
- Leverage social media upon PPP adoption to further raise awareness of ways to get involved in transportation planning processes.
- Conduct targeted engagement activities to gather feedback on strategies that are most effective within the draft PPP from Minority, Low-Income, LEP, and Disabled Persons.

Development Summary



Update Schedule
3 years, with periodic updates as needed



Document Horizon
Continuous



Public Review Period
45 Calendar Days
Minimum requirement prior to plan adoption



Public Meeting
One (1) meeting
Minimum requirement prior to plan adoption

Other Regionally Significant Plans

The Northern Tier RPO values public input on other regionally significant plans and programs that impact the transportation system; but may not require a formal public review and comment period (e.g., bicycle and pedestrian plan, coordinated transit-human services plan). When developing these plans, the RPO will develop an outreach plan and use a variety of methods, tools, and techniques to ensure that the public is meaningfully engaged and receives adequate opportunity to provide feedback. This could include public meetings, open houses, or surveys, among others. The RPO will also employ targeted outreach strategies to populations that may be underserved by the regional transportation system, such as minority, low-income, and LEP populations and persons with disabilities.

Evaluation of the Public Participation Plan

The Northern Tier RPO will facilitate a review of this public participation plan (and its broader Title VI program document) every two years. The findings of this review will be documented for inclusion in future updates to the plan and therefore, improve the quality of the RPO's public participation activities on a routine basis. The documentation of these evaluations may include listings of planning activities completed, accomplishments, and milestones achieved by the RPO. The process in which public participation and outreach activities are carried out are ultimately tailored and varied to support specific planning activities, as documented in the previous Public Participation Processes and Compliance section. Evaluations of the public participation plan and the broader Title VI program document are also timely, as Title VI program document updates are required to be submitted to PennDOT every three years.

Appendices

Appendix A: RPO Membership (2024)

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mr. Matt Williams

Bradford County

Mr. Doug McLinko

Bradford County Commissioner

Mr. Rick Biery

Bradford County (retired)

Mr. Bob Getz

Sullivan County (retired)

Mr. Brian Hoffman

Sullivan County Commissioner

Mr. Fred Jugan

Sullivan County (Retired)

Mr. Sam VanLoon

Tioga County Commissioner

Mr. Marc Rice

Tioga County Commissioner

Mr. Al Quimby

PenTeleData

Ms. Lynnelle Bennett Farber

Wyoming County

Mr. Thomas Henry

Wyoming County Commissioner

Ms. Jean Ruhf

Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau

Mr. David Darrow

Susquehanna County Commissioner

Mr. Jack Conroy

Township Supervisor

Mr. Alex Comar

Township Supervisor

Mr. Justin Batiuk

PennDOT Central Office

Mr. Chris King

PennDOT District 3-0

Mr. Steve Fisher

PennDOT District 4-0

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission Executive Board

Mr. Brian Hoffman*

Sullivan County Commissioner

Mr. Daryl Miller**

Bradford County Commissioner

Mr. Ernie King**

Wyoming County Commissioner

Mr. David Darrow***

Susquehanna County Commissioner

Mr. Shane Nickerson****

Tioga County Commissioner

Mr. Zachary Gates

Bradford County Commissioner

Mr. Doug McLinko

Bradford County Commissioner

Ms. Darlene Fenton

Sullivan County Commissioner

Mr. Scott Myers

Sullivan County Commissioner

Mr. John Richlin

Fish Real Estate

Mr. Alan Hall

Susquehanna County Commissioner

Ms. Judy Herschel

Susquehanna County Commissioner

Mr. Joe Ferretti

Peoples Security Bank & Trust Co.

Mr. Marc Rice

Tioga County Commissioner

Mr. Sam VanLoon

Tioga County Commissioner

Mr. James Nobles

North Penn Comprehensive Health Services

Mr. Rick Wilbur

Wyoming County Commissioner

Mr. Thomas Henry

Wyoming County Commissioner

Mr. Mike Narcavage

Southwestern Energy

Mr. Jason Krise

First Energy (At Large Member)

**Chairperson*

***Vice-Chairperson*

****Secretary*

****Treasurer*

Appendix B: Municipalities by County

Bradford County	
Townships	Boroughs
Albany	Alba
Armenia	Athens
Asylum	Burlington
Athens	Canton
Burlington	LeRaysville
Canton	Monroe
Columbia	New Albany
Franklin	Rome
Granville	Sayre
Herrick	South Waverly
LeRoy	Sylvania
Litchfield	Towanda
Monroe	Troy
North Towanda	Wyalusing
Orwell	
Overton	
Pike	
Ridgebury	
Rome	
Sheshequin	
Smithfield	
South Creek	
Springfield	
Standing Stone	
Stevens	
Terry	
Towanda	
Troy	
Tuscarora	
Ulster	
Warren	
Wells	
West Burlington	
Wilmot	
Windham	
Wyalusing	
Wysox	
Sullivan County	
Townships	Boroughs
Cherry	Dushore
Colley	Eagles Mere
Davidson	Forksville
Elkland	Laporte
Forks	
Fox	
Hillsgrove	

Laporte	
Shrewsbury	
Susquehanna County	
Townships	Boroughs
Apolacon	Forest City
Ararat	Friendsville
Auburn	Great Bend
Bridgewater	Hallstead
Brooklyn	Hop Bottom
Choconut	Lanesboro
Clifford	Little Meadows
Dimock	Montrose
Forest Lake	New Milford
Franklin	Oakland
Gibson	Susquehanna Depot
Great Bend	Thompson
Harford	Uniondale
Harmony	
Herrick	
Jackson	
Jessup	
Lathrop	
Lenox	
Liberty	
Middletown	
New Milford	
Oakland	
Rush	
Silver Lake	
Springville	
Thompson	
Tioga County	
Townships	Boroughs
Bloss	Blossburg
Brookfield	Elkland
Charleston	Knoxville
Chatham	Lawrenceville
Clymer	Liberty
Covington	Mansfield
Deerfield	Roseville
Delmar	Tioga
Duncan	Wellsboro
Elk	Westfield
Farmington	
Gaines	
Hamilton	
Jackson	
Lawrence	
Liberty	
Middlebury	
Morris	

Nelson	
Osceola	
Putnam	
Richmond	
Rutland	
Shippen	
Sullivan	
Tioga	
Union	
Ward	
Westfield	
Wyoming County	
Townships	Boroughs
Braintrim	Factoryville
Clinton	Laceyville
Eaton	Meshoppen
Exeter	Nicholson
Falls	Tunkhannock
Forkston	
Lemon	
Mehoopany	
Meshoppen	
Monroe	
Nicholson	
North Branch	
Northmoreland	
Noxen	
Overfield	
Tunkhannock	
Washington	
Windham	

Appendix C: Example Legal Advertisement or Notice

PUBLIC REVIEW NOTICE

The Northern Tier Regional Transportation Improvement Program document includes the major capital highway, bridge and transit projects that are proposed for the federal fiscal years 2025 through 2028 for **Bradford, Sullivan Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming Counties**.

The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation invite the citizens of the region to review this document. This document will be available for a 30-Day Public Review and Comment period beginning **Thursday, May 9, 2024** and continuing through **Friday, June 7, 2024**. Copies of this document are available for review online at www.northerntier.org.

Written comments will be accepted **on or before June 7, 2024** and can be mailed to:

Mr. Brian Baker
NTRPDC
312 Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848

For more information on the Northern Tier RPO's Title VI program and the procedures to file a complaint, please contact Bonnie Warner, Workforce Quality Specialist, by phone at 570-265-1513, by email at warner@northerntier.org or by visiting Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission at 312 Main Street, Towanda, PA 18848. If information is needed in another language, please call 570-265-1513.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

For the Adoption of the Northern Tier Regional Transportation Improvement Program

A **Public Meeting/Microsoft Teams meeting** will be held **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**, to receive comments and questions related to the 2025 through 2028 Northern Tier Regional Transportation Improvement Program. This Public Meeting/Conference Call will be held from **10:00 AM till 11:00 AM, Wednesday, May 22, 2024 via Microsoft Teams.**

The onsite Public Meeting will be held at the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Conference room from **10:00 AM till 11:00 AM, Wednesday, May 22, 2024** at:

**123 Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848**

Contact Brian Baker at baker@northerntier.org or 570-265-1540 to receive the Microsoft Teams information to participate in the meeting.

Contact: Mr. Brian Baker
NTRPDC
312 Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-1540 or (888) 868-8800

For more information on the Northern Tier RPO's Title VI program and the procedures to file a complaint, please contact Bonnie Warner, Workforce Quality Specialist, by phone at 570-265-1513, by email at warner@northerntier.org or by visiting Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission at 312 Main Street, Towanda, PA 18848. If information is needed in another language, please call 570-265-1513.

**Appendix D: Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, Limited English Proficiency
Plan Public Meeting Presentation**



Public Participation, Title VI, Limited English Proficiency Plans

Public Meeting

January 22, 2025

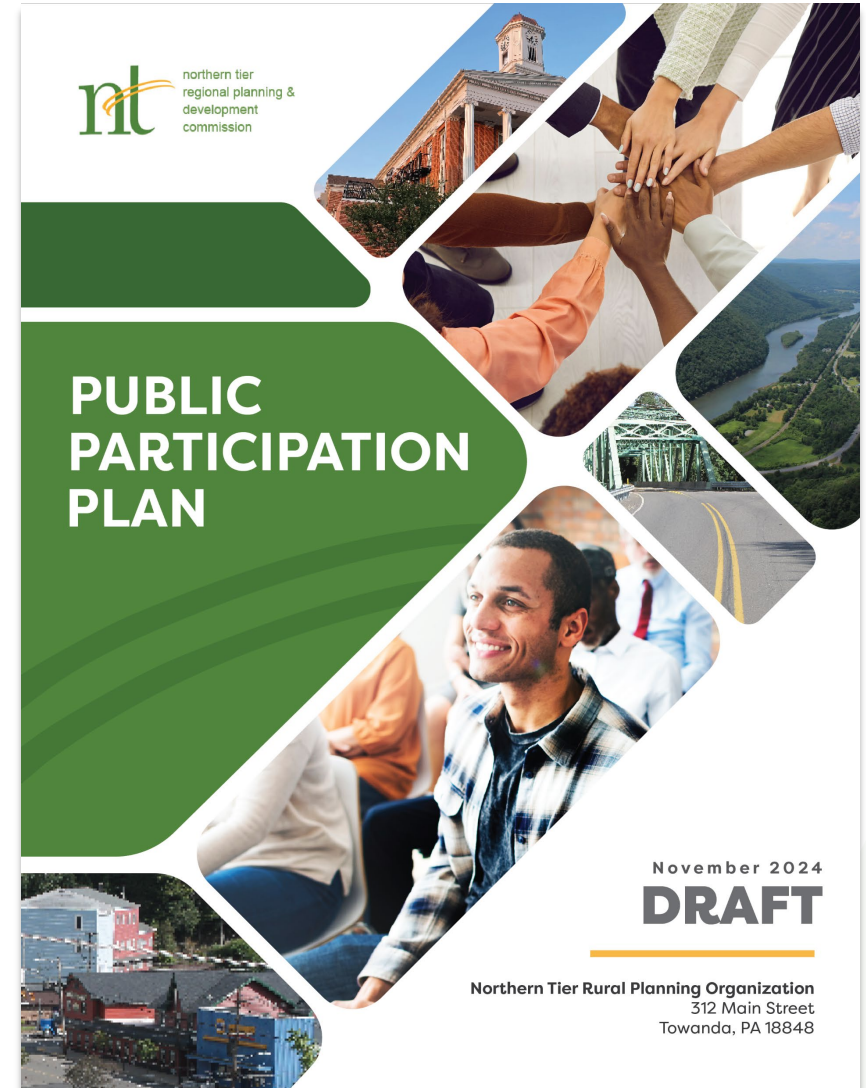
Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Three Plan Updates

- 1 Public Participation Plan (PPP)** – A playbook for timely and meaningful opportunities for public involvement
- 2 Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan** – Documents the efforts the RPO undertakes to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations outlined in Title VI and other non-discrimination regulations
- 3 Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan** – Establishes a clear strategy that ensures meaningful access to the RPO's planning and decision-making processes by LEP individuals

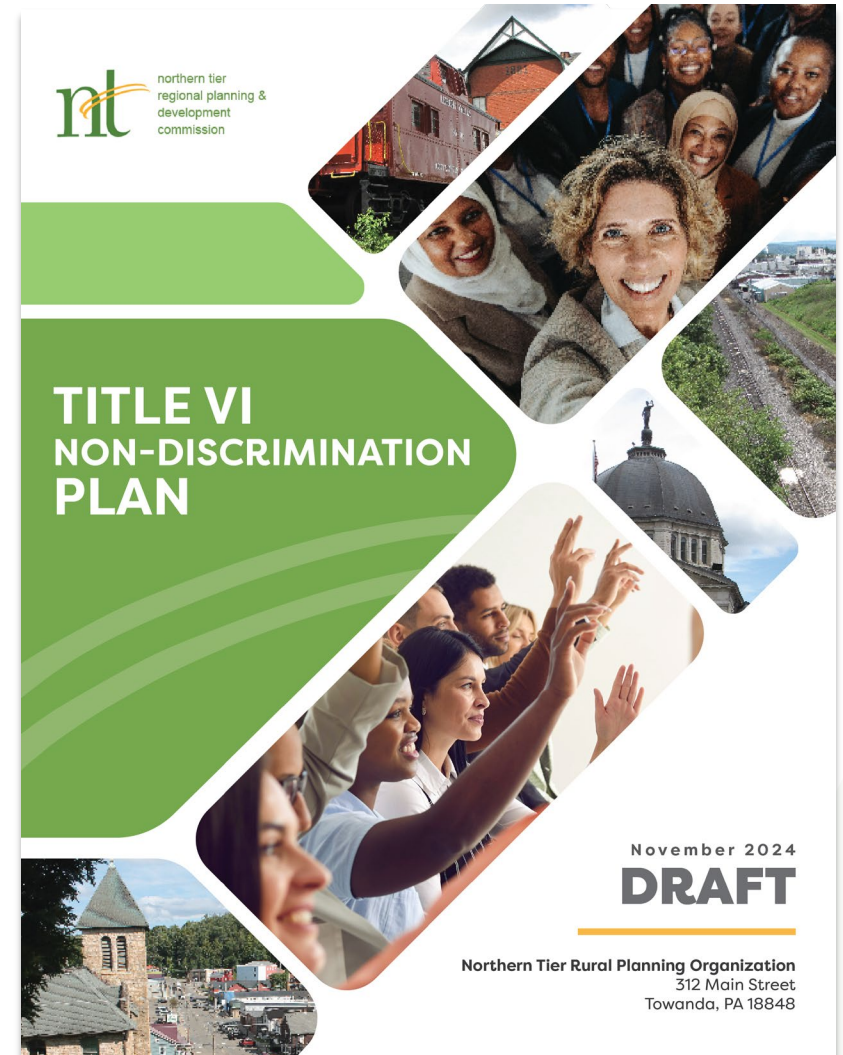
Notable PPP Updates

- Updated demographic information
- Refines/adds new public engagement strategies to reflect latest outreach techniques used by the RPO
- Updated information on virtual engagement
- Process checklists for major planning initiatives



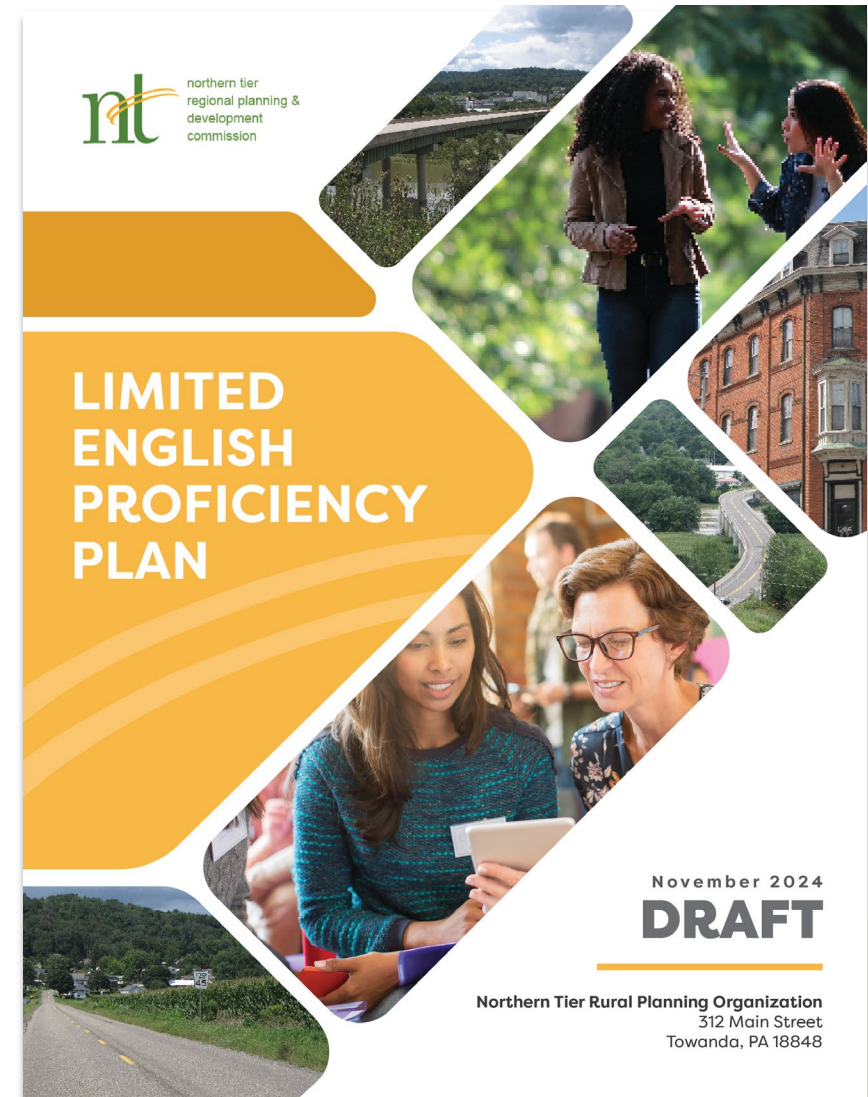
Notable Title VI Plan Updates

- Addresses changes in language interpretation services
- Includes new action strategies for increased accessibility/transparency in the RPO's Title VI Program
- Updated outreach tools and strategies to improve program access
- Linkage to the public participation plan



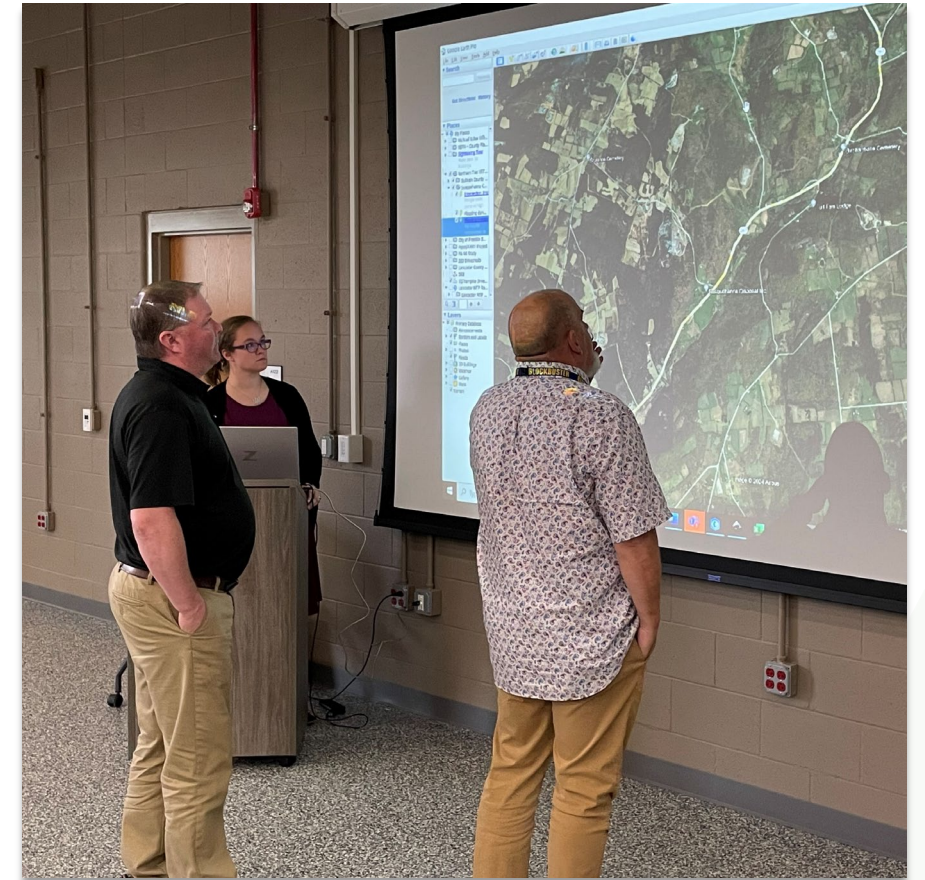
Notable LEP Plan Updates

- Conducted a four-factor analysis
- Developed a “Notice of Language Services”
- Offers updated language assistance measures and strategies
- Addresses changes in language interpretation services



Public Review and Comment Period

- 45-day public review and comment period
December 13, 2024 – January 27, 2025
- Public meeting:
Wednesday, January 22 at 10:00am
NTRPDC Conference Room
- Draft plans will be made available on the RPO's website



Contact Information



Brian Baker

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission
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Brett Voloshin

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission
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Brian Funkhouser, AICP

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Danyel Patrick

Michael Baker International
Email: danyel.patrick@mbakerintl.com

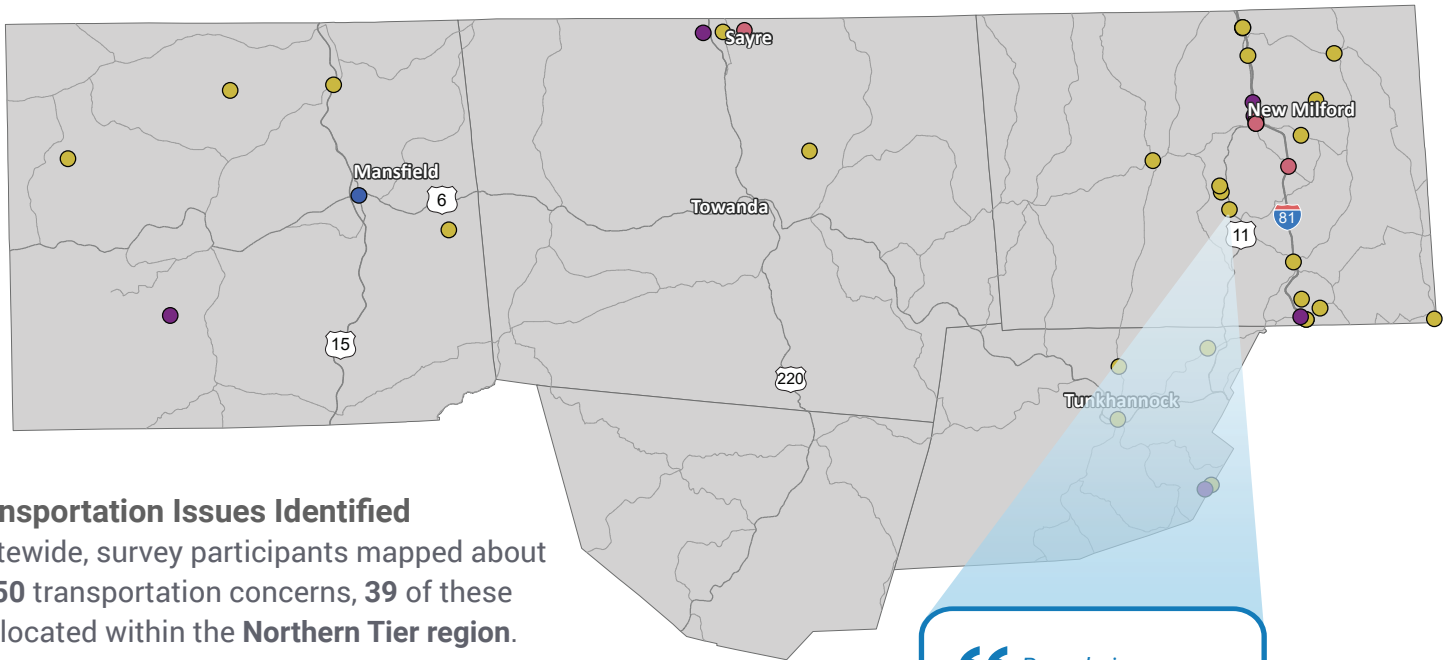
Appendix E: 2023 STC Survey Summary for the Northern Tier Region



State Transportation
 Commission

A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR REGION

The State Transportation Commission held a 60-day Public Comment Period for the 2025 12-Year Program (TYP) Update from March 1, through April 30, 2023. The public was invited to provide input through taking the Transportation Survey and participating in an Online Public Forum. The Online Public Forum, held on Wednesday, April 12, was broadcasted on a webinar platform with a call-in option, and on Facebook Live. The public could also request assistance to participate in the Survey or Public Forum by contacting PennDOT’s Program Center by email or phone. All public feedback received was reviewed and compiled to convey current transportation priorities and trends statewide and regionally for the benefit of the Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations (MPOs and RPOs) across the commonwealth.



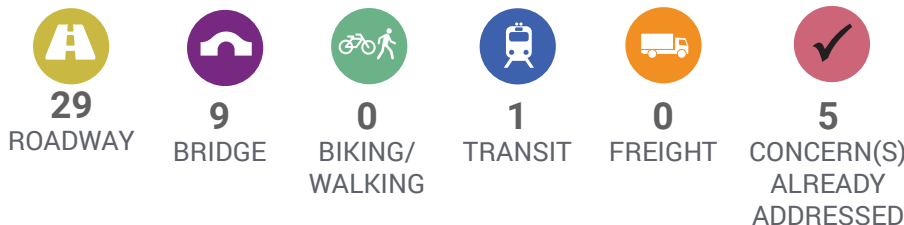
Transportation Issues Identified

Statewide, survey participants mapped about **4,250** transportation concerns, **39** of these are located within the **Northern Tier region**.

During the mapping exercise, some survey participants discovered their concerns were already addressed by projects on the 2023 TYP. See the map and data below for more details.

Number of Issues Identified

The icons below correspond with the same color dots on the map.



“ Poor drainage results in frequent ice in intersection. ”
 Local Survey Participant

Examples of a 2023 TYP Project that Addressed Public Concerns

- SR 11, SR 492, SR 848 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT
- POTTER ROAD TO NEW YORK LINE RESURFACE
- I-81 EXIT 219 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT

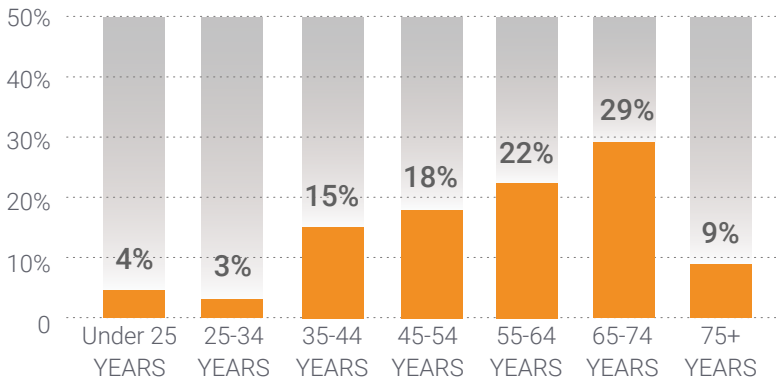


ABOUT THE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR REGION

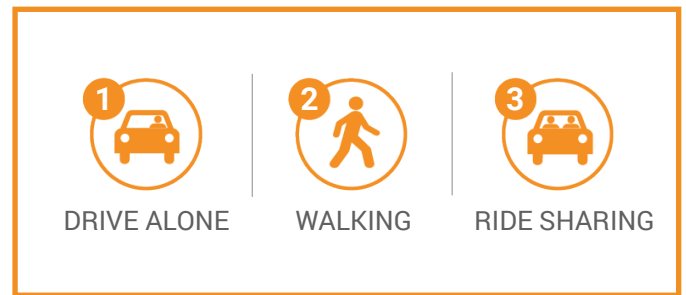
Over 10,000 individuals participated in the survey statewide, and **80** of the survey participants identified with the **Northern Tier region** through feedback provided. Learn more about the participants from this region.

Male	36	51%
Female	32	46%
Third gender/Nonconforming	0	0%
I prefer to self-describe	0	0%
I prefer not to answer	2	3%

Age



Top Transportation Modes



Transportation Priorities Ranking

- ROAD PAVEMENT**
Repairing, restoring, reconstructing, and maintaining Pennsylvania's 120,000 miles of state and local roadways to improve your travel
- BRIDGES**
Repairing, replacing, and maintaining Pennsylvania's 31,000 state and local bridges
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY**
Specific, prioritized investments in reconstructing Pennsylvania's 1,868 miles of interstate highway
- TRAFFIC FLOW**
Using technology to improve traffic flow and construction of new roads and additional travel lanes to safely move people and goods more efficiently
- FREIGHT**
Modern highways, railways, airports, and waterways to support the economy and ensure the efficient movement of goods and services
- WALKING**
Accessible and connected routes to get you where you need to go safely
- PASSENGER RAIL**
Intercity and commuter rail service across Pennsylvania with out-of-state connections
- AVIATION**
Modern facilities, operations, and a wide range of commercial airline choices at airports
- BICYCLING**
Safe bicycle routes and facilities throughout the commonwealth to get you where you need to go
- TRANSIT**
Accessible and timely public transportation that covers an extensive service area and crosses regions