



Board Meeting Minutes – APPROVED

Date: April 27, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Berks County Commissioners Meeting Room and Virtual (Zoom)

Authority Board Attendees

- Marian Moskowitz (Chair)
- Tom DiBello (Vice Chair)
- Christian Leinbach
- Eddie Moran
- Stephanie Henrick
- Scott France
- Pamela Menet
- Matthew Edmond

Authority Board Absentees

- Peter Urscheler

Other Attendees

- Thomas Frawley (Executive Director)
- Dan Becker (Solicitor)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Marian Moskowitz. Technical adjustments were made to ensure members of the public were properly connected via Zoom.

2. Adoption of Minutes: The March 23, 2026 Board Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Scott France moved, Matthew Edmond seconded, and with no opposition, the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Berks County Welcome: SRPRA Board member and Chair of the Berks County Commissioners, Christian Leinbach, welcomed everyone, expressed his excitement about the progress that has been made to-date, and cited the cooperation among the three counties and three communities as a key contributor to that progress.

4. City of Reading Welcome: SRPRA Board member and Mayor of the City of Reading, Eddie Moran, welcomed everyone saying that the project was about more than transportation; it's about opportunity and economic growth and reconnecting with the region. Mayor Moran reinforced the contributions of all levels of government. He highlighted the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) efforts of the City and the importance of walkable neighborhoods.

At the conclusion of Mayor Moran's welcome, Commissioner Leinbach expressed thanks to Pamela Menet and Veronica Lepore for organizing today's in-person meeting.

5. City of Reading Development Update: David Barr, Director of Community Development for the City of Reading, presented information regarding zoning changes in the City including the Transit Oriented Development overlay and the CRIZ, and regarding a variety of projects under way and planned. Mr. Barr reported that he has focused on the City's five largest and most recent planning documents to advance them into implementation, and on creating a business-friendly environment by streamlining development processes and seeking to attract development that would bring jobs to the City.

6. Berks County Visitors Bureau Update: Heather Zimmerman, President of the Berks County Visitors Bureau, described the opportunities for tourism that the passenger train would bring to the City and County, primarily by expanding the geographic reach of local attractions.

7. Board Member Comments: Commissioner Moskowitz introduced staff members from our Congressional Delegation. Tasha Isaac of Congresswoman Houlihan's office and Madison Colaco of Congressman Dan Meuser's office attended in-person; Sabrina McLoughlin of Senator Fetterman's office and Chris Quinn of Senator McCormick's office attended virtually. All four staff members provided supportive statements.

Commissioner Leinbach recognized Jim Boscov, CEO of Boscov Stores which is headquartered in Reading, and invited him to speak. Mr. Boscov thanked Commissioner Leinbach and noted that he was attending today as Chair of the non-profit organization Our City Reading. He shared plans that the organization had prepared for a climate-controlled "sky bridge" between the Santander Arena and the Doubletree Hotel, characterizing it as a critical element in attracting conferences and conventions to Reading. He expressed optimism that this improvement could lead to as many as 20 large events annually, creating significant local economic activity, and complementing the passenger rail project and generating rail ridership.

8. Public Comment on Agenda Items: No public comments regarding the agenda were received; two comments were submitted but were deferred to be addressed under Agenda Item 15. General Public Comment.

9. Committee Reports

Finance Committee: In the absence of Committee Chair Mayor Urscheler, Executive Director Frawley provided the Finance Committee Report. Mr. Frawley reported that the Committee did not meet in April due to scheduling confusion and lack of a quorum, necessitating the Committee's business be brought directly to the Authority Board. He also reported that the annual contributions from Berks and Montgomery Counties for 2026 remain outstanding.

Regarding bills, Mr. Frawley reported that since the March Committee meeting, four routine monthly bills totaling \$208.41 were auto-paid and required ratification, and three routine monthly invoices totaling \$12,679.25 were received and required approval. The current account balance was reported as \$490,324.79, with a projected balance of \$477,645.54 upon payment of the outstanding invoices. Commissioner DiBello moved, and Mayor Moran seconded, to ratify bills already paid and to approve and pay bills received and due, and the motion passed unanimously. Updates were also provided regarding SRPRA's original LSA grant, specifically noting that the requested grant term extension beyond June 30, 2026 was still under consideration, and regarding SRPRA's coordination with the Borough of Pottstown in pursuit of the current round of the PA DCED Intermodal Grant Program.

Mr. Frawley reported that the 2025 audit had been completed by Maillie LLP, and that audit was included in the meeting packet. Commissioner Leinbach moved, and Commissioner DiBello seconded, to approve the audit and to authorize the Executive Director to file it with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Frawley also explained that the Finance Committee meetings scheduled for July and September will fall a week and a half before the monthly Authority Board and proposed that these two meetings be rescheduled one week later to take place on the Wednesday preceding the Authority Board meeting. Matthew Edmond moved, and Commissioner Leinbach seconded, to reschedule the July and September Finance Committee meetings, and to advertise the change as is required.

Personnel Committee: No activity to report.

10. CIDP Update and Current Outlook

Mr. Frawley reported that SRPRA continues to await moving into FRA CIDP Step 2, and continues to advance in-house efforts to prepare preliminary versions of selected Step 2 deliverables including the Project Management Plan, Statement of Purpose & Need, Methodology Memoranda, and the Route Options Analysis for the segment between Bridgeport and Philadelphia. He added that these efforts, combined with FRA's proposed process changes, are expected to significantly reduce the duration of Step 2. Mr. Frawley also reported that he met virtually on April 20 with Ryan Judge (Deputy Chief Planning Officer) and Joe Clemmons (Manager of Strategic Planning and Analysis) of SEPTA to discuss SRPRA's draft Route Options Analysis; SEPTA agreed to review the draft Analysis and provide feedback by mid-May in anticipation of further, more detailed discussions. Lastly, Mr.

Frawley reported the long-awaited Amtrak MOU arrived April 24 and was found to require only a minor revision to the first recital to make the reference to the purpose of the Authority align accurately with the revised purpose language included in SRPRA's amended Articles of Incorporation, whereby its operating authority was explicitly expanded beyond the three incorporating Counties to other counties within the Commonwealth and to other states. Mr. Frawley also confirmed that the MOU provides for Amtrak to prepare the ridership forecast, revenue forecast, and operating and maintenance cost estimate without charge to SRPRA, as originally agreed. The corrected MOU is expected in early May.

11. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Frawley began his report by reiterating last month's call to advocacy for reauthorization of the federal surface transportation bill, as the current Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law expires September 30. He recognized the efforts of the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and others, and emphasized the importance of reauthorization, which would include continued funding for passenger rail including the SRPRA project.

Mr. Frawley next reported on SRPRA's LSA grants. DCED action is still pending regarding the requested extension of the term of the first LSA grant beyond June 30, 2026. Regarding the second LSA grant, a letter was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor outlining the requirement to comply with prevailing wage law for work funded by the LSA grant; a response was transmitted clarifying the scope of the LSA grant as being limited to professional services for planning, and not subject to prevailing wage law.

Mr. Frawley reported that he continues to coordinate with and support the Borough of Pottstown's pursuit of a PA DCED Intermodal Grant, and participated in a meeting with the Borough and DVRPC on April 24. It was also noted that the Tri County Chamber of Commerce invited SRPRA to conduct its October in-person Board meeting in their offices at the Philadelphia Premium Outlets in Sanatoga, nearby Pottstown. Lastly, Mr. Frawley reported that Union Pacific steam locomotive 4014, one of the group of 25 built in 1944 that are the largest locomotives ever built, will be in the Reading area in June and in Philadelphia during the Independence Day celebrations. Commissioner Leinbach commented that Reading, Blue Mountain & Northern would be hosting the locomotive and would be operating trips on their railroad with their own steam locomotive 2102. Mr. Frawley said that information would be posted on the SRPRA website as it is received and verified.

12. Marketing Team Report

Ms. Menet began her report by reinforcing the importance of advocacy for reauthorization of surface transportation act funding, and identifying SRPRA's outreach to the regional business community in that regard. She noted that the primary near-term focus of the Marketing Team continues to be on awareness and providing proactive responses to routinely received questions.

13. Planning Team Report

Mr. France reported on the Planning Team's efforts to contribute to the development of CIDP Step 2 deliverables, notably the route options analysis and the draft statement of purpose and need. He

provided an update on DVRPC nearing completion of its nearly two-year long station area planning study for Pottstown, and their plans to hold a public workshop in Pottstown on May 12.

14. Other Business

Mayor Moran suffixed his welcoming remarks with information regarding upcoming events in the City of Reading, most notably the Cinco de Mayo (May 5) celebration that will include over 60 food vendors, and the FIFA watch party events, which will include concerts and other activities.

15. General Public Comment

Two on-line comments were received. The first was from an anonymous party and was not accepted in accordance with SRPRA policy. The second was from Sabrina McLaughlin of Senator Fetterman's office, who reiterated her thanks for inviting her to participate, and Senator Fetterman's ongoing commitment to the SRPRA project. One in-person comment was received from local resident Marcia Lowe who shared her experience using the train between Reading and Philadelphia while in college, and made a request that her 80th birthday in 2030 be a target date for the new service to begin.

16. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner DiBello and seconded by Matthew Edmond. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned. Commissioner Moskowitz then announced that the Board would meet in Executive Session in Commissioner Leinbach's office, to be briefed by the Executive Director Frawley regarding coordination among SRPRA, Norfolk Southern and FRA, timing of SRPRA advancement into FRA CIDP Step 2, and near term funding strategies.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2026 at 3:00 PM and will be conducted virtually.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Frawley
Executive Director