



### **Problem Identification**

The Upper Bucks County area does not have any fixed route public transportation options. SEPTA's Regional Rail service was discontinued in the early 1980's. This lack of public transportation has had a significant impact on residents' options for commuting and has hindered business development as companies seek employees for their businesses. The Upper Bucks area exhibits a full range of land uses including higher-density, mixed-use development in the older boroughs, and fragmented, small-scale, lower-density residential development in the surrounding townships. The nine municipalities are home to over 58,000 residents in 2018 and are projected to have over 68,000 residents by 2045 according to DVRPC's population projections.

The study area has a robust commercial sector, with most of this development existing along Route 309. Quakertown Borough has seen some redevelopment in recent years and is poised to continue that trend. Milford Township has had several large scale developments including St. Luke's Hospital along Route 663. East and West Rockhill are fairly rural, with some low density residential uses. Richland Township has large areas of industrial development. The area has robust highway system including Route 309, Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-476), Route 313, and Route 663.

### **Scope of Work**

Bucks County Planning Commission staff will oversee the project, provide assistance to the consultant, McMahon Associates, Inc. and provide for grant administration. Staff will coordinate project steering committee, coordinate public meetings, identify potential funding sources and assist McMahon with report development.

McMahon is expected to complete the following main tasks:

1. **Background Information:** McMahon will examine existing conditions through analysis of travel demand patterns, attractions and destinations, large employers, residential density and the use of existing and projected demographics. They will work with steering committee to determine local public transportation needs and conduct a field tour of study area.
2. **Alternatives Analysis:** Identify potential bus routes alternatives including typical fixed route bus service operated by SEPTA or some other agency and a circulator service similar to the Doylestown DART. In addition, potential connections to the Lehigh Valley area via LANTA and connections to

Perkasie and Sellersville areas will be investigated. Evaluate each alternative in terms of potential ridership and operational costs.

3. **Operating costs:** McMahon will identify potential operating costs based upon alternatives developed.
4. **Public Outreach:** McMahon will participate in public meetings.
5. **Feasibility Report:** McMahon will prepare final report based on feedback from the Study Executive Committee with final recommendations for implementation, if deemed feasible.

The purpose of the study is to determine whether or not public transportation can be provided in this area at reasonable cost. Obviously, a public transportation system would benefit local residents and businesses and has a direct connection to the transportation network. Public transportation typically improves safety for riders, and improves quality of life for those residents who don't have access to other commuting alternatives. It is also a positive impact on economic development in a community since more potential employees and customers now have improved access to businesses and other community facilities.

#### **Public Outreach**

The project will be led by Bucks County Planning Commission with project direction being provided by a steering committee comprised of the following: Bucks County Transportation Management Association, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority, Quakertown Borough Economic Adviser, Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce, Richlandtown Borough, Richland Township, Quakertown Borough, Milford Township, Trumbauersville Borough, East Rockhill Township, West Rockhill Township, Perkasie Borough and Sellersville Borough. Two public meetings will be conducted during the study, with potential open house format meetings during regular municipal scheduled public meetings. Display boards will be provided, along with staff to answer questions. The study results will also be presented at the Bucks County Planning Commission Board Meeting.