



# State Transportation Commission (STC) Public Comment Cluster Analysis

2025-2028 SEDA-COG MPO TIP






February 2024

## State Transportation Commission TYP Public Comment Data

Every two years, the State Transportation Commission (STC) hosts a public comment period from March to April for the purpose of updating the *Twelve-Year Program* (TYP). During this time, the public is given the opportunity to complete an online survey or partake in a virtual public meeting to share their transportation-related priorities and concerns with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). An online mapping component is included where the public can plot points on a webmap to supplement their thoughts. Thousands of georeferenced comments are submitted by the public during each TYP cycle, which are then made available on the Talk PA Transportation website.

Public comments are grouped into one of five categories based on their general theme: (1) biking/walking, (2) bridge, (3) freight, (4) roadway, and (5) transit.

**Table 1. State Transportation Commission Public Comment Categories**

CATEGORY		DESCRIPTION
	Biking/Walking	related to bicycle/pedestrian active transportation or recreation
	Bridge	related to local or state-owned bridges
	Freight	related to freight transport (rail, road)
	Roadway	related to roadway conditions (repairs, congestion, etc.)
	Transit	related to public transit (passenger rail, bussing, etc.)

This spatial data collection effort conducted by the STC is used by Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations (MPOs and RPOs), such as the SEDA-COG MPO, to inform plan update processes. The *Pennsylvania 2025 Transportation Program General and Procedural Guidance* document notes that MPOs and RPOs should consider public comment when selecting projects to develop

the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)- a list of planned projects and funding assignments over the first four-year period of a given TYP.

**SEDA-COG MPO Regional Public Comment Data Overview**

Based on the combined outreach efforts of the 2021 (2023-2026 TIP) and 2023 (2025-2028 TIP) STC TYP transportation public comment periods, **261 comments** identified priorities and concerns about transportation features located in the SEDA-COG MPO region; 108 comments were submitted in 2021 and 153 comments were submitted in 2023.

**Table 2. SEDA-COG MPO Transportation Public Comments Overview**

<b>DATASET</b>	<b>MPO COMMENTS</b>	<b>%</b>
2021 STC TYP Transportation Survey	108	41.4%
2023 STC TYP Transportation Survey	153	58.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>100%</b>

Union County received the most comments for any of the eight member counties located in the SEDA-COG MPO region with 150 comments (57.5% of the total comments within the region), followed by Northumberland County (30 comments), and Columbia County (23 comments). Clinton County received the least with only 3 comments over the two survey periods.






The five PennDOT District 3-0 member counties received 235 comments (90.0% of the total comments within the region). The three PennDOT District 2-0 members counties received 26 comments (10.0% of the total comments within the region). On average, PennDOT District 3-0 member counties received more comments than PennDOT District 2-0 member counties, with 47.0 and 8.7 average comments per district member county respectively.

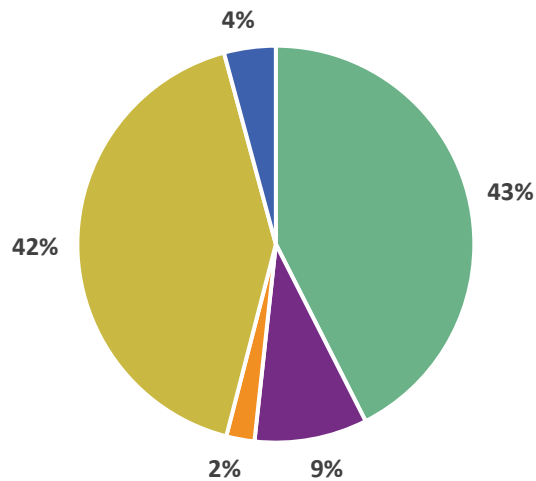
**Table 3. SEDA-COG MPO Transportation Public Comments by Member County**

<b>PennDOT District 2-0</b>		<b>PennDOT District 3-0</b>	
<b>MEMBER COUNTY</b>	<b>COUNT</b>	<b>MEMBER COUNTY</b>	<b>COUNT</b>
Clinton	3	Columbia	23
Juniata	7	Montour	17
Mifflin	16	Northumberland	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	Snyder	15
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>8.7</b>	Union	150
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>235</b>
		<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>47.0</b>

Most of the comments identified transportation concerns related to biking and walking (111 comments- or 42.5% of the total comments), followed closely by roadway issues (109 comments- or 41.8% of the total comments). Bridge, transit, and freight related transportation concerns combined for the remaining 41 comments (15.7% of the total comments).

**Table 4. SEDA-COG MPO Transportation Public Comments by Category**

CATEGORY		COUNT
	Biking/Walking	111
	Bridge	24
	Freight	6
	Roadway	109
	Transit	11
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>261</b>



### **Public Comment Cluster Analysis**

After the conclusion of the 2023 TYP six-week public comment period, State Transportation Commission public comment datasets were made available to the transportation planning partners as *Microsoft Excel* documents. SEDA-COG MPO obtained the datasets for the 2021 and 2023 comment periods and merged them into one dataset. Based on their original dataset, comments were categorized as belonging to the 2023-2026 TIP comment period (2021) or the 2025-2028 comment period (2023). Additionally, each comment was studied and then assigned a topic based on its described transportation thought. For example, a public comment pertaining to the widening of PA 61 in the City of Shamokin would be assigned a topic of “PA 61 Congestion.”

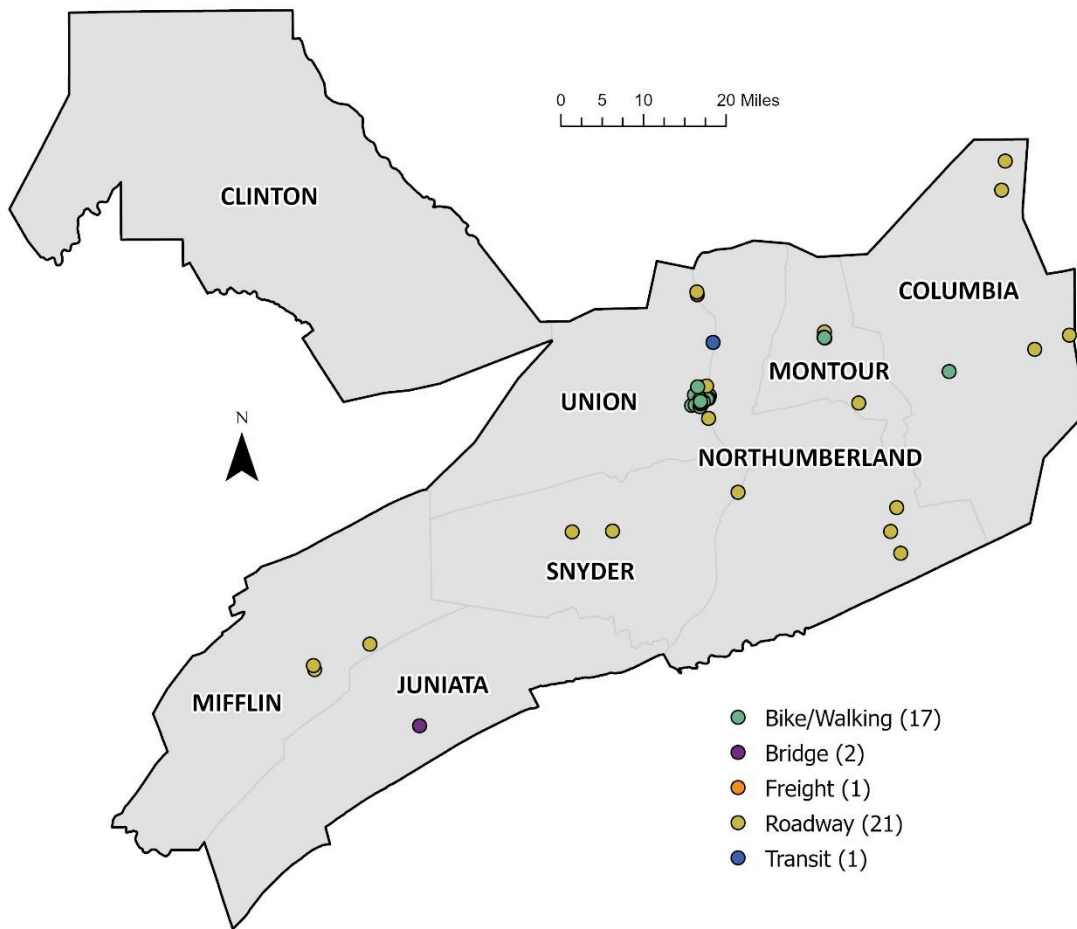
The newly combined dataset was added to an *ArcGIS Pro* map project. By referencing the latitude and longitude values included in the original STC datasets, the comments were plotted on the map using the *Display XY Data* tool. Comments were then manually grouped or “clustered” based on their given topic and proximity to other related comments. Two or more comment points that had the same assigned topic and were located within 0.5 miles of one another would form a cluster group. **42 total cluster groups were identified.**

An online *ArcGIS Dashboard* was created to display both the comments and cluster groups identified in this analysis (refer to page six for more information).

**Table 5. SEDA-COG MPO Transportation Public Comment Cluster Groups**

PennDOT District 2-0					
ID	CLUSTER TOPIC	MUNICIPALITY	CATEGORY	COUNT	
<b>Juniata County</b>					
34-01	PA 75 RR Bridge Repair	Port Royal Twp.	Bridge	3	
<b>Mifflin County</b>					
44-01	Back Maitland Rd Flooding	Decatur Twp.	Roadway	2	
44-02	US 322 Repair	Lewistown Boro.	Roadway	2	
44-03	US 322 WB Ramp Repairs	Derry Twp.	Roadway	2	
PennDOT District 3-0					
ID	CLUSTER TOPIC	MUNICIPALITY	CATEGORY	COUNT	
<b>Columbia County</b>					
19-01	US 11 Traffic Signal Upgrade	Berwick Boro.	Roadway	5	
19-02	3 <sup>rd</sup> St – Market St	Mifflin Twp.	Roadway	3	
19-03	Main St Pedestrian Concern	Bloomsburg Town	Bike/Ped	2	
19-04	PA 487 – Camp Levigne Rd	Sugarloaf Twp.	Roadway	2	
19-05	SR 118 Repair	Sugarloaf Twp.	Roadway	2	
<b>Montour County</b>					
47-01	Washingtonville Flooding	Washingtonville Boro.	Roadway	3	
47-02	Borough of Danville Pavement Repair	Danville Boro.	Roadway	2	
47-03	PA 54 Beautification	Derry Twp.	Roadway	2	
47-04	PA 54 Pedestrian Concern	Derry Twp.	Bike/Ped	2	
47-05	Washingtonville Pedestrian Concern	Derry Twp.	Bike/Ped	2	
<b>Northumberland County</b>					
49-01	PA 61 Congestion	Shamokin City	Roadway	4	
49-02	PA 45 over Susquehanna River	W. Chillisquaque Twp.	Bike/Ped	3	
49-03	PA 405 Bike Path	W. Chillisquaque Twp.	Bike/Ped	3	
49-04	AOAA ATV Crossing	Coal Twp.	Roadway	2	
49-05	Mountain Rd Development Runoff	Ralpho Twp.	Roadway	2	
<b>Snyder County</b>					
54-01	SR 4014 Repairs	Franklin Twp.	Roadway	3	
54-02	US 11/15 Congestion	Shamokin Dam Boro.	Roadway	3	
54-03	Market St – Main St	Middleburg Boro.	Roadway	2	
<b>Union County</b>					
59-01	US 15 Buffalo Valley Rail Trail Crossing	Lewisburg Boro.	Bike/Ped	19	
59-02	US 15 – St. Mary St	Lewisburg Boro.	Bike/Ped	17	
59-03	US 15 – PA 45	Lewisburg Boro.	Bike/Ped	12	
59-04	Market St – Water St	Lewisburg Boro.	Bike/Ped	10	

59-05	SR 2007 Buffalo Valley Rail Trail	E. Buffalo Twp.		Bike/Ped	9
59-06	Market St Congestion	Lewisburg Boro.		Roadway	8
59-07	PA 45 Pedestrian Concern	E. Buffalo Twp.		Bike/Ped	6
59-08	Pedestrian Bridge over Susquehanna River	Lewisburg Boro.		Bike/Ped	4
59-09	SR 1005 over Buffalo Creek	Lewisburg Boro.		Bike/Ped	4
59-10	US 15 – Beagle Club River Rd	E. Buffalo Twp.		Roadway	4
59-11	US 15 – Buffalo Rd	Lewisburg Boro.		Bike/Ped	4
59-12	US 15 – New Columbia Rd Park and Ride	White Deer Twp.		Transit	3
59-13	Airport Rd over Buffalo Creek	Buffalo Twp.		Bike/Ped	2
59-14	Buffalo Rd RR Crossing Repair	Lewisburg Boro.		Freight	2
59-15	Hospital Dr – JPM Rd Congestion	Kelly Twp.		Roadway	2
59-16	LASD Highschool Bike Path	E. Buffalo Twp.		Bike/Ped	2
59-17	Old Mill Rd over White Deer Hole Creek	Gregg Twp.		Bridge	2
59-18	Stein Ln Bike-Ped Corridor	E. Buffalo Twp.		Bike/Ped	2
59-19	US 15 – PA 44	Gregg Twp.		Bike/Ped	2
59-20	US 15 Traffic Signal Update	Kelly Twp.		Roadway	2



**Figure 1. SEDA-COG MPO Transportation Public Comment Cluster Groups Map**

Similar to the distribution of public comments, the majority of cluster groups pertained to biking/walking and roadway concerns: 90.2% of the total identified cluster groups. Union County had the most cluster groups with 20, followed by Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland (5 cluster groups). Clinton County was the only one of the MPO’s member counties to not have an identified cluster group.

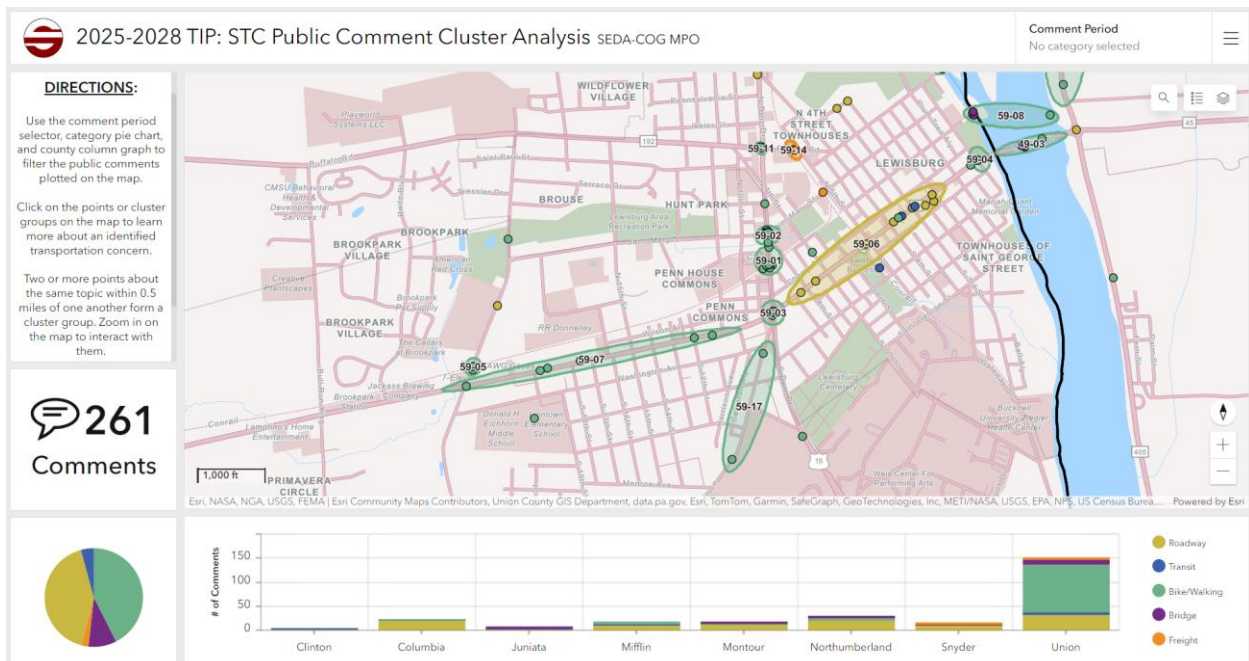
Notable transportation concerns included the US 15 Buffalo Valley Rail Trail crossing (Cluster Groups 59-01 & 59-02, with 36 comments), the US 15 – PA 45 intersection (Cluster Group 59-03, with 12 comments), and the Market St – Water St intersection (Cluster Group 59-04, with 10 comments). These cluster groups were all located within the Borough of Lewisburg in Union County.

## Online Dashboard

SEDA-COG MPO created a companion online mapping tool for this report in the form of an *ArcGIS Dashboard*. The application allows one to explore each public comment and identified cluster group within the region by clicking on the feature. Built-in selectors can filter the mapped comments by comment period, county, and concern category.

Explore the dashboard at:

<https://seda-cog.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/17a368ac760a4ad7a6f15b7a5223195c>



**Figure 2. 2025-2028 TIP: STC Public Comment Cluster Analysis Dashboard**