Restructured  Resourceful  Responsive
ABOUT US

Pennsylvania citizens and businesses rely on a safe, reliable, accessible, and efficient transportation system to conduct business, commute to work, and access goods and services.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Office of Planning works with communities and transportation stakeholders to plan transportation projects that balance community needs with regional and statewide travel demand and available funding resources.

Our mission is to provide business intelligence, analytics, and technical assistance to ensure innovative solutions, sound stewardship, and collaborative transparent decisions.

Who We Are

The Office of Planning is comprised of two bureaus: the Bureau of Planning and Research and the Center for Program Development and Management.

The Bureau of Planning and Research divisions:

- Research
- Geographic Information Systems
- Transportation Planning

The Center for Program Development and Management divisions:

- Financial and Contract Services (includes payments to local governments)
- Funding and Twelve Year Program
- Planning and Contract Management
- Transportation Program Development

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Did you know?

Through Act 89 of 2013, PennDOT reorganized the Office of Planning to provide a higher level of service and funding to local governments. The former Bureau of Municipal Services has been integrated into the Bureau of Planning and Research and the Center for Program Development and Management. The reorganization increases the focus on local issues and creates a stronger link with municipal governments across the state.
What We Do
The Office of Planning is a responsive, resourceful, and a recently restructured organization that provides support to communities and collaborates with Pennsylvania’s 24 Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Planning Organizations (Planning Partners) and other transportation stakeholders to plan a multimodal transportation system. Providing services to local governments is an integral core business of the Office of Planning.

To achieve this we:

- Align transportation programs with available financial resources
- Prioritize transportation investments that strengthen communities
- Ensure timeliness, quality, and compliance in project and service delivery
- Educate the public on the costs and benefits of alternative ways to meet community needs
- Coordinate transportation and land use decision-making with local governments, planning partners, and other stakeholders
- Offer teamwork and innovation to the department and our partners
- Enhance transparency, accountability, and visibility in identifying transportation planning priorities
- Strengthen relationships with local governments, Planning Partners, stakeholders, the public, and federal transportation agencies

Transportation Planning: How it works

1. Public and local officials provide input on transportation needs and goals.

2. Regional Planning Partners balance and prioritize transportation needs with available funding.

3. Each Planning Partner develops a regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

4. The regional TIPs are incorporated into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) which makes up the first four years of the Twelve Year Program (TYP).
Planning is an important link in the transportation decision-making process and our programs benefit the entire transportation network.

HOW CAN WE HELP

The Office of Planning collaborates with local governments and Planning Partners to plan transportation projects and maintain a multimodal network. The Office of Planning serves as a resource and administers a number of programs to assist local governments, regional and metropolitan planning organizations, and the public. For program details, see pages 4-8. The icons below are provided to help you easily reference the programs that are most relevant to you.

Local Government | Planning Partners | The Public
Partnering with Local Governments for Success

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)
Through the LTAP program, PennDOT provides technical training on roadway maintenance and safety strategies to 6,000 municipal employees each year. PennDOT developed the educational outreach program, which delivers training, technical assistance, and a lending library, to support municipalities to maximize investment of roadway maintenance funds.

“Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.”
- President John F. Kennedy (1961-1963)

New Products Evaluation Program (NPEP) for Lower Volume Local Roads
The Municipal Research and Outreach Section in the Research Division coordinates the NPEP to evaluate products and procedures for lower volume, local roads. This program ensures that products are safe, efficient, qualified for use, and eligible for liquid fuels fund purchases.

“Take time to deliberate; but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go (all) in.”
- President Andrew Jackson (1829-1837)

Learn more in Pub: 447 at www.dot.state.pa.us
Highway Transfer Program (Turnback)
The Office of Planning coordinates the Highway Transfer Program, known as the Turnback program, to support municipalities that have volunteered to assume ownership of state-owned roads and bridges. Through this program, PennDOT provides funds for rehabilitation (as needed), and $4,000 per mile in annual maintenance payments in perpetuity. The municipality assumes responsibility for local control of traffic flow, parking, and winter maintenance.

More Details:
Phone: 717-705-1188
Email: ra-pdlocalgovservice@pa.gov
Website: http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/Bureaus/pdBMS.nsf/Programs

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank
Through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank, PennDOT leverages state and local funds to provide low interest loans to municipalities for transportation projects. The program accelerates priority projects and spurs economic development.

More Details:
Phone: 717-787-5798
Email: ra-pdlocalgovservice@pa.gov
Website: http://www.dot.state.pa.us/penndot/bureaus/PIB.nsf/HomePagePIB

Financial Consulting
The Financial Consulting field staff are a resource for local governments for their liquid fuels and other department funded income sources distributed by the Center for Program Development and Management. The Financial Consultants are in contact with the District Municipal Services staff, the Central Office Financial and Contract Services Division, and the Auditor General in order to keep current on applicable expenditures of funds and are prepared to provide information and guidance to local governments regarding allowable uses of funds, completion of reports, audit preparation, and follow-up. To contact the financial consultant for your region visit the website listed and click on Financial Consultant Map.

More Details:
Phone: 717-787-9288
Email: ra-pdcpdmfincconsult@pa.gov
Website: http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/Bureaus/pdBMS.nsf/Financial_Consulting
Planning for Mobility, Access, and Prosperity

PA On Track
The Office of Planning administers PA On Track, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), to plan and improve connectivity and accessibility for all modes of transportation through the year 2040. As part of this effort, PennDOT launched the first-ever Comprehensive Freight Movement Plan (CFMP). This plan gathered input from a wide range of stakeholders to establish multimodal strategies to invest in freight movement efficiency, economic competitiveness, and future growth.

Twelve Year Program (TYP)
The State Transportation Commission (STC) is responsible for reviewing and approving Pennsylvania’s Twelve Year Program (TYP), which is the Commonwealth’s official transportation program. The TYP is a multi-modal, fiscally constrained program of transportation improvements spanning a 12-year period. Multi-modal means that the TYP includes all travel modes, including highways, bridges, public transit, aviation, rail, and bicycle and pedestrian. Pa. State Law, Act 120 of 1970, as amended, requires PennDOT to prepare, update and submit Pennsylvania’s TYP every two years to the STC. The Program is then sent to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Secretary of Transportation.

More Details:
Phone: 717-783-9359
Email: ra-pdcpdmsspmailbox@pa.gov
Website: www.paontrack.com

More Details:
Phone: 717-787-2913
Email: ra-penndotstc@pa.gov
Website: www.talkPAtransportation.com

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started.”
- Mark Twain
Linking Planning and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) (LPN)

PennDOT, Planning Partners, and local agencies can achieve benefits by incorporating environmental and community values into transportation decisions during early planning and carrying these considerations through program development and project delivery.

The LPN process can serve in identifying and prioritizing projects, identifying issues in planning to allow for more accurate project schedules and scopes, streamlining the environmental process, and improving communication between PennDOT, Planning Partners, and local agencies.

More Details:
Phone: 717-783-9359
Email: ra-pdcpdmmspmailbox@pa.gov
Website: http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/Bureaus/CPDM.nsf

Multimodal Project Management System Interactive Query (MPMS-IQ)

MPMS-IQ is a web-based GIS map that provides immediate access to in-depth information on transportation projects programmed on the Twelve Year Program (TYP). This system serves as an important planning tool and resource for Planning Partners, local governments, and the public.

More Details:
Phone: 717-783-1230
Email: ra-pdcpdmmspmailbox@pa.gov
Website: http://www.dot7.state.pa.us/MPMS_IQ

Map a project online

These are only a few of the programs that the Office of Planning manages for PennDOT. For additional information on the work we do, please visit: http://www.dot.state.pa.us.
Identifying Trends and Leading Innovation

State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC)
The STIC is a collaborative partnership among state and federal transportation agencies, the transportation industry, research institutions, local government associations, and public partners to identify innovative tools and products and support the rapid deployment of these innovations into practice. The STIC provides educational outreach and technical training on innovative techniques to transportation professionals, Planning Partners, and local governments.

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”
- Alan Kay, Inventor

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Products
PennDOT is responsible for the maintenance of 40,000 miles of roads and 25,000 state-owned bridges. Through GIS databases, PennDOT can track, map, and manage the thousands of complex assets that make up the transportation network.

Traffic Data Collection and Analysis
PennDOT collects traffic data at approximately 40,000 sites across the commonwealth. The frequency of data collection varies from annually to every three to five years and depends on the highway system priorities. Each year, 10,000 traffic counts are collected at select locations. Traffic information is a critical element to all facets of transportation decision-making including highway funding, traffic engineering, highway design, planning, programming, and air quality analysis.
Frequently Asked Questions from Our Partners

Q. What is the Agility Program and how do I get more information on participation?
A. Through the Agility Agreement program, PennDOT partners with local governments or eligible community organizations and trades “services for services,” enabling both parties to stretch limited resources, foster cooperation, and maximize investment. For more information, visit http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/Bureaus/pdAgility.nsf.

Q. What is the Rapid Bridge Replacement project?
A. The Rapid Bridge Replacement project is a Public-Private Partnership (P3) which will help PennDOT address its structurally deficient bridges faster and for less money than a typical PennDOT bridge replacement. Visit http://www.p3forpa.gov/ for more information.

Q. How do I obtain a Highway Occupancy Permit?
A. PennDOT issues utility permits, driveway/local road permits, and miscellaneous Highway Occupancy Permits. For regulations, publications and forms, visit http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/Bureaus/pdBHSTE.nsf/BHSTEHomepage?openframeset &frame=main&src=infoOccupancyPermits.

Q. What is the difference between Green Light Go and Automated Red Light Enforcement?
A. PennDOT’s Green Light-Go and Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) funding programs allow municipalities to apply for competitive traffic safety and mobility grants. The Green Light-Go Program provides municipalities an opportunity (with a 50 percent match) to apply for traffic signal maintenance and operational upgrades to help improve efficiency by reducing congestion. The ARLE funding program provides municipalities an opportunity to apply for highway safety and mobility grants utilizing revenue generated from violations of ARLE systems in the City of Philadelphia. To learn more about these programs and funding opportunities, visit www.dot.state.pa.us/signals.

Q. What is the Multimodal Transportation Fund and how do I apply for a grant?
A. The Multimodal Transportation Fund provides financial assistance to municipalities, councils of governments, businesses, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies, rail/freight, and ports in order to enhance communities, pedestrian safety, and transit revitalization. Visit http://www.dot.state.pa.us for guidelines and application materials.

Legend

- Multimodal
- Highway
Resources For You

Central Office Planning Partner Coordinators

- Adams, Harrisburg, York 717-783-2257
- Altoona, Johnstown, Lackawanna-Luzerne 717-783-2259
- Centre, Northcentral, Southern Alleghenies 717-787-3245
- Erie, Shenango Valley (SVTS) 717-787-1251
- Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon 717-787-9759
- Lehigh Valley, Northeastern (NEPA), Reading, Wayne County 717-787-2358
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission 717-787-1250
- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission 717-783-2261
- SEDA-COG, Williamsport, Northern Tier 717-783-2265
- Northwest 717-787-7386

District Municipal Services Coordinators

- District 1 814-678-7142
- District 2 814-765-0408
- District 3 570-368-4239
- District 4 570-963-4117
- District 5 610-871-4151
- District 6 610-205-6541
- District 8 717-787-4839
- District 9 814-696-7221
- District 10 724-357-7986
- District 11 412-429-4809
- District 12 724-439-7270

District Planning and Programming Coordinators

- District 1 814-678-7035
- District 2 814-765-0441
- District 3 570-368-4225
- District 4 570-963-3134
- District 5 610-871-4552
- District 6 610-205-6950
- District 8 717-787-7144
- District 9 814-696-7178
- District 10 724-357-2082
- District 11 412-429-4822
- District 12 724-439-1891

Find Your District

http://www.dot.state.pa.us
PENNDOT OFFICE OF PLANNING

Center for Program Development and Management
The Center for Program Development and Management develops and manages the state’s multimodal Twelve Year Transportation Program, collaborates with Planning Partners on long and short range transportation planning and programming, and provides financial consulting and field auditor support to local governments.

Bureau of Planning and Research
The Bureau of Planning and Research manages and administers the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), leads the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC), coordinates technical research, analyzes transportation systems information including travel data collection and performance statistics, and develops cartographic products and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). All of these products are integral support to local governments.

Contact Us
Phone: 717-772-0827
Email: RA-PDLocalGovService@pa.gov
Website: www.dot.state.pa.us