

BETTER COLLABORATION

TRANSFORM

BETTER COMMUNITIES

The latest news and information from PennDOT Connects' network of people and places



WINTER 2019

New Training Offers Personalized Outreach

Are new development or old growth patterns in your community hindering the ability of cars, trucks, bikes, and pedestrians to move about safely and efficiently?

To assist you in learning more about transportation and land use planning in your community, PennDOT Connects is now offering free training on a wide range of planning topics. You select the topic, and a PennDOT Connects technical expert will deliver the training in your community with facilitated discussions on how these planning concepts can be used locally.



Municipalities may select a preset training module or choose among submodules to create a training session that meets local needs. (See training topics on page 2.)

TRAINING MODULES

- Improving Safety
- Maintaining or Improving Community Character
- Funding the Maintenance of the Existing Transportation System
- Improving Mobility and Efficiency
- Encouraging Multimodal Transportation
- Accommodating Growth within the Transportation and Natural Environments
- PennDOT Connects – Powered by Communities
- Local Safety Road Plan (LSRP)
- Planning for Bicycle, Trails, and Greenways

Typically lasting a half-day, each training session explains the planning concepts, provides resources, gives examples, and offers next steps.

The program is designed to make it easy to select topics that are most pressing in each community. Each module has a set of submodules that individually offer about 10-15 minutes of training. If the modules don't suit local needs, municipalities can mix and match submodule topics.

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Does your municipality have a guiding vision for the future and a set of strategies that are truly implementable?

Assistance from PennDOT Connects can help you design a planning process that will give you measurable results.

Go to paconnects.org to request assistance.

(continued from page 1)

How to Request Training

Go to paconnects.org, register as a user, and enter a request for assistance, or you may call 717-710-2090 or email paconnects@pa.gov to request training. Describe the training you would like to have presented and a PennDOT Connects representative will contact you to review the details and select a date. Your role is to provide the facility and invite the participants. PennDOT Connects will provide the technical expert free of charge. Invitees may be from within your municipality or a group of municipalities.

MODULE	SUBMODULE
Improving Safety	Access Management Regulations and Coordinated HOP Processing Site Design and Roadway Standards Traffic Operations Zoning for Mixed Uses and to Accommodate Higher Densities Zoning Overlays
Maintaining or Improving Community Character	Adaptive Reuse of Land and Buildings Multi-Municipal Zoning and Intergovernmental Cooperative Planning and Implementation Agreements Parking Considerations Site Design and Roadway Standards Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Urban Growth Areas/Rural Preservation Zoning for Mixed Uses and to Accommodate Higher Densities
Funding the Maintenance of the Existing Transportation System	Capital Improvement Programming (CIP) Developer Negotiation Loan and Funding Reimbursement Programs Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Transit Revitalization Investment Districts (TRID) Transportation Impact Fees Transportation Partnerships
Improving Mobility and Efficiency	Access Management Regulations and Coordinated HOP Processing Official Map Site Design and Roadway Standards Traffic Operations Zoning for Mixed Uses and to Accommodate Higher Densities
Encouraging Multimodal Transportation	Parking Considerations Site Design and Roadway Standards Zoning for Mixed Uses and to Accommodate Higher Densities Transit Revitalization Investment Districts (TRID)
Accommodating Growth within the Transportation and Natural Environments	Access Management Regulations and Coordinated HOP Processing Adaptive Reuse of Land and Buildings Multi-Municipal Zoning and Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreements Official Map Urban Growth Areas/Rural Preservation Zoning for Mixed Uses and to Accommodate Higher Densities Zoning Overlays Transit Revitalization Investment Districts (TRID)

Got 15 Minutes? Online Training Modules Hit the Mark

Select PennDOT Connects training topics are available as stand-alone, recorded online training modules. Each topic is presented as a 15-minute overview designed to refresh municipal understanding of PennDOT Connects, explain key principles and practices, offer examples and key resources, and provide steps for implementation.

The narrated presentations are highly interactive and carefully constructed to introduce the viewer to basic concepts, circumstances that might make it the right time to adopt a new tool or approach, associated advantages and disadvantages, special challenges, and case studies and resources. You can view each module at your own pace at your convenience.



Topics now available for online viewing include:

- Access Management Regulations and Coordinated Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) Processing
- Loan and Funding Reimbursement Programs
- Site Design and Roadway Standards
- Transit Revitalization Investment District (TRID)

Is traffic congestion an issue in your community?



Download the **Improving Mobility and Efficiency** tech sheet for information on land use planning tools that can help mitigate congestion issues through stronger integration between transportation and land use planning. Tools include:

- Access Management Programs and Ordinances
- Road Design and Roadway Standards
- Zoning for Mixed Uses and Higher Densities
- Official Map
- Traffic Operations

Soon-to-be available online modules include:

- Capital Improvement Programming
- Integrating Transportation and Land Use in Comprehensive Plans (PennDOT Pub 688)
- Traffic Operations
- Transportation Impact Fees

Go to [PennDOT Connects webpage](#) to view these new training modules.

PennDOT and its Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Rural Planning Organization (RPO) partners have a long-standing relationship jointly preparing transportation studies, plans, and programs to make the best possible transportation project investments with available resources.

This strategic alliance is now of even greater importance for implementing PennDOT Connects. Together, the MPO/RPO planning partners and PennDOT can effectively collaborate and communicate with municipalities — and other community stakeholders (e.g., transit operators, economic development agencies, etc.) — to improve transportation system performance and achieve more livable communities.

Municipalities, MPO/RPO planning partners, and PennDOT must collaborate to ensure that opportunities to improve transportation and communities are realized. MPO/RPO contacts can be found at:

www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/MPO-and-RPO-Contact-List.aspx.

PennDOT Connects Technical Assistance: Featured Questions

How can I review my municipality's existing ordinances to see how well they promote accessibility and mobility?

You can get started by answering some benchmark questions about your existing zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances using a code audit.

Organized by subject matter, the code audit is a set of questions on comprehensive planning topics to be completed by municipal representatives. The brief surveys are intended to help highlight areas within existing ordinances that are potential impediments to fostering improved mobility and accessibility. The audit provides a roadmap of sorts identifying areas in the code where provisions may be lacking or in need of updating to support development that improves transportation options, mobility, and safety.

Audit topics include:

- Walkable Neighborhoods
- Compact Communities/Mixed Use
- Transportation Options
- Natural Capital
- Stormwater Management

If you are interested in using the code audit tool, request assistance at the [PennDOT Connects Support Hub](http://paconnects.org) (paconnects.org) and follow the steps below:

1. Register or login at the [PennDOT Connects Support Hub](http://paconnects.org);
2. Select Request Assistance on the home page;
3. Select General (Departments), On-Site Visit/ Training (Support Type Requested), and state that you are interested in the code audit tools.

A Support Hub team expert will coordinate with you to provide access to the code audit worksheets. Once completed, the surveys will be used to help prioritize those areas of your ordinance that need updating and identify relevant PennDOT Connects resources. The code audit exercise is an effective way to educate fellow municipal leaders about ways in which your local ordinances can help, not hinder, sound development that works in tangent with smart transportation practices and policies.

Does higher-density, mixed-use development create traffic congestion?

The short answer – not always, especially if communities consider transportation and land use as part of an interrelated system in which mobility and livability are in balance. All development adds some traffic; however, mixed use higher-density developments are less likely to suffer from traffic congestion the more they encompass the following design elements:

Highly connected street network – Development designs that connect streets distribute the load of traffic and offer more route options in and out of a neighborhood. Interconnectivity and shorter blocks also allow for greater movement by foot, car, or bike.

Highly accessible places – Mixed-use developments bring people closer to shops, restaurants, and other community destinations resulting in more people walking, bicycling, and using public transit. Highly accessible places offer a diversity of development with activities in close proximity and connected with multiple travel paths. The more “complete” a

neighborhood is, the more it can meet a resident's needs within walking distance and reduce vehicular traffic on major thoroughfares.

Proximity to public transportation – Convenient access to bus routes or transit stations encourages the use of public transportation and relieves road congestion. Transit oriented development (TOD) encourages a mix of land uses and high density development within walking distance of a transit station or stop.

Is your community interested in thinking more strategically about land use-transportation relationships? If you need assistance getting started, visit paconnects.org, PennDOT's online Support Hub. Submit a ticket and briefly describe your needs and goals. A technical assistance team member will work with you to suggest tools and strategy examples to help get you started putting land use and transportation in balance.



FEATURED DISTRICT: DISTRICT 11

Planner Helps to Navigate Funding Opportunities



District 11 represents only three counties (Allegheny, Beaver, and Lawrence), but it is the second largest district after the Philadelphia area in terms of highway mileage and bridges.

“We have very urbanized areas like downtown Pittsburgh to very rural areas with four street lights,” says District Planner Stephanie Spang. “But our approach to outreach is equal, whether urban or rural.”

Though relatively new to the planning position, Spang has worked at PennDOT since 2002, partnering with local Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in applying state and federal funds for transportation projects. She is quick to show local partners how to best take advantage of funding sources.

“My advice to municipalities is to research available funding and see what transportation project plans are in place for the area,” says Spang, “but be realistic about timeframes if a project should be changed to address a local need.” Local intentions, such as upgrading a water line or building a sidewalk, may fit into a planned project but could affect when a project is advertised for bidding and construction. It’s important, says Spang, to understand that a suggestion might entail a study that could take six months or longer. And when using federal funds, there are requirements to follow that can delay a project’s timeframe.

Spang’s expertise in funding sources will prove valuable as she helps municipalities examine priorities and incorporating local needs into state road projects. Looking at roadway and bridge functional classifications, for instance, can determine eligibility for funding, such as the condition that bridges be at least 20 feet in length for some state and federal funds.

“Numerous funding sources could advance a project,” says Spang. “Municipalities don’t realize these sources are out there to apply for assistance. So there’s always opportunities we can help them identify.”

FEATURED PROJECT: DISTRICT 11

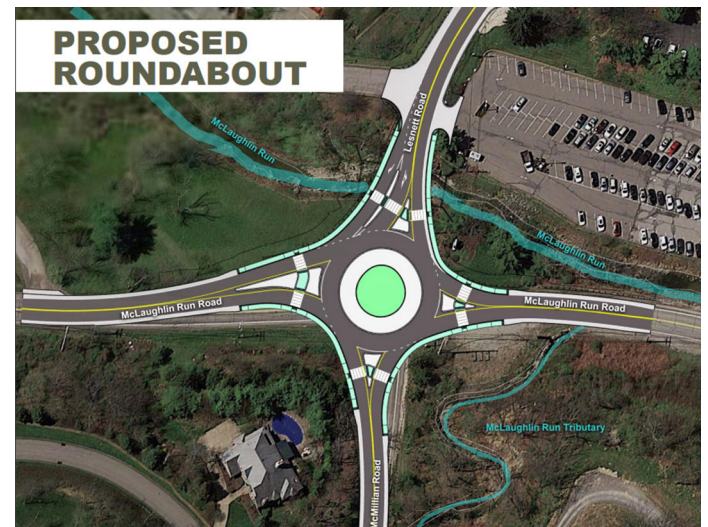
Roundabout Proposed in Comp Plan Fights Congestion

Roundabouts, championed by the Pennsylvania State Transportation Innovation Council, continue to grow in popularity in Pennsylvania largely due to the fact that modern-day roundabouts reduce crash severity and injuries while improving traffic flow. PennDOT reached that conclusion after studying 11 roundabouts on state routes at intersections that were previously stop or signal controlled.

Upper St. Clair Township, Allegheny County, is likewise committed to the roundabout concept, and to connectivity in general, as described in its 2015 update to the township’s comprehensive plan:

The potential for traffic calming techniques, “complete streets” projects, access management, and congestion management programs are all part of the township’s ongoing assessments to improve the safety and well-being of its residents and visitors.

Learn more about roundabouts at the department's Roundabouts [webpage](#) or [YouTube](#) channel.



One of the recommendations in Upper St. Clair’s comprehensive plan is to build a roundabout to solve congestion issues at the intersection of McLaughlin, Lesnett, and McMillan roads. A public meeting in the fall of 2017 addressed numerous public concerns, and additional feedback was collected through an online questionnaire. Construction on the state-funded roundabout is expected to take place in 2020.

BEST PRACTICE

The Importance of Planning for Mobility

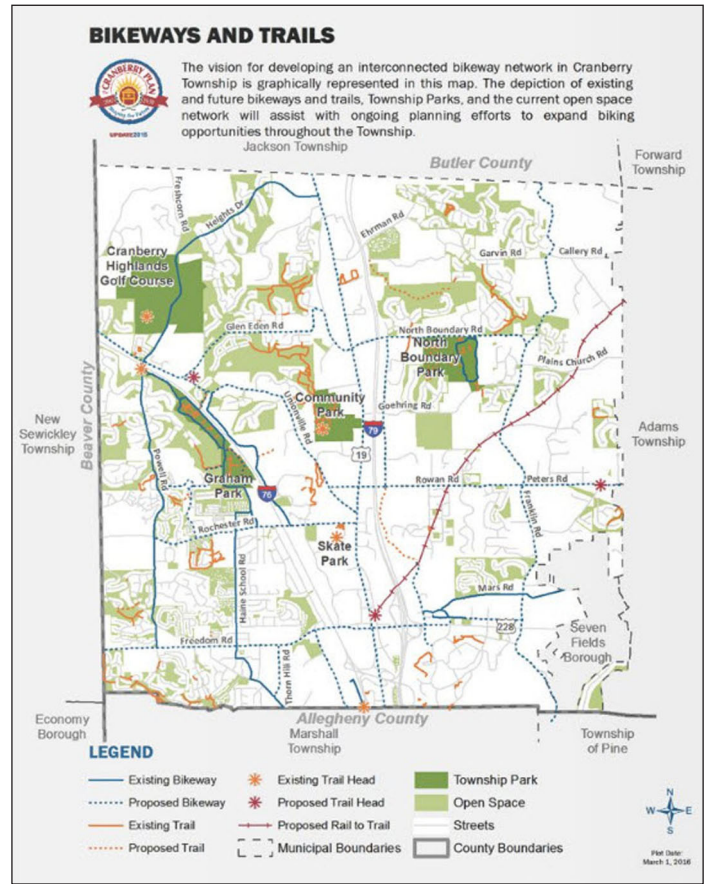
Both strong planning and supporting regulations are key to moving people, goods, and services efficiently.

Cranberry Township, Butler County, one of the fastest growing areas of the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, has effectively embraced a number of activities that are making the township a leader in transportation efficiency.

The township's comprehensive plan and development ordinances improve connectivity and mobility with a grid network of interconnected streets, sidewalks, and trails. For example:

- Dense, walkable development, which is more conducive to public transportation, is encouraged through Community Character Development (CCD) overlay districts surrounding sections of State Routes 19, 228, 76, and 79.
- In 2013, a new zoning ordinance was adopted to require large-scale developments to preserve land on the site as a location for future transit stops.
- The addition of parallel road systems along major transportation corridors create bypass routes and take traffic off of major interstate roads.

When it comes to roadway access and traffic management, the township looks for opportunities to improve access to state roads and highways, such as adaptive traffic management technology that maximizes traffic flow and improves efficiencies. The township also takes advantage of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's regional traffic signal program, known



A bicycle and pedestrian master plan, adopted in 2011, provides a vision for an interconnected bikeway network in Cranberry Township, Butler County.

as SINC-UP, to synchronize signals and improve traffic circulation.

Updated in 2016, Cranberry Township's comprehensive plan clearly and comprehensively addresses transportation and mobility. Read more at www.cranberrytownship.org/2244/2015-Update---Comprehensive-Plan.



A PennDOT Connects Resource • For more information, go to paconnects.org.



Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
 Web: paconnects.org
 Email: PAConnects@pa.gov
 Phone: 717-710-2090



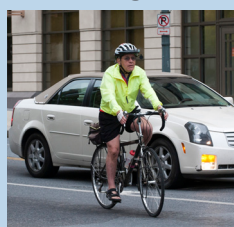
Transportation Planning: Connecting with Community Priorities



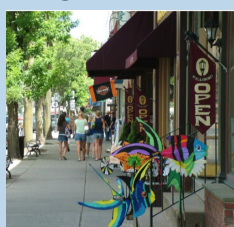
Mobility & Efficiency



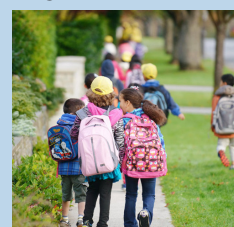
Multimodal Transportation



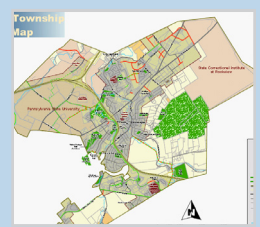
Safety



Community Character



Project Funding



Accommodating Growth