

#### and

### LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

**Better Transportation, Better Communities** 

What is PennDOT Connects?

PennDOT Connects is a policy issued by PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards in 2016. It requires collaborative planning and project development for transportation and community improvement.

What results can we expect?

- Projects preserve and improve the transportation system while supporting community priorities for growth, preservation, redevelopment, etc.
- Projects are better-defined, are implemented with fewer delays, and produce better results.
- Collaboration across disciplines and among levels of government is ongoing and productive.

How does
PennDOT
Connects
shape LRTPs?

Collaboration is fostered early and sustained:

- Community priorities are compiled and considered along with transportation priorities.
- Problem-solving considers the bigger picture; project proposals (purpose and need) are developed collaboratively.
- Collaboration continues during scoping and funding discussions.

Who leads collaboration for LRTPs?

Metropolitan planning organizations and rural planning organizations (MPOs and RPOs) take the lead—collaborating with the Districts and communities to meet their goals.

Specific collaboration methods used will vary by planning partner.

### What do we do differently during long-range transportation planning?

## Problem Identification and Assessment

# Proposal Identification and Evaluation

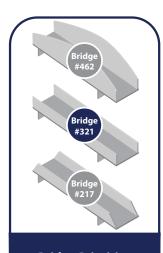
### **Proposal Prioritization**

- More MPO/RPO-led collaboration to:
- Identify both transportation needs and community priorities (understand the full context of infrastructure and other needs).
- Validate local transportation needs, preparing targeted studies if needed.
- Look for ways to address or accommodate needs and priorities that advance community vision and goals.
- Communicate the results of this phase with the public and other stakeholders.

- Develop a Purpose and Need statement earlier to facilitate comprehensive discussions and systematic/collaborative problemsolving.
- Develop a preliminary cost estimate earlier and begin to identify realistic funding sources (PennDOT and other sources).
- **Collaboratively review and discuss proposed projects** (proposals); make decisions to include, accommodate, defer, or decline community priorities.
- Document the results of this phase and communicate as needed.

- **Develop criteria** that reward system improvements and community benefit.
- Conduct collaborative work sessions to rank projects for anticipated funding in the fiscally-constrained LRTP project list based on rigorous prioritization criteria.
- Document the results of this phase and communicate as needed.

### **EXAMPLE: PennDOT Connects enhances the LRTP process and produces better results for "Rivertown"**



**Bridge Priorities** 

Toward reducing SD bridges (a performance-based goal), PennDOT District staff identify several bridges in need of rehabilitation or replacement, including one bridge in the (fictitious) community of Rivertown. The District shares these asset management priorities with the MPO/RPO in advance of LRTP discussions.



**Community Priorities** 

Rivertown just adopted a comprehensive plan that focuses economic development strategies on a planned east shore business park and a riverside trail connection to neighboring communities. The business park will require an upgraded public water supply line.



Comprehensive Problem (Needs)

The MPO/RPO has been involved as all three priorities—the bridge improvement, water line upgrade, and trail development—have evolved from problem discussions in recent years to mid-term priorities for the future. The MPO/RPO sees an opportunity to coordinate these projects.

#### PROPOSAL: Rivertown Bridge

**Purpose:** Preserve and enhance multimodal mobility; enable business/job growth

**Need:** River crossing for 7,600 AADT, 36 tons, EMS, school/transit buses, bicycles and pedestrians; convey water line; accommodate trail

Collaborative LRTP Project List

The MPO/RPO drafts a project description with initial purpose and need that outlines the coordination needed by PennDOT and Rivertown.

Purpose and need are reviewed when the project moves to the TIP

and during (or at) project

scoping.

The Rivertown bridge project ranks as a top priority in the LRTP for its multimodal and utility coordination. Timing of external funding sources is noted.

**Rivertown Bridge replacement** 

PennDOT | FY2023 | State/Fed

Authority | FY2024 | PENNVEST

Borough | FY2025 | DCNR, County

PennDOT | 2023 | State/Fed

with utility, trail enhancer

Bridge #321

**Water Line** 

PA 35 @ Deer Creek

Ultimately, coordinating these three improvements achieves broader goals more efficiently.