On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), I am pleased to present our inaugural PennDOT Connects Implementation Report. The report highlights Pennsylvania’s accomplishments since the launch of the PennDOT Connects policy in December 2016.

PennDOT Connects has formally and proactively brought together leaders from the PennDOT Districts, our Planning Partners, and local governments throughout Pennsylvania to discuss local needs, potential project impacts, and ways to collaborate to maximize value for our communities.

While PennDOT Connects represents a significant shift in how we plan, design, program, and deliver projects, the principles behind PennDOT Connects have guided the Department’s work for more than a decade. Past initiatives were implemented to better integrate planning processes—particularly for land use and transportation. They successfully continued PennDOT’s evolution from its history as a highway department (prior to Act 120 of 1970) toward its standing as a modernized, multimodal agency providing transportation that is in tune with the communities it connects.

Further, PennDOT Connects meshes well with the new federal emphasis on performance-based planning and programming, in accordance with the FAST Act. Implementing PennDOT Connects helps ensure that our planning is more results-oriented and outcomes-based.

I invite you to review the enclosed 2017 highlights—the first chapter in the PennDOT Connects era. The success stories illustrate the beginning of a new approach to fulfilling our mission, based on a more holistic approach to planning that broadens the benefits we deliver to our communities.
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In a December 19, 2016, policy letter to PennDOT District Executives, Secretary Richards laid out a direction and requirements for enhanced collaborative planning.

“We are broadening the benefits we deliver and taking a more holistic approach to planning. We are tasking PennDOT staff and our planning partners to consider community needs at the beginning of the planning process to ensure the best allocation of our resources.

This new approach, PennDOT Connects, will make our planning processes more efficient and cost effective to the benefit of all Pennsylvanians.”

Leslie S. Richards, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Wolf Administration Announces 'PennDOT Connects,' New Transportation-Project Approach

Philadelphia, PA – Recognizing transportation’s role in connecting communities and supporting economic development, state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Secretary Leslie S. Richards today announced PennDOT Connects, an approach that will enhance local engagement and improve transportation-project planning, design, and delivery.

"We know that transportation plays a huge role in community identities and economies, and we take our responsibility as stewards of the system very seriously," Richards said. "Through PennDOT Connects, we’re putting innovation, local resources, and strong partnerships to work so we can have the most sustainable, inclusive transportation assets possible."

The new approach to project planning and development expands the department’s requirements for engaging local and planning partners by requiring collaboration with stakeholders before project scopes are developed. PennDOT Connects aims to transform capital and maintenance project development by ensuring that community collaboration happens early, and that each project is considered in a holistic way for opportunities to improve safety, mobility, access, and environmental outcomes for all modes and local contexts. Earlier collaboration will ensure that projects meet current and projected needs as much as possible, and can reduce costly changes further in the project development process.

Specific areas to be discussed during collaboration include, but are not limited to: safety issues; bicycle/pedestrian accommodations; transit access; stormwater management; utility issues; local and regional plans and studies; freight-generating land uses and more.

PennDOT Connects requirements to meet with local governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and Rural Planning Organizations (RPO) are being implemented on new projects on the state's 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Collaboration will occur for projects without previously defined project phases, those that haven’t started Preliminary Engineering or started Preliminary Engineering after July 1, 2016. This equates to roughly 280 projects worth $2 billion.

To complement this ongoing collaboration, PennDOT is incorporating the policy into its applicable manuals and program processes. In addition, training is being developed for department staff and professionals at the MPOs and RPOs.
GUIDED MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS IN COLLABORATION

PennDOT developed and delivered Planning & Engineering 360° workshops aimed at familiarizing integrated teams of planners and engineers with the full project delivery process, from the earliest planning phases through construction, and improving that process to include earlier, broader collaboration and coordination across disciplines and levels of government.

“The objective is more effective communication between engineers and planners...” Secretary Richards

Following five executive strategy sessions held throughout the state to solicit strategic insight from PennDOT leaders as well as Pennsylvania’s metropolitan and rural planning organizations (MPOs/RPOs), three “Planning & Engineering 360°” modules were developed and delivered in five locations across the state.

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<tr>
<th>Planning &amp; Engineering 360° Workshops</th>
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<tr>
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“This is going to be a game-changer today, and one that will endure long into the future.” Secretary Richards

View the introductory videos as well as the PowerPoint presentations for each of the three modules on the PennDOT Connects webpage.

Early consideration of a project’s contextual issues is central to PennDOT Connects and Planning and Engineering 360.

- Safety
- Multimodal
- Bicycle & Pedestrian
- Stormwater Management
- Utilities
- Public Opinion
- Planned Development
- Freight Impacts
- Related Studies
- Right-of-Way Considerations
- Construction Impacts
PennDOT Connects directly involves thousands of stakeholders across the state, and affects every community. To familiarize transportation and community development professionals with the initiative, PennDOT undertook multifaceted, consistent, statewide outreach, both online and in-person.

Secretary Richards, Central Office planning leaders, District Executives, and other PennDOT staff introduced PennDOT Connects at dozens of speaking engagements throughout the year.

Below is a small sample:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sample PennDOT Connects Presentations</th>
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<td>Municipal Services Reps Annual Business Meeting</td>
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<td>Lancaster Complete Streets Workshop</td>
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<td>2017 TMA Summit - Harrisburg, PA</td>
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<td>2017 Aviation Conference</td>
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<td>2017 Planning Partners – District Session</td>
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<td>DCED Local Government Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>ASHE Webinar</td>
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<td>PSATS Engineering Conference</td>
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<td>Project Managers Meeting</td>
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<td>Transportation Engineering and Safety Conference</td>
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Outreach extended to PennDOT’s sister agencies to leverage the benefits of PennDOT Connects:
PennDOT formally established the position of District Planner and has filled the position in most Districts. The District Planners lead PennDOT Connects collaboration in their region.

**Established District Planner Positions**

District Planners and also team members who are leading PennDOT Connects collaboration in their region, along with Secretary Leslie Richards.


**District Planner Job Description**

This position serves as the primary administrator of planning functions within the District and acts as the primary liaison between PennDOT and its regional planning partners. Assists and supports coordination with local planning partners in all efforts to plan, program, and deliver transportation projects to construction.
Every two years PennDOT updates the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which is a compilation of Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) prepared by our regional Planning Partners in collaboration with PennDOT.

PennDOT Connects Outreach to local government staff was conducted for the update to the 2017 TIP in 2016 and throughout 2017.

Outreach was also conducted for the 2019 TIP update in 2017 and into 2018. Outreach to local governments is tracked through PennDOT ONE MAP, a web-based GIS mapping tool.

PennDOT and our Planning Partners have conducted PennDOT Connects outreach to local governments that included:

- Outreach to over 750 Municipalities
- Discussion of over 1,850 Projects
These official publications can be found on PennDOT’s website, PennDOT.gov, in the Forms, Publication, and Maps section.
The highlighted projects are a sample of the multimodal planning studies being advanced by PennDOT’s Planning Partners through PennDOT Connects funding. All support the principles of PennDOT Connects—coordination, collaboration, and early consideration of multimodal contextual issues—and will inform future design and construction efforts.

**Pedestrian Facilities and Planning Portal**
The project, being led by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, will leverage regional funds to develop a regional sidewalk inventory and an online engagement platform to assist community walkability planning efforts.

**Borough of Greenville Pedestrian Circulation Study**
The study will assess and recommend implementable transportation improvements for non-motorized transportation modes.

**Multimodal Comprehensive Plan for Cameron, McKean, and Potter Counties**
This approach will achieve the counties’ objective to have a community engagement-driven plan that identifies and prioritizes key community issues that are concisely and clearly explained through written description, visuals, and graphics.

**Greater Hershey Regional Transportation Study**
The project will identify necessary transportation improvements in the greater Hershey area, considering existing and proposed developments in conjunction with existing zoning and traffic patterns.

**Lehigh Valley International Airport (LVIA) Area Freight Plan**
Planning to align land use with freight movement and potential improvements for the area surrounding LVIA, an intermodal hub.

**Update to SEPTA Bus Stop Design Guidelines**
The SEPTA Bus Stop Design Guidelines require updating and clarification for ease-of-use and wider application and adoption. The project is expected to provide valuable coordination among DVRPC, local municipalities, SEPTA, and PennDOT and assist with implementing PennDOT Connects.
ASSESS DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

District Executives formally reported back with details on their District’s accomplishments during the first year of PennDOT Connects implementation. Presentations included details on their coordination process, lessons learned, best practices, and sample projects.

Observations and Challenges Ahead
- Early contact with municipalities is helping the District plan better with utilities. Avoids having recently resurfaced roadways ripped up by utilities work.
- Early contact with municipalities helps District learn about future MPT and drainage concerns.
- Other concerns for the municipality may be asked or other project or maintenance questions addressed.
- Works best one on one. Group meetings not as productive.

Results
- Many municipalities very appreciative of opportunity to collaborate
- Requests have been reasonable
- Other nearby projects are brought up in discussions with municipality
- Manage Expectations
  - Most understand inherent limitations we all face

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Success stories from each District are highlighted on the following pages.
DISTRIBUT 1 - Conducted PennDOT Connects coordination on 101 projects involving face-to-face meetings with 13 municipalities.

“We’re working proactively to find the best compromise between our municipalities’ wishes and PennDOT’s ability to accommodate them.”

William G. Petit, P.E. former District Executive (retired March 2018)

“We have an active group of stakeholders who support implementing our recent bike-ped study’s recommendations as part of PennDOT’s roadway work.”

Tracy Jamieson
Manager - City of Franklin

U.S. 62 Venango County

Penndot Project - Three-mile highway restoration project planned for 2022 through the City of Franklin.

Local Concerns - Intersection geometry and potential conflicts and opportunities with other planned projects.

Results of Early Collaboration
Intersection improvements: City officials noted that certain intersections may need radius improvements, and that a roundabout has been proposed at one intersection. PennDOT added a study of that intersection to its TIP in advance of its roadway project and is evaluating roadway geometry.

Complete Streets improvements: The U.S. 62 project presents an opportunity to implement recommendations from the city’s recently completed Bicycle-Pedestrian Connection Master Plan.

Construction Coordination: The City noted an upcoming water line project within the project area.

Route 3020 Erie County
Coordinated with McKean Township and Borough to enhance ADA-accessible sidewalks as part of a roadway restoration project.

Route 4015 Erie County
Coordinated with Millcreek Township to incorporate drainage improvements into a roadway restoration project.

Route 3008 Mercer County
Coordinated with Mercer County and the City of Hermitage to implement pedestrian safety improvements at a major intersection as part of a roadway restoration project.

U.S. 19 Erie County
Coordinated with the City of Erie on construction schedules to complete PennDOT roadway improvements after city-led water line improvements.
DISTRICT 2 - Conducted PennDOT Connects coordination on 174 projects involving face-to-face meetings with 157 municipalities.

“Most of our municipal officials greatly appreciated the face-to-face PennDOT Connects meetings.”

Karen L. Michael, P.E. District Executive

“Involving staff from two affected municipalities helped identify future development plans and local needs related to pedestrian and truck access.”

Mike Bloom
Centre County Planning & Community Development Office

Route 150 & Phoenix Ave Centre County

PennDOT Project - Improve the congested Route 150/Phoenix Avenue intersection in Bellefonte and provide safer access to businesses, residences, and park facilities in the project area.

Local Concerns - Difficulty making turns into and out of Phoenix Avenue due to insufficient gaps in traffic on Route 150, which contributes to long vehicle queues, a history of crashes and near-misses, lack of pedestrian accommodations, and challenging truck access to nearby industrial sites.

Results of Early Collaboration
Improved safety and traffic flow: PennDOT will improve the intersection, including improving pedestrian facilities. Traffic signal installation is also being considered. Additional intersection capacity will support new development.

More complete scope: The project may include improvements to an adjacent structurally deficient bridge, as well as realignment of other roadways to improve safety and truck access.

Route 153 Clearfield County

Coordinated with Clearfield Borough to address utilities and safety concerns with park access and intersection crosswalks as part of the Front Street Betterment Project.

U.S. 22 Bridge Mifflin County

Coordinated with Wayne Township to address Highway Occupancy Permit and drainage concerns as part of a bridge improvement project.

Route 26 Centre County

Collaborated with Marion Township and the Centre MPO to identify and map safety and drainage concerns to minimize the footprint of a roadway betterment project.

Route 1001 Clinton County

Collaborated with local partners to include a retaining wall and a bicycle/pedestrian path providing connectivity to a park as part of a roadway realignment project.
DISTRICT 3 - Conducted PennDOT Connects coordination on 250 projects involving face-to-face meetings with 46 municipalities.

“Bicycle and pedestrian issues were by far the top concern raised by municipalities—most requests have been reasonable.”

Sandra Tosca, P.E. District Executive

“PennDOT Connects assists the Borough of South Williamsport in assuring that local insights and priorities are included in future transportation projects. The Borough appreciates partnering with PennDOT to incorporate aesthetic and traffic-calming features in our main corridors.”

Mike Miller
Borough of South Williamsport

U.S. 15 Lycoming County
PenndOT Project - Reconstruct U.S. 15 in South Williamsport Borough
Local Concerns - Incorporate a gateway into the project

Results of Early Collaboration
Opportunity to advance local project: Because PennDOT Connects coordination was conducted before the study phase of the project began, the Borough has ample time to submit a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) application to fund desired gateway elements and PennDOT can design the reconstruction project to accommodate and incorporate those elements into the project as feasible.

Route 118 Columbia County
Coordination with Sugarloaf Township identified sight distance concerns at a major intersection; PennDOT is removing trees prior to a resurfacing project.

Route 1018 Union County
Coordinated with Kelly Township to improve drainage as part of a roadway resurfacing project.

Route 487 Sullivan County
Coordinated with Cherry Township to install a new sidewalk as part of a bridge replacement project in an area with heavy pedestrian traffic.

U.S. 6/BUS 15 Tioga County
Coordination with Mansfield Borough will allow the Borough to replace water lines before the roadway reconstruction project begins.
DISTRIBUTED 4 - Conducted PennDOT Connects coordination on 170 projects involving face-to-face meetings with 22 municipalities.

“PennDOT Connects has helped us establish better working relationships with our municipalities and allowed them to better understand our planning and Twelve Year Program process.”

George J. Roberts, P.E. District Executive

This small bridge is a major project for Milford, as it potentially impacts commerce as well as an important local landmark. Advance coordination is helping fine-tune plans and allay concerns.”

Matthew M. Osterberg Pike County Commissioner

U.S. 209 Bridge

PennDOT Project - Bridge rehabilitation over Sawkill Creek

Local Concerns - Historic resources, traffic control, National Park Service (NPS) coordination, pedestrian connectivity

Results of Early Collaboration

Customized traffic control plan: The Callahan House, dating to about 1800, is adjacent to the project area and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Further, Route 209 is the main route to Milford. Local officials noted that detouring traffic was not an option due to commercial and emergency vehicles.

Early coordination with the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC), NPS, and Milford Borough helped determine acceptable maintenance and protection of traffic parameters (pedestrian and vehicular) for the bridge rehabilitation project. PennDOT is developing plans for a temporary run-around that protects the Callahan House and accommodates park trail users as well as motorized traffic.

Tigue Street Park-n-Ride Lackawanna County

Coordinated with Dunmore Borough to address vehicle, pedestrian, and bicyclist safety concerns related to construction of a park-n-ride in a high-traffic area.

Route 407 Bridge Lackawanna County

Coordinated with DCNR on installation of a boat launch in tandem with a bridge project serving Lackawanna State Park.

Route 6011 Bridge Lackawanna County

Coordinated with the City of Scranton, Lackawanna River Corridor Assoc., and the USACOE on schedule, bike/ped, and minimizing disruption to a navigable waterway as part of a bridge replacement.

11 Bridges Lackawanna County

Coordinating with the City of Scranton to improve traffic flow, coordinate construction schedules, and enhance bike/ped accommodation as part of a series of bridge rehabilitation/replacement projects.
**Route 1007 Lehigh County**

**PennDOT Project** - Intersection improvements to Route 1004 and Route 1007 to alleviate congestion in the Borough of Catasauqua. Original project included widening the nearby bridge over Catasauqua Creek to accommodate a turn lane.

**Local Concerns** - During early environmental coordination, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor leaders raised the issue of gaps in trail connectivity in the area.

**Results of Early Collaboration**

Improved Trail Connectivity: PennDOT widened its design for the Lehigh Street Bridge to accommodate the D&L trail and eliminate the need for a separate pedestrian bridge downstream, which had previously been proposed by Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor representatives. The eight-foot-wide trail is planned to be separated from traffic by a concrete barrier. The bridge will have a five-foot-wide sidewalk on the opposite side for pedestrians traveling along Lehigh Street.

**Route 611 Retaining Wall Monroe County**

Collaborating with multiple stakeholders for improvements to a trail through the Delaware Water Gap as part of a retaining wall project.

**Route 2021 Berks County**

Coordinated with Exeter Township to improve vehicular safety through access management as part of a roadway restoration project.

**Route 378 Bridge Lehigh County**

Coordinated with the City of Bethlehem and various stakeholders to understand concerns and future plans for the historic bridge that connects the north and south sides of Bethlehem.

**U.S. 422 West Shore Bypass Berks County**

Collaborated with 20 stakeholders through the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and Berks County Commissioners. Meetings resulted in trail enhancements as part of a roadway project.
DISTRICT 6 - Conducted PennDOT Connects coordination on 42 projects involving face-to-face meetings with 29 municipalities.

“PennDOT Connects provides a voice and forum for municipalities in our urban district to enhance mobility in their communities by incorporating alternative modes of travel into transportation projects to best serve the interests of non-motorized travelers, including pedestrians and bicyclists.”

Kenneth M. McClain, District Executive

“It’s a worthwhile effort to include stakeholders earlier in the process.”

Jeff Seagraves Township Manager
Thornbury Township

Cheyney Road Bridge Delaware County

**PennDOT Project** - Replace a 10-foot-long two-lane bridge on Cheyney Road near Cheyney University of Pennsylvania.

**Local Concerns** - Potential future trail

**Results of Early Collaboration**
Accommodating future trail: PennDOT is considering widening the bridge, which currently has no shoulder area, to accommodate a trail planned by Cheyney University/Thornbury Township. The improvement will reduce costs and improve safety when the trail is developed.

Improved safety: Wider shoulders will also enhance safety on the bridge, which is heavily traveled, especially during the school year. In addition to motorists, bicyclists use the bridge en route to an area with bike lanes and another trail. The local motorcycle club also travels the bridge as part of their route.

**U.S. 1 Delaware County**
Collaborated with Haverford Township to consider a new sidewalk connection as part of a resurfacing project near a commuter rail station.

**Route 420 Delaware County**
Coordinated with Ridley Township to improve pedestrian facilities and connectivity to a neighborhood and swim club near a bridge that is being replaced over Stoney Creek.

**Route 291 Delaware County**
Coordinating a roadway drainage improvement with a major private sector stormwater project on an adjacent parcel.

**ADA Improvements Philadelphia County**
Coordinating with the City of Philadelphia to use data from its Philly 311 maintenance request system to help prioritize ADA curb ramp reconstruction.
DISTRICT 8 - Conducted PennDOT Connects coordination on 214 projects involving face-to-face meetings with 43 municipalities.

“Recognizing, respecting, and capitalizing on the working relationships our Planning Partners have with local communities has been key to effectively implementing PennDOT Connects.”

Michael Keiser, P.E. District Executive

PennDOT Connects allows municipal officials to communicate neighborhood concerns early in the process before decisions are made, which is critical to a successful project.”

Wayne Martin, City Engineer City of Harrisburg

Route 3012 Improvements Dauphin County

PennDOT Project - Improve safety and traffic flow at a five-leg intersection on Derry Street.

Local Concerns - Intersection improvements to include new advisory signs, pavement markings, and traffic signal upgrades.

Results of Early Collaboration

Enhanced Safety Improvements: The City of Harrisburg expressed an interest in working with PennDOT to improve this five-leg intersection to make safety improvements.

The overall corridor improvement project includes new advisory signs, pavement markings, traffic signal upgrades at multiple intersections, potential construction of turning lanes, and other safety improvements.

PennDOT will be working with the City of Harrisburg, Paxtang Borough, and Swatara Township to coordinate safety improvements and maximize benefits for the community.

Route 772 Bridge Lancaster County

Coordinated with multiple municipalities to address funding shortfalls as part of a bridge replacement project.

Inwood Iron Bridge Lebanon County

Coordinating with Union and Swatara townships, the state park manager, and the county to replace the historic bridge with a concrete structure.

U.S. 22 Dauphin County

Coordinating with Lower Paxton Township to provide safety improvements (pavement markings and sign installations) as part of a resurfacing project.

U.S. 322 Lebanon County

Partnered with South Londonderry Township to incorporate pavement markings and signal improvements to enhance bicyclist safety as part of a U.S. 322 resurfacing project.
DISTRICT 9 - Conducted PennDOT Connects coordination on 434 projects involving face-to-face meetings with 121 municipalities.

“PennDOT Connects has gotten more municipalities actively engaged with us, which enhances projects and builds support.”

Thomas A. Prestash, P.E. District Executive

“The Geistown Roundabout project is an amazing example of local, state, public, and private stakeholders coming together to redefine a major transportation intersection and change the face of our municipality for decades to come.”

Matt Sernell, President Geistown Borough

Route 3016 Cambria County

**PennDOT Project** - Resurface a three-mile segment of SR 3016 Geistown Borough and Richland and Stonycreek townships and construct a roundabout.

**Local Concerns** - Complexity and confusing nature of the existing interchange, which contributed to the borough being a “pass-by” location without a community feel.

**Results of Early Collaboration**
- Sidewalk connectivity: The Borough identified areas where sidewalks are important to residents and where they are needed for connectivity; PennDOT modified roadway design plans to incorporate the improved sidewalks.
- Bus shelters: Coordination with CamTran identified the need for bus shelters and pull-offs at two locations.
- Bicycle accommodation: PennDOT is providing a five-foot-wide shoulder for the 911 bicycle trail and may stripe it as a bicycle lane.

U.S. 30 Bedford County
Coordinated with East Providence Township and Joint Municipal Authority to improve turning movements and multi-use trail access as part of a resurfacing project.

U.S. 522 Fulton County
Coordinated with the Fulton County Commissioners to complete a “missing link” of sidewalk between McConnelsburg Borough and Ayr Township as part of a resurfacing project.

U.S. 22 Huntingdon County
Coordinated with Brady Township to execute a maintenance agreement for better parking and pedestrian access to the Thousand Steps trail as part of a roadway resurfacing project.

U.S. 219 Somerset County
Coordinated with Elk Lick Township to improve intersection sight distance while addressing a rock fall area.
**Route 108 & 173 Butler County**

**PennDOT Project** - Preventative maintenance paving on Route 108 and Route 173

**Local Concerns** - Slippery Rock Borough was interested in adding a right-turn lane and accommodating planned utility work.

**Results of Early Collaboration**

Improved traffic flow: During PennDOT Connects coordination, the Borough informed PennDOT that it had identified the need for a right-turn lane to improve traffic flow at the intersection of Routes 108 and 173 in the heart of Slippery Rock. The Borough had recently acquired a parcel adjacent to the intersection and would donate the right-of-way. PennDOT worked with Butler County and regional planners to secure funding for the turn lane.

Schedule coordination: PennDOT was notified of a planned water line replacement and adjusted the project schedule for the roadway improvements to follow the utility work.

**U.S. 19 Butler County**

Collaborated with Cranberry and Jackson townships and Zelienople Borough to understand their plans for development and sidewalk and trail expansion prior to a milling and resurfacing project.

**Route 58 Clarion County**

Coordinated with Licking Township and the Amish community to accommodate all modes of local traffic during construction of a bridge replacement.

**Route 68 Butler County**

Conducting further coordination with townships affected by this corridor traffic improvement project to establish a common vision for the corridor.

**Route 356 Butler County**

Identified the need to expand a park-and-ride in the project area through PennDOT Connects coordination with Buffalo Township, improving the project’s eligibility for CMAQ funding.
DISTRICT 11 - Conducted PennDOT Connects coordination on 124 projects involving face-to-face meetings with 96 municipalities.

“PennDOT Connects shifted our thinking—we formalized our existing coordination efforts with county and city officials and are pursuing earlier local involvement with greater collaboration.”

Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, P.E. District Executive

“Cooperating to correct drainage problems will protect the road and allow the repair to be done sooner and for a better price than if we were to undertake it on our own.”

Mario Leone, Borough Manager
Monaca Borough

Route 18 Beaver County

PennDOT Project - Pave Route 18, including the stretch through Monaca Borough

Local Concerns - Streetscaping and intersection improvements

Results of Early Collaboration
Savings for each partner: PennDOT will complete the roadway restoration and paving that would be part of the streetscaping project, and Monaca Borough will construct the curb ramps, which would normally be PennDOT’s responsibility. Schedule coordination will allow appropriate construction sequencing.

Improved safety and asset management: The roadway frequently floods during rain events due to an undersized and damaged stormwater drainpipe that is beyond the right-of-way on Borough property. The Borough will provide a temporary construction easement and PennDOT will replace the drainpipe as part of the roadway project.

U.S. 19 Allegheny County
Partnered with McCandless and Pine Townships to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety as part of a roadway widening and resurfacing project.

Route 4084 Allegheny County
Collaborated with the City of Pittsburgh to introduce bicycle lanes and intersection improvements as part of a roadway reconstruction and bridge preservation project.

Route 168 Lawrence County
Coordinated with the Village of West Pittsburg in Taylor Township on construction of new sidewalks as part of a roadway project.

Portersville Road Bridge Lawrence County
Partnered with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to improve a canoe launch and access road as part of a bridge rehabilitation project.
DISTRICT 12 - Conducted PennDOT Connects coordination on 118 projects involving face-to-face meetings with 75 municipalities.

“Conducting PennDOT Connects workshops in each of our counties—in conjunction with our Planning Partners from the Southwest Planning Commission, our County Planners, Design Unit Project Managers, and Municipal Service Representatives—was a great way to interact face-to-face with local government representatives, to listen and capture issues unique to their areas.”

Joseph J. Szczur, P.E. District Executive

“The PennDOT project manager was knowledgeable and asked many good questions as we discussed the Borough’s interest in improving access to downtown from Route 30.”

Lucien Bove, Borough Engineer
Irwin Borough

U.S. 30 Westmoreland County

PennDOT Project - Phased corridor improvements to a 15-mile section of U.S. 30 in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties, involving Districts 11 and 12 coordination.

Local Concerns - Left-turn lanes, bicycle and pedestrian accommodation, drainage, bus stops, and signal coordination for EMS.

Results of Early Collaboration
Improved vehicle flow: PennDOT is studying options to improve traffic flow by adding left-turn lanes and improving certain intersections, as well as optimizing signal timing.

Safety and connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians: PennDOT is working with the municipalities to improve signals and sidewalks for pedestrians, explore bicycle lanes, and connect residential areas to a local park.

Better bus stops: PennDOT is coordinating with Westmoreland County Transit Authority to design a bus pull-off at a park-and-ride entrance as well as improve bus stops and pedestrian access to them.

Crawford Avenue Bridge Fayette County
Coordinated with the City of Connellsville to minimize construction impacts to the Great Allegheny Passage Trail during bridge rehabilitation.

Route 356 Bridge Westmoreland County
Coordinated with Allegheny Township to discuss high traffic volumes as well as potential gas, water, and sewer impacts during a bridge replacement.

Route 18 Signal Upgrades Washington County
Collaborated with Washington County and City to secure funding for additional roadway improvements and transit upgrades in conjunction with a signal upgrade project.

U.S. 119 Reconstruction Westmoreland County
Collaborating with Westmoreland County and Youngwood Borough to secure funding to implement traffic calming measures as part of a roadway reconstruction project.
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR MUNICIPALITIES

New Support Hub Provides Access to Technical Assistance

PennDOT Connects offers free technical assistance to municipalities to better integrate local land use, development, and transportation goals into the state transportation. Any municipal staff member, government official, or planning partner is eligible to request free technical assistance.

Municipal Input Helps to Shape PennDOT Connects

More than 1,000 municipal representatives and planning partners attended 33 outreach workshops that were held throughout Pennsylvania in early 2018 to explain the PennDOT Connects process. PennDOT used the input provided by participants as new training and technical assistance resources are developed under the PennDOT Connects program. Training modules are also in the works and will be developed as either audiovisual resources or presentation materials to address topics under PennDOT Connects’ six core categories: community character, multimodal travel, accommodating growth, funding, mobility and efficiency, and safety.

A new course called Planning and Engineering 360° for Municipalities was developed to familiarize local government officials with the planning and engineering disciplines. Participants will have a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the transportation project development and delivery process. The 3-Module course includes:

1. The Value of Planning
2. Program Development
3. Project Delivery
REGISTER FOR A USER ACCOUNT

Register for an account at https://paconnects.org by clicking the Register icon, completing the short form, and selecting the green Register button at the bottom of the form.

Available Technical Assistance

1. PennDOT Connects General Information
2. Community Character
3. Multimodal Transportation
4. Improving Mobility and Efficiency
5. Improving Safety
6. Funding
7. Protecting Natural Resources
8. Accommodating Growth and Redevelopment
9. Economic Development
10. Stormwater Management

Municipal outreach in Lewisburg, PA

Municipal outreach in the Lehigh Valley

Municipal outreach in Wayne County, PA
A PennDOT Connects Workshop was convened on May 30, 2018, at the Dixon University Center. This all-day event included 95 participants, representing all Engineering Districts, Central Office, MPOs/RPOs, FHWA, and DCED.

The Workshop provided the opportunity to discuss best practices on issues such as PennDOT Connects outreach meetings, documentation of issues, and the role of District Planners.

Secretary Richards shared her thoughts on the implementation of PennDOT Connects, as well as expectations for the future.

“The real Challenge for you today is to set the bar even higher as we work to build momentum for PennDOT Connects throughout 2018 and beyond.” Secretary Richards

The remainder of the day involved lively discussions on topics ranging from applicability and scalability of the PennDOT Connects approach to all projects, to the need for identification of requirements at key project delivery milestones to track PennDOT Connects commitments from Design, through Construction, and into Maintenance and Operations. The meeting certainly provided a good range of action items to address over the next year.

WORKSHOP AGENDA - BUILDING MOMENTUM IN 2018

• Sharing Best Practices
• Challenges and Opportunities
• Recommendations Moving Forward
Secretary Richards sharing her vision and goals with District Planners and also team members who are leading PennDOT Connects collaboration in their region at the PennDOT Connects Workshop

Deputy Secretary McAuley, and Executive Deputy Secretary Bagley share their thoughts with the District Planners at the PennDOT Connects Workshop