



State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC)

Innovation in Motion

A newsletter with highlights from the STIC

INNOVATE

DEPLOY

EDUCATE



What is the STIC?

The State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) is comprised of a multi-stakeholder leadership team co-chaired by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The STIC brings together a diverse team of transportation stakeholders to forge an environment of innovation, imagination and ingenuity to pursue specific initiatives and their rapid implementation to deliver a modern, high-quality transportation system to Pennsylvania. The STIC newsletter features highlights from the STIC business meetings. Read below for the full details.

2016 Accomplishments Summary: A Year in Review

The STIC is proud to present the 2016 [Accomplishments Summary Report](#), which highlights the STIC accomplishments over the past year. In 2016, the STIC:

- Approved four new innovations and supported the deployment of 72 ongoing initiatives;
- Trained over hundreds of transportation professionals;
- Launched a local government outreach program; and
- Partnered with PennDOT districts and industry organizations to hold workshops across the commonwealth.

To read the report, please visit the [PennDOT STIC website](#). If you would like a printed copy of the report, please contact the STIC at ra-pdpenndotstic@pa.gov to request copies.



[Read the Report](#)

Every Day Counts 4 Innovations Announced

In 2009, the FHWA launched Every Day Counts (EDC) to identify and rapidly deploy proven innovations. Through EDC initiatives, FHWA works with state partners to identify new tools, products, and technologies. Every two years, FHWA hosts regional summits where states can learn about the new innovations and collaboratively select technologies and tools that are the best fit to address their transportation needs. This past year marked the fourth round of EDC innovations.

The Pennsylvania STIC selected six new EDC innovations to evaluate, deploy and promote:

- [Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures \(ATSPMs\)](#)
- [Collaborative Hydraulics: Advancing to the Next Generation of Engineering \(CHANGE\)](#)
- [Pavement Preservation \(When, Where and How\)](#)
- [Using Data to Improve Traffic Incident Management \(TIM\)](#)
- [Data-Driven Safety Analysis \(DDSA\)](#)
- [e-Construction and Partnering: A Vision for the Future](#)



To learn more, please visit the [EDC website](#). If you have specific questions relating to the EDC-4 innovations in Pennsylvania, please contact the STIC at ra-pdpenndotstic@pa.gov.

January STIC Meeting Highlights



The **Facilities TAG** provided an update on the [Energy Analytics for Sustainability Initiative](#). The TAG presented the results of the study and recommendations for future energy analytics improvements.



The **Environmental TAG** presented updates on the [PennDOT NEPA and Environmental Resources Reference Webpages](#). The recently launched webpages provide a centralized location for information on environmental laws and regulations.



The **Maintenance TAG** provided updates on:

- **Alternative Bidding for Grass Seeding - Low Growth Turf Pilot:** The TAG presented an overview of the grass seeding pilot project and shared lessons learned which will inform future applications. The pilot project demonstrated that the product application works best on new construction projects rather than on existing turf which requires eradicating the turf and weeds (thistle) while tending to the new seeding. The TAG plans to continue to monitor the progress of the project and report on findings.
- **Salt and Snow Management Training Course and Webinar:** The TAG presented an overview of the training course, which was funded by the STIC Incentive Funds in partnership with PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). The effort proved to be extremely successful, with more than 600 participants at 29 locations across the state. The LTAP team developed a webinar and workbook to extend the impact of the training and plans to host additional training this year. More information can be found on the [LTAP website](#).
- **Stormwater Management:** The TAG presented on the pilot projects constructed in Carlisle, Cumberland County. The presentation discussed the challenges, lessons learned and the next steps, which includes a statewide stormwater management plan that is currently under development.



The Safety TAG provided an update on the Safety Symposium hosted in September 2016. At the event, attendees learned about emerging technology and provided feedback on [PennDOT's Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#). The STIC will share the event report once it is finalized.

STIC Innovation Day Outreach Highlights

Local Government Outreach: Enhancing Safety on Local Roads

In 2016, the STIC launched an outreach program to enhance the relationship with local governments and increase the acceptance of innovations on the local level. The effort culminated into a pilot workshop for local officials and staff. This workshop was held on Nov. 2 at the California University of Pennsylvania in California, Washington County. For more information, please read the article about the event on page 13 of the [Accomplishments Summary](#).

This year, the STIC plans to focus outreach on improving safety on local roads. The STIC is planning a Safety Seminar, with support through STIC Incentive Funding, to provide an opportunity for local representatives to learn about innovations that can help enhance safety on roadways, prevent crashes and save lives. Stay tuned for more details about the seminar. If you have any questions, please contact the STIC team at ra-pdpenndotstic@pa.gov.



District 2 Innovation Day: Successful Grassroots Innovation

On Nov. 15, the STIC partnered with PennDOT District 2 to host an Innovation Day Workshop in Clearfield, Clearfield County. The workshop highlighted the power of the STIC and the importance of building a culture of innovation. The District 2 Innovation Day presentations and poster exhibits provided excellent examples of how initiatives can grow out of grassroots efforts to be championed and institutionalized across the commonwealth. For more information, please read the article about the event and interview with District 2 Executive Staff on page 10 of the [Accomplishments Summary](#).

PennDOT Video Explains How to Navigate Roundabouts

PennDOT is constructing roundabouts across the state because of the safety and efficiency benefits. However, the traveling public is still learning how to navigate this innovative intersection design. PennDOT recognizes the importance of community engagement and communications and has made concerted efforts to increase awareness. This outreach campaign included developing an animated video, which explains how to navigate a roundabout as a motorist, pedestrian, and bicyclist. To view the video, please visit PennDOT's [YouTube Channel](#).



Fact or Fiction

- Q:** What is the difference between a traffic circle and a modern roundabout?
- A:** Although roundabouts and traffic circles have a similar circular design, there are many differences between the two intersection designs. Traffic circles have a much larger footprint in order to accommodate high speeds of traffic. Many older traffic circles, like those found in cities across Pennsylvania, control traffic with stop signs or traffic signals. Modern roundabouts are designed to efficiently accommodate continuous, slow-moving traffic. Motorists entering the roundabout must yield to oncoming traffic, resulting in enhanced safety and efficiency. To learn more, please visit [PennDOT's Roundabout webpage](#).



Ask the STIC

- Q:** Does the STIC evaluate and research new ideas?
- A:** The STIC provides a venue to evaluate and implement proven, well-researched technologies and tools. However, the STIC is not a venue for unproven, untested suggestions, or research topics.



Upcoming Events:



STIC Business Meeting - May 10, 2017 at the PEMA Building in Harrisburg, PA



PSATS Conference - April 23-26, 2017 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA

Watch for the next edition of Innovation in Motion in June 2017

For more information, please contact the STIC Team at ra-pdpenndotstic@pa.gov.

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