

# Smart Transportation Quarterly



## What's Inside?

- My View by Toby Fauver
- National & Local ST Efforts
- Changing the Project Delivery Process
- Award Winners



## Coming Next Quarter

- PCTI Project Updates
- New Project Delivery Process
- York County ST Workshop
- Smart Chat
- ST Awards



## www.smart-transportation.com

- Case studies
- News & upcoming events
- Resources for municipalities
- Ways to get involved
- And much more!



## Have Questions or Ideas about Smart Transportation?

Send them to us at  
[smarttransportation@state.pa.us](mailto:smarttransportation@state.pa.us)

## PennDOT Announces Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) Recipients

PennDOT launched the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) in late 2008 with the goal of supporting projects that exemplify the themes of Smart Transportation. The competitive program will provide \$60 million in funding for both planning and construction projects.

PennDOT received applications requesting over \$600 million in total funding. In May, the recipients of the PCTI program were announced. A total of 50 projects that best showcased Smart Transportation were selected out of over 400 applications submitted by communities all over Pennsylvania.

The primary goal of the PCTI program is to provide PennDOT, local communities, MPO and RPOs, private developers, and the public with lessons about how best to implement Smart Transportation. The projects include downtown revitalization efforts, enhancements of local street networks, multi-use trails, traffic calming, and transit-oriented development studies, among others. Each of these project types will offer great learning opportunities for PennDOT and for our planning partners.

PennDOT looks forward to working with all of the project sponsors to get their exciting and innovative projects underway. Check for PCTI updates on [www.smart-transportation.com](http://www.smart-transportation.com).

### Summary of PCTI Project Selections:

Type of Place	# of Selections	% of Total Selections
Rural	5	10%
Suburban	14	28%
Urban - Large City	10	20%
Urban - Small City	17	34%
Regional	4	8%

Type of Project	# of Selections	% of Total Selections
Bike/Pedestrian	9	18%
Roads/Intersections	6	12%
Intermodal/Transit	13	26%
Land Use/Transportation Planning	13	26%
Streetscape/Traffic Calming	8	16%
Regional Planning	1	2%



## My View on Smart Transportation: The Role of Transit

Toby Fauver, PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Local and Area Transportation

Smart Transportation is all about linking land use and transportation planning in order to create great communities. While we often talk about the influence of roads and highways on land use, it is also true that transit has a deeply interconnected relationship with how land is developed.

Public transportation is vital to the efficient functioning and economic well-being of Pennsylvania's cities, suburbs, and even our rural areas. Transit is important environmentally, as it plays a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption. It is also important socially, as it ensures that all of our citizens have ways to get to schools, jobs, medical care, or recreation.

For transit to work well - financially and operationally - local land uses must be what we call "transit-supportive." In smaller communities, this may mean doing things as simple as ensuring that new developments have sidewalks connecting residents or shoppers to the local bus stop; in larger communities, it may mean zoning for a mix of uses (residential, commercial, etc.) and higher densities (building up, not out) around train stations.

Whether we're focusing on improving the efficiency of senior citizen shuttle services in northwestern Pennsylvania or the Amtrak Keystone Corridor in southeastern Pennsylvania, land use is a fundamental part of the solution to our public transportation challenges. No matter what the scale of the community, partnerships among transit providers, municipalities, developers, and PennDOT are necessary to develop efficient transit networks that support great places. This is why the Smart Transportation philosophy is so critical to our state's transportation future.

Theme #6 of Smart Transportation calls for an "accommodation of all modes." This means we must focus on ensuring that walking, bicycling, and transit, in addition to private cars, are viable, safe options for moving around in our communities.

*Toby Fauver*

## Smart Transportation in Action

### Queen Street Station TOD, City of Lancaster

Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA), in collaboration with the Lancaster Museum of Art, the City of Lancaster, and a private developer, is building Downtown Lancaster's next transit-oriented development (TOD) project. The project is a redevelopment of an existing parking lot that is located on the corner of Chestnut and Queen Streets, one of the City's most prominent intersections.

The new development will house RRTA's expanded downtown transit hub, the Lancaster Museum of Art on the ground floor, a 350-space shared parking garage, and ten levels of residential flats. The project will improve the City's transit services, provide park-and-ride opportunities downtown, and give the Lancaster Museum of Art a prominent Downtown address. In addition, the project will also bring economic development in the City by converting a former parking lot to a tax-contributing use that will spur further development.

The Queen Street Station TOD Project is an excellent example of Smart Transportation. It is not every day that a transit agency takes the lead on a downtown infill and community-oriented project. We applaud RRTA's efforts in applying Smart Transportation to create a more livable and sustainable Lancaster.



Existing RRTA parking lot.



Proposed TOD project.

## Smart Transportation at the National Level...

The current national discussion on transportation policy is closely aligned with the principles of Smart Transportation. U.S. DOT Secretary Ray LaHood said before Congress that one of his priorities was a "strong focus on people and the communities where they live and work...[This] implies a commitment to the principles that some refer to as livability; that is, investing in a way that recognizes the unique character of each community. The era of one-size-fits-all transportation projects must give way to one where preserving and enhancing unique community characteristics...is a primary mission of our work."

Building on this philosophy, in June 2009, the U.S. DOT, U.S. EPA, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced an unprecedented level of interagency collaboration focused on 6 principles:

1. Provide more transportation choices
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing
3. Enhance economic competitiveness
4. Support existing communities
5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment
6. Value communities and neighborhoods

Although the national debate on transportation continues to evolve, it is clear that many of the same principles PennDOT is embracing with Smart Transportation will be at the center of the national conversation as well.

## ...and Smart Transportation at the Local Level

On the opposite end of the spectrum, ideas related to Smart Transportation are being implemented on a local level. Land use is a local government function, so the goal of "linking land use and transportation" cannot be a reality without a partnership between local communities and the state's transportation providers.

Many of Pennsylvania's counties and municipalities have already adopted land use ordinances that embrace the principles of "smart growth." Additionally, PennDOT has been working with several regions to conduct workshops on how Smart Transportation principles can be applied to local land use planning. The first session was held in Lehigh Valley, and subsequent sessions are being planned with York County and Lancaster County.

If you would like more information on arranging an interactive Smart Transportation workshop in your area, e-mail us at [smartransportation@state.pa.us](mailto:smartransportation@state.pa.us).



Smart Transportation means working with our local land use partners to create great communities.

## Changing the Way PennDOT Delivers Transportation Projects

One of the most important ways that Smart Transportation is being woven into the fabric of PennDOT's policies and procedures is through a revision to the way projects are developed and implemented. There are several goals of the new process, including:

- streamlining the process to reduce the amount of time it takes to develop a project;
- ensuring that local governments have a larger role in the up-front planning process;
- focusing on sustaining existing infrastructure;
- requiring all projects to come out of a coordinated, comprehensive planning process - planning will occur early and often, which will provide enhanced knowledge before programming a particular transportation solution; and
- increasing compatibility and consistency among Long Range Transportation Plans, local comprehensive plans, and other planning documents.

The new process is being designed with a large task force that consists of representatives from PennDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), counties, municipalities, MPO/RPOs, and other stakeholders. While each stakeholder has their own needs and interests, all have the same goal of developing an easier process that results in better transportation solutions. The team's proposal will be reviewed and adopted by PennDOT's leadership, in coordination with FHWA and other partners, by fall 2009.

## Spotlight on Smart Transportation Award Winners

Throughout the last several months, Smart Transportation awards have been given to local communities at the annual conferences for the state's various local government associations. Two of this year's winners are spotlighted below; future editions of Smart Transportation Quarterly will describe other award-winning projects.

### New Cumberland Borough; Bridge Street Reconstruction

New Cumberland Borough reconstructed Bridge Street, their inviting "main street," to enhance the look of the Old Towne section of the Borough and entice businesses to the route. The design calms traffic and increases crosswalk visibility through better markings and lighting.

Local funds were raised through black-tie dinners, festivals, and other volunteer efforts, with the goal of easing the challenges brought on by a tight budget. The project still managed to come in on-time and under-budget. As a result of this project, owners of adjacent properties are improving the appearance of their homes and businesses, and a new town clock was installed at the Post Office.

Great work, New Cumberland Borough!



### Doylestown Township; Bike and Hike Path

Doylestown received a Smart Transportation award that was sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, the Association of Pennsylvania Constructors and PennDOT for their Bike and Hike Trail Plan.

The path, an integral part of the Township's comprehensive plan and official map, connects several local schools, creating a safe pedestrian and bicycling route to these schools. Another major focus was to give Delaware Valley College students a safe way to get between the campus and nearby towns without having to use a vehicle. A portion of the path also allows students at the local schools and college to have access to the 108-acre Central Park.

Congratulations, Doylestown Township!



## Smart Chat



In this feature of Smart Transportation Quarterly, our resident Smart Transportation expert, Natasha, answers your questions regarding Smart Transportation. As always, if you have any questions, send them to [smartransportation@state.pa.us](mailto:smartransportation@state.pa.us).

*Natasha, when can we expect to start seeing the results of the PCTI funding?*

The 50 recipients of PCTI program were selected in May. PennDOT is currently working with these communities to kick-off the projects. Planning projects should be underway by the end of the summer and mostly completed by 2010. Construction projects will vary, but you should start seeing some projects completed by next summer.

*I am organizing a community workshop to discuss our township's new comprehensive plan. How do I invite someone from PennDOT to present Smart Transportation and how it relates to our community?*

Simple! Just email us at [smartransportation@state.pa.us](mailto:smartransportation@state.pa.us) and we'll find someone from your local PennDOT District Office to present at your meeting. And remember, we want these events to be two-way streets; we also want to learn more about the direction in which your township is heading.

I look forward to responding to more of your questions in the Fall issue of Smart Transportation Quarterly!

*Natasha*