

Through PennDOT Connects, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and its regional planning partners are strengthening their partnerships with communities by involving local government at the very beginning of the planning process so that land use, development, and transportation are better integrated and more effective.

The PennDOT Connects policy, initiated by Secretary Leslie S. Richards as a top priority, makes changes to the project development process to enhance transportation planning. It requires communities to have meaningful opportunities for engagement in the initial stages of the planning process with PennDOT and the regional planning partners.

A more strategic approach to engagement will ensure that local priorities and issues are effectively considered as transportation needs and investments are planned and developed. The result is improved decision making, better investments, and greater local impacts.

Through PennDOT Connects, resources are being provided to support municipalities to better understand:

- the integration of transportation and land use planning in transportation project development;
- the integration of transportation and land use in comprehensive plans and/or corridor plans; and
- the implementation tools available to improve the transportation and land use connection.

## PennDOT Connects Municipal Resources

Support Hub: [paconnects.org](http://paconnects.org)

Technical Assistance from technical experts via phone, email, or on-site visit

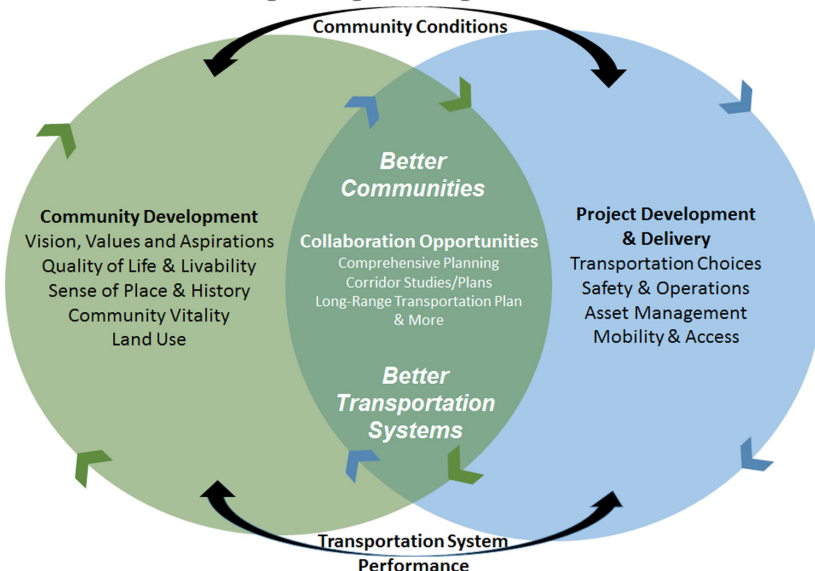
On-Site Personalized Training

Online Training

Quarterly Newsletter

Tech Sheets

### Planning & Engineering Collaboration



PennDOT Connects is about better communities and better transportation systems. These complementary goals are accomplished when communities, planning partners, and PennDOT work together.

This graphic shows how municipal responsibilities for community development (left) can dovetail with PennDOT responsibilities for project development & delivery (right). The overlapping section (middle) lists some of the collaboration opportunities to make this happen.

For more information:

717-710-2090

[paconnects@pa.gov](mailto:paconnects@pa.gov)



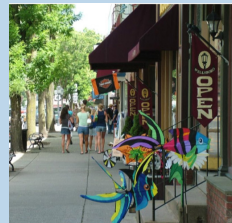
Mobility & Efficiency



Multimodal Transportation



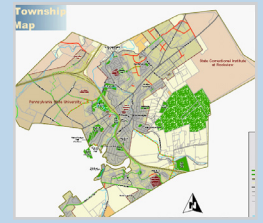
Safety



Community Character



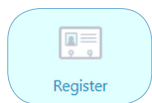
Project Funding



Accommodating Growth

### PENNDOT CONNECTS SUPPORT HUB

is an online, interactive helpdesk that gets you in touch with the right technical resources and experts related to transportation projects and land use planning. The Hub's main functions are summarized below:



#### REGISTRATION

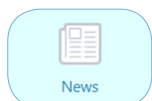
Enjoy the benefits of a Hub account by registering at [paconnects.org](http://paconnects.org). Registration is easy and allows you to collaborate with planning partners. You can request technical assistance, monitor responses to your requests, and stay up-to-date on current PennDOT Connects news.



#### REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance and personalized training requests are initiated by submitting a ticket through the Hub. You will be guided through a short series of prompts to specify the nature of your request and desired level of assistance (phone, email, or on-site visit/training). You will then receive a confirmation email acknowledging your request. Technical experts will provide responses for meaningful support and recommendations within a timely manner.

**On-site technical assistance** offers municipal staff the opportunity to work with an expert on specific transportation planning needs. **On-site personalized training** is also available. You provide the meeting room, and PennDOT Connects will provide the technical expert. The brochure [Transportation and Land Use Training](#) explains available topics and how to request on-site training to meet your community's needs.



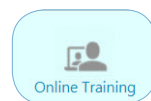
#### NEWS

As a registered user, you will receive a quarterly newsletter and Support Hub News directly to your email inbox. The latest News is always posted on the Hub's homepage.



### SELF-SERVICE KNOWLEDGEBASE

Simply type in a request and the Support Hub generates a list of related Knowledgebase resources, including short articles and reference guides. The Support Hub library also includes resources shared by land use, transportation, and planning partners. Have a resource that has helped your community and you would like to share it? The Hub is a two-way platform that allows you to upload resources for contribution to the Knowledgebase.



### ONLINE TRAINING

Interactive training modules on transportation and land use planning topics are available online. For each topic, the self-guided training covers key principles and practices, examples and key resources, benefits and challenges, and potential next steps. Each module requires approximately 15 minutes of viewing time. The modules are available on the PennDOT website at [PennDOT Connects](http://PennDOT Connects).

All services provided by the PennDOT Connects Municipal Support Program are free to municipalities.

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

This strategic alliance is now of even greater importance for PennDOT Connects implementation. 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.

The collaborative effort of municipalities, MPO/RPO planning partners, and PennDOT is key to ensuring that opportunities to improve transportation and communities are realized. MPO/RPO contacts can be found at <http://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/MPO-and-RPO-Contact-List.aspx>.