Highway Occupancy Permit Program

Key Areas of Change

- Consistency with Smart Transportation guidelines
- Local coordination throughout process
- Mitigation applied with consistency across the state
- Predictable timelines for approvals

Smart Transportation Enters the HOP Process

- HOP projects to use Smart Transportation design values
  - Greater flexibility
  - Fewer design waivers
  - Cost savings for applicants
- HOP projects to apply key ST concepts
  - Land use context, roadway type, desired operating speed
- Alternative modes and building the network are encouraged (more on this later)
Local Coordination

- Municipalities encouraged to participate in review of HOP applications
- Municipal notification of all meetings
- Sharing of correspondence and review letters
- Municipalities to provide input on:
  - mitigation strategies
  - Alternative Transportation Plans

Scoping Meeting

- Scoping Meeting held early in land development process, preferably during sketch planning stage.
- Goal: receive direction from PennDOT and municipality
- Identify land use context
- Identify roadway type
- Identify desired operating speed
- Concur on study area, trip generation, trip distribution, analysis years, growth rates

Alternative Modes Encouraged

- Vehicular trip credits awarded for comprehensive sidewalk system, bikeway system
  - Must meet thresholds for road connectivity, density, land use mix
- Trip credits also awarded for:
  - Employer trip reduction program
  - Transit services
Alternative Transportation Plans

- Alternate routes
  - Improve connectivity of area network
- Access management plans
  - Combine access points
- Pedestrian facilities
  - Identify “missing links”, and install sidewalks
- Transit facilities
- Bicycle facilities
- Park & ride
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Alternative Transportation Plans

- May not mitigate LOS drops, but still have value
- Developer costs should be similar to conventional improvements
- Must be implementable and funded

Contact Information

Link to the Policies and Procedures for Transportation Impact Studies: www.dot.state.pa.us/More Links/Highway Occupancy Permits (HOP)

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