

Pennsylvania Walkable Communities Collaborative: Increasing walkable communities across Pennsylvania



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Pennsylvania Walkable Communities Collaborative

Steering Committee

- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Aging
- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Health
- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- ▶ AARP
- ▶ American Planning Association - PA Chapter
- ▶ Pennsylvania Downtown Center
- ▶ State Alliance of YMCAs

Action Teams

Research and Messaging Action Team

Purpose: Develop unified messaging that communicates the benefits of walkable communities.

Outreach and Communications Action Team

Purpose: Reach out to local communities and State Legislature to communicate the benefits of walkable communities.

Action Teams

Community Capacity-Building Action Team

Purpose: Design and deliver training for local communities in how to create pedestrian plans.

PennDOT Connects Action Team

Purpose: Mobilize PA walkable communities collaborative and strengthen PennDOT Connects program.

WalkWorks Funding Opportunity

- ▶ Develop transportation plans to identify and prioritize projects related to modes of active transportation; and/or
- ▶ Develop policies - such as Complete Streets or Vision Zero - that include language in support of environmental changes for enhancing places for physical activity with an emphasis on walking.

Strong Agency Partnership between DCNR, Health and PennDOT

- ▶ Identify or allocate funding to support active transportation plans and policies.
- ▶ Share information related to grant applications that request funding to increase active transportation.
- ▶ Participate in meetings related to active transportation.

PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

- ▶ Helps Pennsylvania's municipalities make the best use of their roadway maintenance dollars.
- ▶ Offers training, technical assistance and other customer services to municipal elected officials and staff.
- ▶ Little or no cost to municipalities.

<https://www.dot7.state.pa.us/ltap/default.aspx>

PennDOT Connects

Secretary Richards' initiative to connect Project Development Process to local needs

- ▶ PennDOT and its Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Rural Planning Organization (RPO) jointly prepare transportation studies, plans, and programs
- ▶ Through the PennDOT Connects process other community stakeholders (e.g., transit operators, economic development agencies, etc.) are actively involved to improve transportation system performance and achieve more livable communities.

PennDOT Connects

The Department dedicates approximately \$3 million a year in Statewide Planning and Research funds to transportation planning studies.

Planning studies should be focused on a specific transportation problems:

- Corridor congestion
- Land use continuity with existing transportation infrastructure
- Freight accessibility/ compatibility with surrounding land use
- Limited pedestrian and/or bicycle accommodations
- Stormwater management problems
- Lack of transit access

PennDOT Connects

Examples of PennDOT Connects Project Studies

- ▶ Evaluation of a proposed lane reduction on 10th Avenue in Altoona and construction of a shared-use path to improve opportunities for recreation and train spotting in the downtown
- ▶ Development of a bike and pedestrian improvement plan for the City of Erie
- ▶ Study to align land use with freight movement and potential improvements for the area surrounding the Lehigh Valley International Airport

WWW.PACONNECTS.ORG

Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Outline a vision and framework for improving conditions for walking and bicycling across Pennsylvania, most notably for those Pennsylvanians who walk and bicycle out of necessity rather than for leisure and recreation

Identify and help prioritize strategies that increase the number of people walking and bicycling, while supporting safety and multimodal connectivity throughout the state

<http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/RideaBike/Pages/Master-Plan.aspx>

Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

2017 Plan Focal Points

- Safety
- Access
- Community Health
- Equity

Questions

What has your experience been with PennDOT Connects?

How is PennDOT Connects currently working for you?

Questions

Does your community or the communities you work with have a non-motorized plan? If so, how is it working for you?

Questions

What issues/problems have you experienced from local government officials or others, related to developing a more walkable community?

A green Brompton folding bicycle is parked on a wooden deck. The bicycle has black panniers on the front and rear, and a black helmet hanging from the handlebars. The deck is made of light-colored wood and has a wooden railing. In the background, there is a river with white water rapids, surrounded by lush green trees and a stone bridge in the distance.

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