

Creating Walkable Communities in PA

Local, Regional and State Perspectives
APA PA Conference, Pittsburgh, 10/18/15



Our Panel

- Jamie L. Klink – Blair Co. Planning Commission
- Nicole Zimsky – Marshall Township
- Mark J. Magalotti, Ph.D., P.E. – University of Pittsburgh Center for Sustainable Infrastructure
- Richard C. Feder, AICP – University of Pittsburgh Center for Sustainable Infrastructure



APA PA Strategic Policy Statement on Transportation includes:

- Improve intermodal connections
- Permit gas tax to fund all modes
- Give counties responsibility for apportioning transportation funds
- Encourage transit- and pedestrian-oriented and mixed land-use development
- Complete Streets-type approaches



State Approaches

- Use Multimodal Funding
- Incentivize sidewalk ordinances and adding sidewalks
- Use liquid fuels bonus funding or another source
- Prioritize Complete Streets projects
- Do sidewalks as part of every state project



Federal Approaches

- Re-authorization
- Use available funding categories
- PROWAG – Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines
- Partner up
- Update ADA



Overall Approach

- Engage the citizenry
- Education and marketing program
- Coalitions
- Funding and incentives
- Pass sidewalk ordinances
- Enforce sidewalk ordinances



Overall Approach

- Develop sidewalk plan
- Develop trails plan
- Address the implementation process
- How are existing sidewalks working?



Presentation Points of Brian Hare, PennDOT

- Transportation Projects Involve Good Planning
 - Context-sensitive design and solutions
 - Right-sizing of projects
 - Linking planning and NEPA
 - Smart Transportation guidebook



Presentation Points of Brian Hare, PennDOT

- Accessibility as a basic principle



Presentation Points of Brian Hare, PennDOT

- Context Needed for Complete Projects
 - Understand project surroundings
 - Understand community's vision
 - Existing and needed land use controls
 - Purpose and need
 - Feedback loop to PennDOT's process
 - Understand the budget



Presentation Points of Brian Hare, PennDOT

- Local Support is Key
 - Local government
 - Planners and engineers
 - PennDOT is working to improve their approach to bicycle and pedestrian accommodations



Presentation Points of Brian Hare, PennDOT

- New Leadership, New Vision
 - Exciting time for planning at PennDOT
 - DOT secretary is a planner with passion for planning
 - Support staff has same credentials
 - New focus: planners must have seat at the table
 - Projects to be products of good planning



My Takeaways from Brian's Presentation

- Projects must include pedestrian accommodations consistent with municipal planning requirements
- How can PennDOT encourage trails and sidewalks?
- Proposal: Every time a PennDOT project is in a municipality with a sidewalk ordinance, sidewalks must be part of the project
- Proposal: Same with County roads
- Create incentives programs including funding and priorities



National Broad-based Efforts

- “America Walks”
- “Everybody Walk! Collaborative”
- Plan4Health
- “Health in All Policies”
- WalkWorks
- Step it Up! U.S. Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities
- PROWAG

