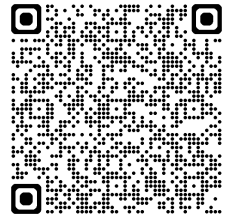




# Request Free Planning Assistance



Are you involved with municipal land use and transportation planning activities? Could your municipality use assistance to help shape a future project, advance community and transportation planning, and access funding? Act now to take advantage of this free assistance.

PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach offers free assistance to municipalities to better integrate local land use, development, and transportation goals into the state transportation planning process.

## What is planning assistance and who is it for?

Any municipal staff member, government official, or planning partner is eligible to request free one-on-one assistance for land use and transportation planning or project development.

**Types of Planning Assistance:** Depending on the nature of a request, municipalities will receive assistance via email or phone or an on-site visit may be necessary to facilitate face-to-face discussion and collaboration. Assistance can be requested by scanning the QR code at the top of the page, emailing [paconnects@pa.gov](mailto:paconnects@pa.gov), or by calling 717-710-2090.

1. *Phone/Email Assistance:* Phone and email assistance offers prompt replies to questions about guidance documents; planning tools; best practices; success stories; funding opportunities; PennDOT forms, policies, processes, and standards; and planning partner contacts.
2. *On-Site Assistance:* A technical expert will be assigned to visit the municipality to evaluate and answer the identified transportation project planning and programming questions. It may also offer a half-day workshop-style meeting on topics related to transportation and land use planning. Municipal officials, municipal staff, and associated stakeholders may be invited to attend.

Relevant PennDOT District planners and planning partners from the local Metropolitan or Rural Planning Organization are invited to participate in the site visit.

Support for on-site assistance could include guidance and facilitation on addressing transportation planning and safety issues, presentation of research on best planning practices, assistance with specific planning and design-related issues, and/or support in following planning regulations to help begin or move a project forward.

After the meeting, the PennDOT Connects technical support expert will prepare a report to document the resources and assistance provided.

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.



## What type of assistance is available?

Any question related to transportation planning, project development, or project delivery.

To help, PennDOT Connects provides the following key categories (sample questions are provided for each category):

### 1. General Transportation Planning Information

- How do I begin to work with the MPO/RPO in our area?
- What state road projects are planned in our municipality?
- What projects in my surrounding region are on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

### 2. Planning for Safety

- How can I plan to use effective traffic calming measures to reduce speeding?
- How can a section of road be improved for pedestrians or cyclists?
- How can we incorporate safer pedestrian crossings as the main state road undergoes repaving?
- How do we improve safety around schools, including ways to improve walking, bicycling, and pickup and drop-off?

### 3. Funding

- We need funding for a project, but we are having a hard time identifying the right funding source(s) for our project. What resources are available?
- We have completed a funding application. How can we make our application more competitive?
- What funding resources are available to improve pedestrian or bike accessibility?
- Is there funding available to get us started with planning and implementing a Main Street Program?

### 4. Mobility and Efficiency

- What can be done to better manage access for locally generated traffic along key highway corridors?
- How can we plan for trucks when a new warehouse is being proposed?

- How do we reclaim our Main Street when our current roadway system emphasizes mobility (for cars) over accessibility?

### 5. Community Character

- How should we plan for future road projects that might impact our community's sense of place?
- What type of data is needed to support walkability?

### 6. Protecting Natural Resources

- What can be done to preserve key areas eventually needed for public purposes, such as parks, wellhead protection, or new roadways?
- How do we plan for preservation of open space and other unique or sensitive environmental areas?

### 7. Accommodating Growth and Redevelopment

- What techniques can be used to manage growth around a planned highway interchange?
- How can our municipality use the PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) process to plan for growth and implement access management practices?

### 8. Stormwater Management

- We are a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) community and value our stormwater as a natural resource. What is the best way to



<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pennDOT/research-planning-and-innovation/pennDOT-connects.html>

For more information:  
717-710-2090 or [paconnects@pa.gov](mailto:paconnects@pa.gov)