Transportation Priority Projects

ROADWAYS • PUBLIC TRANSIT • BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN
August 27, 2021

The Honorable Yassmin Gramian, Chair
Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission
400 North Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Gramian:

The Chester County Board of Commissioners is pleased to present you with our 2021 Transportation Priority Projects. This multi-modal set of transportation improvement projects is fundamental towards achieving the land use and transportation vision of both Chester County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a major impact on transportation with drastic reductions in revenues from the gas tax, turnpike tolling, and most significantly in public transportation fares. Those impacts magnify the need to develop and obtain reliable and sustainable transportation funding sources to not only maintain a state of good repair for our current transportation system, but also provide the opportunity for our communities and economy to grow.

Chester County is experiencing significant residential and industrial development and is forecasted to have substantial population growth, leading the region. Because of the county’s geographic size, because of higher regional priorities for transportation investment than Chester County, and because of the age of many of our transportation facilities, Chester County has a huge backlog of transportation needs.

Recognizing that prioritization is more important now with the current funding situation, the Chester County Planning Commission inventoried the transportation improvement needs of our 73 municipalities then worked with a committee of our transportation planning, legislative, and economic development partners to identify the critical priority transportation projects found within this brochure.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide input towards the development of PennDOT’s Twelve Year Program. We fully understand that the success of these critical investments will only be fully realized through coordinated, complementary land use planning. Together, we can continue to make Chester County, the Delaware Valley region, and the entire Commonwealth a great place to live, work, and connect.

Sincerely,

Marian D. Moskowitz
Chair

Josh Maxwell
Vice-Chair

Michelle Kichline
Commissioner
County Comprehensive Planning

The Transportation Priority Projects further advance the goals, objectives, and recommendations of Landscapes3, Chester County’s Comprehensive Plan. Transportation facilities are addressed primarily within the ‘How We CONNECT’ chapter of Landscapes3. Included are three policy maps that illustrate opportunities to improve options for all travel modes—vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian, public transit, and freight—and are essential to maintaining communities that support public health, provide accessible transportation options for all, and help to mitigate climate change.

CONNECT goal
Advance efficient, reliable, and innovative transportation, utility, and communications infrastructure systems that responsibly serve thriving and growing communities.

KEY issues

**Remove Congestion Bottlenecks**
Chester County major roadways would operate more efficiently and generate much less greenhouse gases by addressing the pinch points that cause congestion through application of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) technology, minor operational improvements, and limited added capacity.

**Accommodate Future Growth**
Chester County is forecasted for the most significant growth in the region which will require expanded public transit services, implementation of complete streets policies, and the creation of more multimodal transportation options.

**Create Healthier Communities**
Chester County aims to maintain its status as the Commonwealth’s healthiest county by advancing the development of the Circuit multi-use trail network, and providing for more active transportation networks to include facilities such as sidewalks, walkways, bike lanes, and improved connections to public transit services.
Letter of support from the **Pennsylvania Senate**

July 27, 2021

The Honorable Yasmin Granian, Chair
Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission
400 North Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Granian:

Chester County has one of the largest projected growths in population and employment in southeast Pennsylvania. This significant growth is despite the negative impacts of COVID-19 not only on our society but also on our ability to capture the transportation revenues generated through the gas tax, turnpike tolls, public transit use, and other user-based revenue sources due to the pandemic’s restrictions on mobility.

To address these transportation challenges, Chester County has continued to work with its municipalities and transportation planning partners to identify and prioritize roadway, bicycle/pedestrian, and public transportation improvement projects. These multi-modal projects are fundamental to achieving the land use and transportation vision of both Chester County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Upgrades would significantly improve access and further encourage usage that would benefit the economy and even reduce emissions. Additionally, projects to improve our roads, bridges, and highways are critical to reducing traffic and improving overall safety.

We, the undersigned members of the Pennsylvania Senate, who represent Chester County, are writing to express our wholehearted support for the 2021 **Chester County Transportation Priority Projects**. These improvements are essential towards continuing the sustainability of our economy, our transportation system, and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

**Carolyn Comitta**
Senator, 19th District

**John Kane**
Senator, 9th District

**Tim Kearney**
Senator, 26th District

**Katie Muth**
Senator, 44th District
Letter of support from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

The Honorable Yassmin Gramian, Chair
Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission
400 North Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Gramian:

Chester County continues to experience significant growth despite the negative impacts of COVID-19 not only on our society but also on our ability to capture the transportation revenues generated through the gas tax, turnpike tolls, public transit use, and other user based revenue sources due to the pandemic’s restrictions on mobility.

To address these challenges, Chester County has worked with its municipalities and transportation planning partners to identify and prioritize a set of multi-modal improvement projects that are fundamental to achieving the land use and transportation vision of both Chester County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We, the undersigned members of the Pennsylvania House, who represent Chester County, are writing to express our wholehearted support for the 2021 Chester County Transportation Priority Projects.

These improvements are essential towards continuing the sustainability of our economy, our transportation system, and our communities.

We thank you for your time and consideration of these priorities.

Sincerely,

Chester County Delegation
The projects listed below are intended to maximize the efficiency and safety of existing and planned roadway corridors and facilities.

**Roadways**

The following are examples of critical intersections and bridges across the county that need to be addressed:

### Congestion Areas

- **PA 113/US 30 Bypass to Peck Road**
  - Preliminary engineering

- **PA 23 Corridor/Phoenixville**
  - Reduce congestion

- **PA 100/US 30 Bypass/Exton Station**
  - Reduce congestion

- **US 202 Section 200**
  - Operational improvements

- **US 202 Section 100**
  - PA 926 at US 202
  - High Street interchange and Matlack Street intersection improvements

### Corridor Improvements

- **PA 10: Corridor Safety Improvements**
  - Preliminary engineering

- **PA 896: Corridor Safety Improvements**
  - Final design

- **PA 41: Corridor Safety Improvements**
  - Construction

- **322 Corridor Improvements**
  - Reduce congestion

### Intersections

- **PA 352 at King Road**
- **Baltimore Pike at Newark Road**
- **PA 41 at State Road**

### Bridges

- **Boot Road over AMTRAK**
- **Lancaster Avenue over East Branch Brandywine**
- **PA 372 over Officers Run**

* Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funded
Roadway Network Planning Map

This policy map identifies the location of major planning, design, or construction activities that are anticipated to improve safety and mobility. *Landscapes3*
Public Transit

The projects listed below are intended to promote the use of public transit as a viable alternative to single-occupant travel.

**Keystone Corridor/Paoli-Thorndale Rail Stations**
Planned improvements at existing rail stations
- Parkesburg
- Coatesville
- Downingtown
- Exton
- Paoli Transportation Center
- Devon

**West Chester Pike “Better Bus” Pilot**
Implementation of direct bus principles to provide for fewer stops and faster more reliable service

**SEPTA Paoli-Thorndale Extension**
Extend existing SEPTA regional rail service to Coatesville and Parkesburg

**Rail service extensions to Phoenixville, Reading, and West Chester**
Reestablishing passenger rail service in these rail corridors are aspirational projects requiring further study
Public Transit Planning Map

This policy map identifies the location of existing and proposed public transit facilities and services.

Landscapes3
The projects listed below are intended to expand pedestrian facilities and further develop a connected system of bicycle facilities as an important means of transportation and recreational travel.

**Struble Trail Extension**  
Preliminary engineering, final design, and construction

**Chester Valley Trail: Exton to Atglen**  
- Feasibility and engineering  
- P&T Corridor into Downingtown  
- Enola Low Grade into Atglen

**Paoli Pike Trail**  
Construction

**Baltimore Pike Bikeway**  
Feasibility Study & Master Plan
Circuit Trails Planning Map

This policy map identifies the location of existing and proposed multi-use trails that tie into Greater Philadelphia’s trail network known as the Circuit.

- **Strumble Trail Extension**
- **Chester Valley Trail: Exton to Aigliem**
- **Paoli Pike Trail**
- **Baltimore Pike Bikeway**

Legend:
- **Existing**
  - Trails currently open for use, as of 2015.
- **Proposed**
  - Actively under study, or design, or in the acquisition or funding stage.
- **Potential addition**
  - Potential opportunity for multi-use trail network expansion; additional planning recommended.
- **Generalized trail connections**
  - Potential opportunity for a local trail connection to the regional network; additional planning recommended.
- **Landscapes3 growth areas**

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The transportation priorities for Chester County were developed in conjunction with:

Chester County Board of Commissioners
Chester County’s Pennsylvania Senate Delegation
Chester County’s Pennsylvania House of Representatives Delegation
Chester County Planning Commission
Chester County Facilities Department
Chester County Economic Development Council
Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau
Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
PennDOT District 6-0
Transportation Management Association of Chester County
Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce