

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From a 2011 summit meeting of key representatives of the state's leading transportation agencies, a new initiative has emerged to explore and solve the most difficult transportation challenges. The Mapping the Future Initiative, a collaborative effort between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC), is reducing inefficiencies and duplication of effort, saving costs, and developing solutions to transportation construction and maintenance challenges throughout the state.

Facilitated by Michael Baker Jr., Inc., the long-time general engineering consultant to the PTC and design and construction engineering consultant to PennDOT, the initiative has brought together leaders of both agencies in seven working groups: design, construction, facilities, procurement and purchasing, communications and public relations, maintenance and operations, and intelligent transportation systems, to explore ways in which the agencies can effectively share resources and expertise. This is the first time that state's two leading transportation agencies have agreed to share resources across all disciplines and functions.

Through the sharing or exchange of maintenance facilities and equipment, the joint development of new infrastructure design standards, and the sharing of information technology and intelligent transportation system infrastructure, the initiative has saved millions of dollars that PennDOT and the PTC can redirect toward the development of solutions to the deterioration of the state's transportation infrastructure.

The Mapping the Future Initiative provides a model for state and municipal transportation agencies to improve efficiencies and reduce costs by sharing resources and collaborating to develop effective transportation solutions.