

# **STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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## **GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE 2013 TWELVE YEAR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**



June 2011



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## Message from the Commission Chairman

The beginning of the Corbett Administration in Pennsylvania will coincide with the update of the Commonwealth's 2013 Transportation Program. The efforts of the State Transportation Commission continue to provide benefits across Pennsylvania.

We will continue our efforts to work with our Planning Partners, the Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations, to produce and maintain a more efficient and effective transportation system that facilitates the movement of people and goods throughout the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania's transportation system impacts every resident, business, and visitor to the Commonwealth. We need to focus our efforts on providing a reliable and adequately-funded transportation system that improves safety, relieves traffic congestion, and promotes economic opportunity.

As citizens, your participation is a vital part of the investment process of our highways and bridges, public transportation, rail freight, and aviation programs and projects that will impact current and future generations of Pennsylvanians.

This brochure provides information regarding the development of the 2013 Transportation Program. The background of the program, the role of the State Transportation Commission, and the options that are available to provide testimony are highlighted. We encourage groups and individuals alike to get involved in this crucial planning and programming process.

Together, let's continue to maintain and improve our transportation system in a way that will contribute to a better quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry J. Schoch".

Barry J. Schoch, P.E., Chairman  
Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission

## **Background**

### **Pennsylvania State Law**

Act 120 of 1970, as amended, requires the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to prepare and submit to the State Transportation Commission every two years, a program of transportation improvements which it recommends be undertaken during the next 12 years. This program is to address all transportation modes and be fiscally constrained; that is, listing only projects and project phases that can reasonably be expected to be funded over the ensuing 12-year period.

### **Federal Law**

The most critical step in financing the federal aid transportation program is the development of authorizing legislation. Authorization is a statutory provision that establishes or continues a federal agency, activity or program for a fixed or indefinite period of time. Authorizing legislation for highways began with the Federal Aid Road Act of 1916 and the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1921.

In addition, since 1978, Congress has passed highway legislation as part of a larger more comprehensive, multi-year surface transportation act. Surface transportation acts can vary in their scope and duration. Most acts are major multi-year bills, such as the following:

- ISTE—The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (1991-1997)
- TEA-21—The Transportation Equity Act of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century of (1998-2003)
- SAFETEA-LU—The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users of (2004-2009)

The most recent act is SAFETEA-LU. It was signed into law on August 10, 2005. The act authorized federal funding and programs for highways, bridges, highway safety, bike/pedestrian, and mass transit for the federal fiscal years of 2004-2009. SAFETEA-LU provided guaranteed funding of \$286.4 billion and expired on September 30, 2009. It has been extended seven times since then, the most recent extension will expire on September 30, 2011. There is much uncertainty as to what future funding levels may be.

The focus remains on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process. In the past, as stipulated by federal legislation, TIPs were to be updated at least every three years. Pennsylvania's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) update their TIPs every two years during the Twelve Year Program update process.

### **State Transportation Commission (STC)**

The STC, also established by Act 120 of 1970, is comprised of 15 members. The Chairman is the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Four members are from the General Assembly; the majority and minority Chairmen of the Senate and House Transportation Committees. The remaining 10 members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for a term of six years. The Commission's charge is to determine and evaluate the condition and performance of the Commonwealth's transportation system

and to assess the resources required to preserve, restore, extend and expand transportation facilities and services in order to conserve Pennsylvania's communities and to ensure economic development in the Commonwealth.

The Commission sets policy direction with respect to the development of the Commonwealth's Twelve Year Transportation Program. Input is solicited from the public and interested parties. The Twelve Year Transportation Program is biennially adopted by the Commission as the blueprint for improving Pennsylvania's transportation system. This program is then submitted to the Governor, the General Assembly and the Secretary of Transportation. A current listing of the members of STC is included in this brochure.

### **The Planning and Programming Process**

Decisions regarding how available transportation funds are to be used for a variety of proposed rail, roadway, bridge, transit, pedalcycle (motorcycle and bicycle), pedestrian, and airport improvement projects are made through the transportation planning and programming process. Selected projects can either be placed on the individual planning partner's TIP or the respective long-range transportation plan. SAFETEA-LU and its implementing regulations require regional transportation planning agencies to be part of this process. These agencies are required to develop fiscally constrained transportation plans and programs, which respond to the transportation needs and priorities of their respective jurisdictions. The processes used by the MPOs and RPOs to develop plans and programs are used at the state level, including a proactive public involvement process. PennDOT, the STC, MPOs and RPOs closely coordinate efforts during the biennial Transportation Program Update. The first four-year segment of the Twelve Year Transportation Program becomes the federally mandated STIP, which includes the TIPs developed by the MPOs and RPOs.

### **Participation Guidelines**

The STC conducts public hearings and accepts written testimony as input for the development of the 2013 Transportation Program. Testimony may be project specific, issue-oriented or both.

#### **Electronic Submission of Abstracts:**

The electronic abstract form is the preferred method for public comment on the update of the Transportation Program. Individuals who wish to submit project abstracts electronically can do so by accessing the Department's web site at <http://www.dot.state.pa.us>. Click on the "More News and Media" link on the lower-right hand side on the screen. Select "Transportation Program Update." At the next web page select the "Twelve Year Program" link on the left-hand side of the page. This will open a document that will be titled "State Transportation Commission- Twelve Year Program." On the first page of the document select the "2013 Transportation Project Abstract Form Electronic Submission" link to access the electronic form.

Additional presentation materials can be brought to the State Transportation Commission hearings; however, this is not encouraged. One copy is required and should be presented at

the registration desk located at the entrance door of the hearing room. Presentation materials should include the testifier's name, address, and a copy of the abstract/abstracts for each project or issue for inclusion in the public record. The presentation material will become part of the public record and serves as additional project information for Commissioners upon request. An electronic version will be made available to the Commission's Planning Partners (Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Planning Organizations) and PennDOT District Offices.

**Written Testimony:**

Alternatively, written testimony can be sent directly to the State Transportation Commission via e-mail at:

[RA-PennDOTSTC@state.pa.us](mailto:RA-PennDOTSTC@state.pa.us)

Or one copy of written testimony can be submitted to the following address:

**Mr. Nolan Ritchie, Executive Secretary  
State Transportation Commission  
PO Box 3633  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3633**

Written testimony is considered by the State Transportation Commission in the same manner as testimony presented orally at the scheduled public hearings. Summaries of written testimony are forwarded to the Commissioners for their review. **In order to be considered for the 2013 Transportation Program, written testimony will be accepted up to, but no later than September 30, 2011.**

**Oral Testimony:**

All individuals wishing to testify in person at one of the hearings are required to submit an electronic abstract prior to the desired hearing. Oral presentations provided at STC public hearings will be monitored and kept to a maximum of five minutes in length. All presenters are urged to provide highlights of previously submitted information rather than reading verbatim to the Commission.

Each project that is being presented must be summarized using a "*State Transportation Commission – 2013 Transportation Program Project Abstract Form.*" A blank abstract form along with a completed sample abstract is enclosed with the guidelines brochure. The blank abstract form may be copied. One project or issue per form is required. **Once again, project abstracts are required no later than one week prior to the scheduled hearing. They should be completed electronically via the electronic abstract form or mailed to the aforementioned address.**

**Scheduling of Testimony:**

Time slots are provided on a per person basis. Individuals presenting more than one project are encouraged to make every attempt to summarize all high priority projects within their five-minute time limit. Lower priority projects should be included in any additional written

testimony presented at the hearing. All projects/issues regardless of priority are required on a “*State Transportation Commission – 2013 Transportation Program Project Abstract Form.*” Organizations utilizing consultants or other professionals to present multiple project information orally are encouraged to coordinate their testimony with their regional transportation planning organizations. When providing oral testimony, presenters should focus on program and project priorities.

Individuals interested in providing oral testimony are requested to contact their local planning organization for information regarding the regional transportation priorities. A listing of the Commonwealth’s planning organizations is provided in this booklet. Common priorities are to be coordinated with the regional planning organization’s presentations.

**Repetitive testimony on a single project is strongly discouraged.**

If you are interested in presenting oral testimony at the State Transportation Commission sponsored public hearings for the development of the 2013 Transportation Program, and would like a time slot on the agenda, the following information is required:

- Name, Organization
- Address
- Telephone Number and E-Mail Address
- 2013 Transportation Program Project Abstract
- (One per project/issue)
- Request for Audio Visual Needs for Oral Presentation

This information is to be provided to the State Transportation Commission Office at the address listed on Page 6. You may submit your agenda request and project abstracts by mail or fax the information to (717) 787-5247 – Attention: Nolan Ritchie, Executive Secretary. You may also email your submission to Nolan Ritchie, Executive Secretary at [RA-PennDOTSTC@state.pa.us](mailto:RA-PennDOTSTC@state.pa.us). Individuals will be notified 1 to 2 days before the scheduled hearing as to the time to arrive at the hearing and speaking time on the agenda. If you need an accommodation due to a disability or have questions pertaining to these guidelines or format of the hearings please contact Nolan Ritchie, Executive Secretary, and State Transportation Commission at (717) 787-2913.

**Pennsylvania  
State Transportation Commission  
Membership**

Honorable Barry J. Schoch, P.E., Chairman	Harrisburg, PA
Honorable Edward J. Cernic, Sr.	Johnstown, PA
Honorable Robert P. Daday	Bethlehem, PA
Honorable Ronald D. Ertley	Dallas, PA
Honorable Richard A. Geist	Altoona, PA
Honorable John P. Kazmaier	Hollidaysburg, PA
Honorable George M. Khoury	Lemont, PA
Honorable Sharon L. Knoll	Fairview, PA
Honorable Dennis D. Louwerse	Reading, PA
Honorable Thane C. Martin	Philadelphia, PA
Honorable Michael P. McGeehan	Philadelphia, PA
Honorable Robert B. Pease	Pittsburgh, PA
Honorable John C. Rafferty, Jr.	Pottstown, PA
Honorable Frederic M. Wentz	Gladwyne, PA
Honorable John N. Wozniak	Johnstown, PA

## 2013 Public Hearing Dates, Locations, and Planning Organizations

**Note: All locations are tentative and subject to change**

### (1) August 11, 2011 • Altoona, PA •

**Ramada Altoona Conference Center  
1 Sheraton Drive  
Altoona PA 16601**

#### *Participating Planning Organizations:*

- Blair County Planning Commission  
Mr. David W. McFarland, III, Director (814) 940-5978  
*Affiliated County:* Blair
- Cambria County Planning Commission  
Mr. Bradford G. Beigay, Executive Director (814) 472-2106  
*Affiliated County:* Cambria
- Centre Regional Planning Agency  
Mr. James J. May, Planning Director (814) 231-3050  
*Affiliated County:* Centre
- Lycoming County Planning Commission  
Mr. Kurt Hausammann, Jr., Executive Director (570) 320-2132  
*Affiliated County:* Lycoming
- North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission  
Mr. Eric M. Bridges, Executive Director (814) 773-3162  
*Affiliated Counties:* Cameron; Clearfield; Elk; Jefferson; McKean; Potter
- SEDA-COG  
Mr. Dennis Robinson, Executive Director (570) 524-4491  
*Affiliated Counties:* Clinton; Columbia; Juniata; Mifflin;  
Montour; Northumberland; Snyder; Union
- Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission  
Mr. Edward M. Silveti, Executive Director (814) 949-6521  
*Affiliated Counties:* Bedford; Fulton; Huntingdon; Somerset

### (2) August 25, 2011 • Cranberry Township, PA •

**Marriott Pittsburgh North  
100 Cranberry Woods Drive  
Cranberry Township, PA 16006**

#### *Participating Planning Organizations:*

- Erie County Department of Planning  
Mr. Jake Welsh, Director (814) 451-7003  
*Affiliated County:* Erie
- Mercer County Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Dan Gracenin, Executive Director (724) 981-2412 ext. 3202  
*Affiliated County:* Mercer
- Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission  
Mr. Ned Goucher, Acting Executive Director (814) 677-4800 ext. 108  
*Affiliated Counties:* Clarion; Crawford; Forest; Venango; Warren
- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC)  
Mr. James R. Hassinger, Ph.D. President and CEO (412) 391-5591  
*Affiliated Counties:* Allegheny; Armstrong; Beaver; Butler;  
Fayette; Indiana; Lawrence; Greene; Washington; Westmoreland

## 2013 Public Hearing Dates, Locations, and Planning Organizations

Note: All locations are tentative and subject to change

### (3) August 26, 2011 • Gettysburg, PA •

**Wyndham Gettysburg  
95 Presidential Circle  
Gettysburg, PA 17325**

#### *Participating Planning Organizations:*

- Adams County Office of Planning and Development  
Nick Colona, Director of Planning and Development (717) 337-9824  
*Affiliated County:* Adams
- Franklin County Planning Commission  
Mr. Philip Tarquino, Director (717) 261-3855  
*Affiliated County:* Franklin
- Lancaster County Planning Commission  
Mr. James R. Cowhey, Executive Director (717) 299-8333  
*Affiliated County:* Lancaster
- Lebanon County Planning Department  
Mr. Kristopher D. Troup, Executive Director (717) 228-4444  
*Affiliated County:* Lebanon
- Tri-County Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Timothy P. Reardon, Executive Director (717) 234-2639  
*Affiliated Counties:* Dauphin; Cumberland; Perry
- York County Planning Commission  
Ms. Felicia S. Dell, Director of Planning (717) 771-9870  
*Affiliated County:* York•

### (4) September 15, 2011 • Stroudsburg, PA •

**Shawnee Inn  
One River Road  
Shawnee-on-Delaware, PA 18356**

#### *Participating Planning Organizations:*

- Luzerne County Planning Commission  
Mr. Adrian F. Merolli, Executive Director (570) 825-1560  
*Affiliated County:* Luzerne
- Lackawanna County Department of Planning and Economic Development  
Mr. Harry D. Lindsay, Executive Director (570) 963-6830  
*Affiliated County:* Lackawanna
- Lehigh Valley Planning Commission  
Mr. Michael N. Kaiser, Executive Director (610) 264-4544  
*Affiliated Counties:* Lehigh; Northampton
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance  
Mr. Jeffery K. Box, President and CEO (570) 655-5581 ext. 222  
*Affiliated Counties:* Carbon; Monroe; Pike; Schuylkill; Wayne
- Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission  
Mr. Kevin D. Abrams, Executive Director (570) 265-9103  
*Affiliated Counties:* Bradford; Sullivan; Susquehanna; Tioga; Wyoming

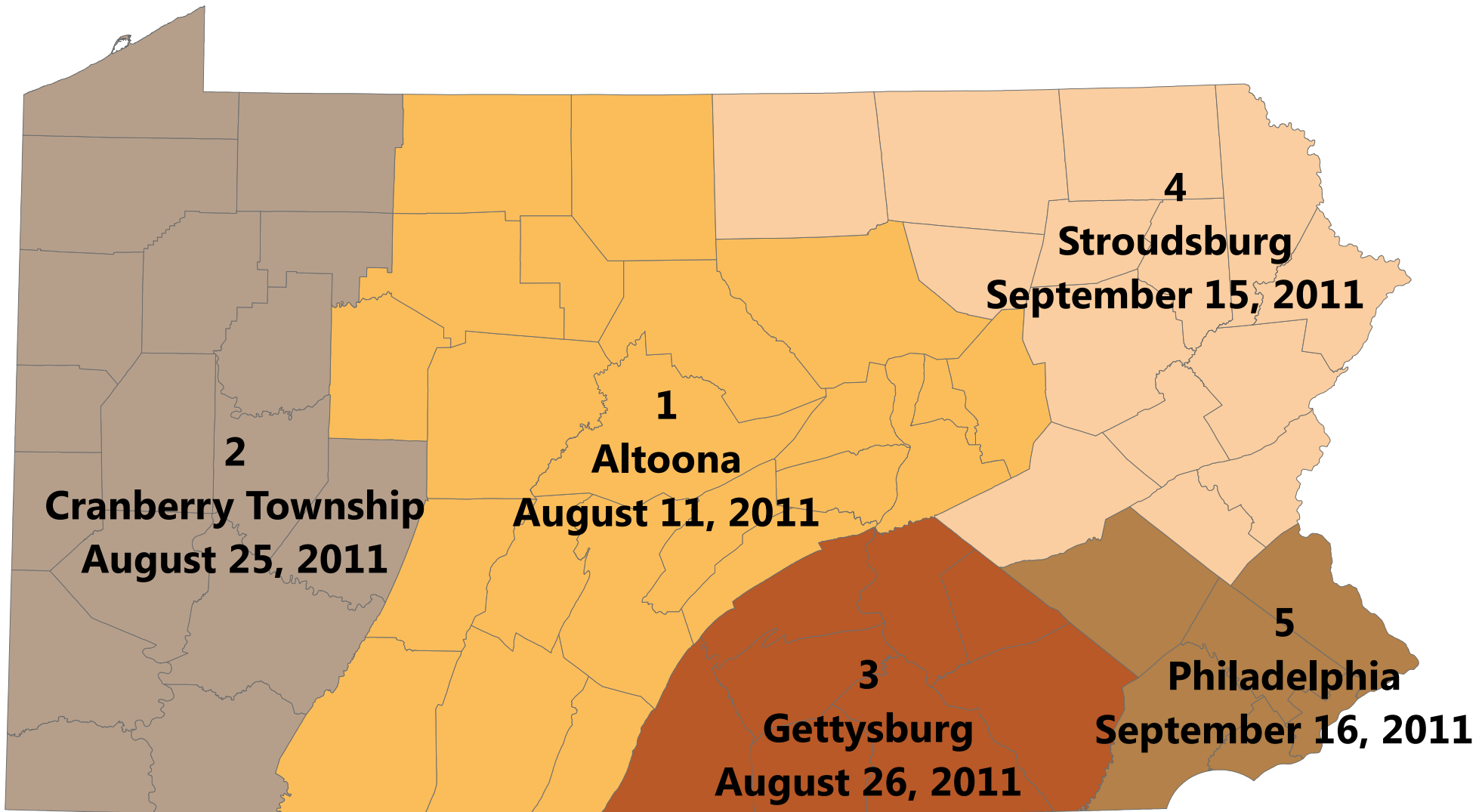
### (5) September 16, 2011 • Philadelphia, PA •

**Delaware Valley Planning Regional Commission  
190 North Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

#### *Participating Planning Organizations:*

- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)  
Mr. Barry Seymour, Executive Director (215) 592-1800  
*Affiliated Counties:* Bucks; Chester; Delaware; Montgomery; Philadelphia
- Berks County Planning Commission  
Mr. Glenn R. Knoblauch, Executive Director (610) 478-6300 ext. 6310  
*Affiliated County:* Berks

# State Transportation Commission 2013 Twelve Year Program Hearings



**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
2013 TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM  
PROJECT ABSTRACT**



Name: (Person Testifying)							
Representing What Organization? Please Provide Address							
Topic/ Project Name (One project per form):							
Is Project/Phase on Local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?	Yes	No	Unknown				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Identification (MPMS # - If Known)							
Project Type: (Check Appropriate Box)	Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rail Freight	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/>			
COUNTY							
MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP							
ROAD OR FACILITY NAME							
STATE ROAD #							
Description of Project:							
Project Benefit/Need:							
Total cost: (Estimated or Actual if known)							
How would you suggest this project be funded?							
Requested Action: (Check Box)	Support Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oppose Project	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA – PENNDOT USE ONLY</b>					Control #		
<b>State Legislative District:</b>			<b>Congressional District:</b>				
State House			US House				
State Senate			US Senate				
<b>Current Status</b>	<b>TYP</b>	<b>TIP/STIP Year</b>			<b>Total Cost</b>		
Engineering							
Right-of-Way							
Construction							

**STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
2013 TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM  
PROJECT ABSTRACT**



SAMPLE

Name: (Person Testifying)	Mr. Wayne T. Brant					
Representing What Organization? Please Provide Address	Anytown Borough					
	72 Our Roads , Anytown, PA 180					
Topic/ Project Name (One project per form):	Replace Anytown Creek Bridge on					
Is Project/Phase on Local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identification (MPMS # - If Known)						
Project Type: (Check Appropriate Box)	Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rail Freight	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Transit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/>		
COUNTY	My County					
MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP	Anytown					
ROAD OR FACILITY NAME	Route 36					
STATE ROAD #	36					
Description of Project:	<p>Replace Route 36 bridge over Anytown Creek in Anytown Borough. The Bridge appears to be of significant age. Occasionally the bridge is flooded during severe storm events so the bridge needs to be raised as well so that traffic can continue to pass along Route 36 even during flooding events.</p>					
Project Benefit/Need:	<p>Bridge replacement and bridge needs to be raised.</p>					
Total Cost: (Estimated or Actual if known)	\$500,000					
How would you suggest this project be funded?	Provide your thoughts on how this project could be funded under the current economic conditions.					
Requested Action: (Check Box)	Support Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oppose Project	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA – PENNDOT USE ONLY</b>					Control #	
<b>State Legislative District:</b>			<b>Congressional District:</b>			
State House		US House				
State Senate		US Senate				
<b>Current Status</b>	<b>TYP</b>	<b>TIP/STIP Year</b>		<b>Total Cost</b>		
Engineering						
Right-of-Way						
Construction						