

PENNDOT Community Impact Assessment Strategy Initiative



2005 Northeastern Community Impact Assessment Workshop
Trenton, NJ
September 12, 2005

Presentation Overview

- What is and why did PennDOT embark on the CIA Strategy Initiative?
- What does PennDOT's CIA Strategy entail?
- CIA Policy/Guidance and Awareness
- CIA Handbook Development
- Related Initiatives



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What is PennDOT's CIA Strategy Initiative?

- A series of coordinated actions aimed at:
 - Increasing awareness
 - Establishing policy
 - Providing better guidance and
 - Providing training for assessing community impacts



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Why was the CIA Strategy Initiated?

While PennDOT has been assessing the environmental impacts of transportation projects for many years...

- Community/socioeconomic issues typically had not received as great attention as natural and cultural resource impacts
- Community/socioeconomic evaluations typically occurred late in the project development process
- Community/socioeconomic documentation typically focused on reporting #s
- We knew that we could do better!



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What Does the PennDOT's CIA Strategy Entail?

The CIA Strategy seeks to :

- Enhance,
- Formalize,
- Improve;

CIA activities and practices that PENNDOT is currently performing.



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What Does PennDOT's CIA Strategy Entail?

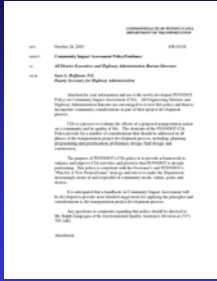
Three Components

1. Develop CIA Policy/Guidance and Awareness (2002-2003)
2. Prepare CIA Handbook (2004-2005)
3. Perform CIA Training (2005-2006)



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PennDOT CIA Policy/Guidance and Awareness



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PennDOT CIA Policy/Guidance

Key Points

- Recognize and understand the importance of community resources, needs, values, goals, and objectives in achieving balanced and equitable transportation decisions.

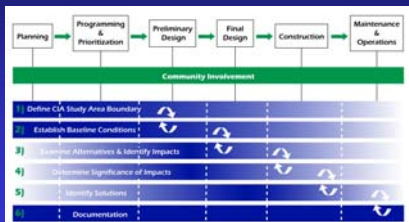


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PennDOT CIA Policy/Guidance

Key Points

- Proactively identify and analyze community impacts throughout all phases of the project development process.



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PennDOT CIA Policy/Guidance

Key Points

- Recognize those attributes and characteristics that define a community's "quality of life," even if they are not easily measured or quantified.



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PennDOT CIA Policy/Guidance

Key Points

- Recognize the transportation needs and concerns of all populations within communities during the transportation decisionmaking process, including those who have not traditionally participated in public involvement activities.



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PennDOT CIA Policy/Guidance

Key Points

- Promote meaningful citizen participation and public involvement throughout all phases of the transportation project development process.



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PennDOT 6-Step CIA Process



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PennDOT CIA Handbook Development

Current Status

- Multi-disciplined Team formed Spring 2004
- Several Team meetings held to date
- Draft CIA Handbook has been developed and circulated within PennDOT and to FHWA, Resource, and Regulatory Agencies



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CIA Handbook Development

Handbook Team Members

- PennDOT Environmental Quality Assurance Division
- PennDOT Bureau of Design
- PennDOT Office of Planning and Program Center
- PennDOT ROW and Utilities
- PennDOT Public Transportation
- PennDOT District Offices Environmental Managers
- FHWA, Pennsylvania Division
- Lancaster County MPO
- Pennsylvania Department of Communities and Economic Development
- Consultant – Gannett Fleming, Inc.



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PennDOT CIA Handbook Development

Key Themes Discussed

- Since CIA spans all phases of the project development process, the handbook needs to be geared towards a wider audience than typical EQAD handbooks.
- Documentation and project materials need to be centralized and be passed forward to team members working on future phases
- Overall quality documenting community impacts needs to improve
- There is no “one size fits all” approach to CIA



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CIA and the Transportation Project Development Processes

Transportation Project Development Process



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Draft PennDOT CIA Handbook Outline

- Section I** – Introduction (purpose/background)
- Section II** – Legal Basis for CIA (summarize federal & state laws and policies)
- Section III** – CIA Methodology (step by step breakdown along with listings of tools and techniques)
- Section IV** – CIA Process, Application, and Integration (how CIA process fits into the transportation project development process)



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Related Initiatives

Linking Planning with NEPA

- Corresponds with the need to initiate the CIA Process earlier in the transportation project development process
- CIA during the Planning Phase
- CIA during Programming and Prioritization



Related Initiatives

Context Sensitive Solutions

- Shares similar principles and concepts with CIA
- Knowing and understanding the context of the community in which you are working
- Public Involvement throughout the transportation project development process
- Working together to design and build better projects



Related Initiatives

Pilot Projects for Implementing CIA during Project Planning

- In 2004 PennDOT funded and sponsored 2 pilot projects for performing selected CIA activities during the Planning phase
- Johnstown MPO
- Greater Philadelphia MPO – Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission