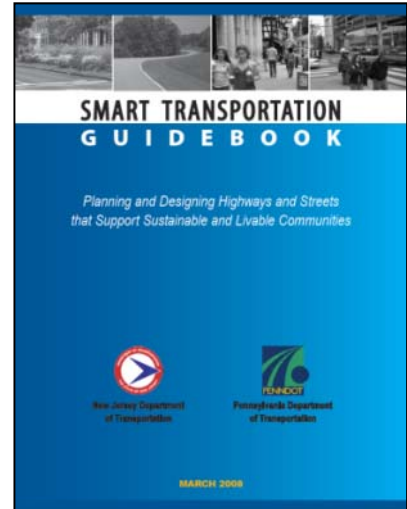


Smart Transportation Guidebook

The Smart Transportation Guidebook was published in March 2008. The goal of the Guidebook is to integrate the planning and design of our transportation system in a manner that fosters development of sustainable and livable communities. A key element of the Guidebook is the creation of a connection between a project's context and geometric design criteria. The Guidebook has equal applicability to rural, suburban and urban areas.



Defining context based on

Land Use:



This publication is an important step towards integrating the principles of Smart Transportation into PennDOT's everyday business. It has information that is useful for all of the people involved in building communities, including transportation planners, traffic and design engineers, local governments, and community residents. PennDOT is currently using the Guidebook as our guide for updating our design manuals.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have given the Smart Transportation Guidebook the 2008 Transportation Planning Excellence Award.

Guidebook Objectives:

- Link existing and future land use contexts and roadway design values
- Tailor solutions to the Context
- Use flexible design on all projects
- Increase coordination with local municipalities
- Design to a desired operating speed

Smart Transportation Themes:

1. Money counts
2. Leverage and preserve existing investments
3. Choose projects with high value/price ratio
4. Safety always and maybe safety only
5. Look beyond level-of-service
6. Accommodate all modes of travel
7. Enhance local network
8. Build towns not sprawl
9. Understand the context; plan and design within the context
10. Develop local governments as strong land use partners

All Smart Transportation solutions emphasize the tenets of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) and one of the 10 themes of Smart Transportation is to “Understand the Context; Plan and Design within the Context.” CSS is an antidote to the “one size fits all” approach. It requires that all transportation projects be planned and designed with careful consideration of the local land use, economic, environmental, and social contexts.

As such, CSS emphasizes a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach, early and continuous engagement of stakeholders, flexibility in design, and minimizing the impacts of projects to the community. The Guidebook provides overall guidance for CSS for the Commonwealth. The guidebook emphasizes Flexibility in Design, a major tenet of CSS.

