



NEWS

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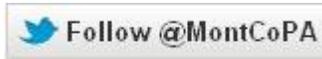
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Montco Summarizes and Maps Billions of Dollars of Transportation Improvements Occurring Over the Past 15 Years

Norristown, PA (April 13, 2016) – The Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) today presented an overview of the many transportation improvements that have been achieved in Montgomery County over the past 15 years. The detailed summary focused on roadways and public transportation investment. For roadways, PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike combined for over \$2.6 billion in projects from 2000 to 2015. For public transportation, SEPTA was responsible for over \$557.6 million in projects constructed from 2000 to 2015.

In Montgomery County there are nearly 3,300 miles of roads; 75 miles are owned by the county and 783 miles are owned by PennDOT. There are almost 1,100 bridges in Montgomery County – 134 are owned by the county and 621 are owned by PennDOT. Montgomery County is served by six (6) commuter rail lines, including one (1) intercity line, and 56 bus routes operated by regional transit authorities.

Roadway Investment

The Pennsylvania Turnpike accounted for \$721.3 million in projects including the I-276 main line widening (about \$306 million), the I-476 Northeast Extension widening (approximately \$380 million), and interchange expansions and upgrades. PennDOT accounted for \$1.89 billion for 225 projects, including US 202 (\$509 million), PA 309 (\$335 million), US 422 (\$247 million), I-476 (\$146 million), I-76 (\$55 million), Lafayette Street (\$30 million), bridges (\$229 million), widening/intersections (\$142 million), maintenance/resurfacing (\$90 million), Intelligent Transportation Systems (\$81 million), and streetscape improvements (\$22 million).

Bridges

A total of 73 bridge projects, totaling \$229 million, were completed between 2000 and 2015. These included 36 bridge replacements and 25 rehabilitations as well as painting, preservation, removal, and bike/pedestrian enhancements.

Intersections and Widening

There were 29 projects completed (\$142 million in total) between 2000 and 2015. These included \$58 million in improvements for PA 63, PA 463, and County Line Road. Also included were 14 intersection/corridor/sign improvements, nine (9) projects involving widening or adding lanes, and six (6) relocation/realignment and stabilization projects.

Maintenance and Safety

A total of 31 projects (\$90 million in total) involved maintenance and safety. This included 17 road resurfacing/surface treatments as well as safety installations (pavement markers, railroad crossing, guide rails, wrong way signs) and concrete rehabilitation.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

There were 20 projects, totaling \$81 million, completed between 2000 and 2015. These included \$41 million for the I-76/PA 23 and PA 309 ITS integration projects; \$10 million for PA 611 in Abington, Upper Moreland, and Horsham; 10 existing signal improvements; five (5) traffic system management improvements; and five (5) new signal and intersection technology projects.

Streetscapes

There were 22 projects completed between 2000 and 2015 for a total of \$22 million. These included seven (7) streetscapes/scenic beautification projects, five (5) pedestrian facilities, and 10 transportation enhancements and safety improvements.

Transit Investment

Some transit projects are physically in the county and some are on lines that run through the county. Some projects support services in the county but are physically outside of the boundaries of the county. Some transit projects are visible to the rider, while others, such as rail system substation improvements, are not visible but are important to the system operating optimally.

Regional Rail System Upgrades

There were 25 projects, totaling \$98 million, completed between 2000 and 2015. These included seven (7) parking expansion projects, 11 projects upgrading stations for ADA accessibility, and other projects such as roofing, signage enhancements, and platform upgrades.

Norristown High Speed Line

There were 14 projects, totaling \$33.9 million, completed between 2000 and 2015, which included two (2) station upgrades, viaducts, retaining walls, and bridges.

Regional Rail Bridges, Track, and Rights-of-Way Projects

The 22 projects, totaling \$124.5 million completed between 2000 and 2015, included five (5) grade crossing improvements, four (4) bridge projects, and several railroad ties and yard improvement projects.

Regional Rail Substations, Signals, and Communication Projects

There were 18 projects completed between 2000 and 2015, totaling \$210.8 million. These projects involved eight (8) catenary (wire) projects, five (5) signal projects, and five (5) security enhancements and substation improvements.

Maintenance Garages

There were six (6) projects, totaling \$13 million, completed between 2000 and 2015. These included two (2) projects upgrading Frontier facilities, Victory and Callowhill garage improvements, vehicle washers, and fuel tank storage.

While the number of roadway and transit improvements occurring in the past 15 years is impressive, what is also remarkable is that many of these improvements were able to advance to completion in what was, for a number of years, a challenging funding environment. Many of these projects got an initial boost from PennDOT's Act 44 Transportation Funding in 2007. In 2013, the Act 89 Funding Plan was signed into law, which greatly improved funding for transportation projects in Pennsylvania.

“All of this investment helped to meet the transportation needs of a growing county over the past decade and a half. Montgomery County is projected to grow by almost 100,000 people and 63,000 jobs in the next 25 years. This investment is keeping us competitive regionally and nationally to support these new businesses and development efforts,” said Matthew Edmond, MCPC Transportation Section Chief.

These projects may be viewed on two new interactive maps. The maps locate projects and provide information such as type of project and year completed. Map users can zoom into their community to see projects. The maps are available online at:

<http://montcopa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=056032511abb4237b198595e7e8d1b80>. Click on the tabs at the top of the page, which are titled *PennDot Investment 2000-2015* and *SEPTA Capital Investment in Montgomery County 2000-2015*.

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