

## RECASTING THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION COUNCIL

### SUMMARY POINTS

#### PURPOSE OF STIC RECASTING:

- Process more **well-researched, proven** and **documented** innovations (reduce the backlog).
- Expedite development and deployment of innovations.
- Increase the number of innovations ready for Highway Administration deployment annually.

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF RECASTING:

- Streamline processes for rapid development and deployment.
- “Right-size” the STIC Structure to make it more easily managed. Increase participation by PennDOT District and Central Office staff.
- Promote participation in STIC activities.
- Publicly promote the STIC.
- Recast the STIC using 19 supportive strategies that are identified in the Strategic Plan.

#### RESULTS-DRIVEN CHANGE:

(See Figure 1.0)

- Emphasis will be placed on fully developing innovations, with early involvement by Highway Administration (HA) to facilitate ultimate deployment.
- A four-phase Innovation Development Process will chart the way to assess and develop innovations for deployment.
- Innovation development is expected to take six to 12 months per innovation.
- An Innovation Development Summary and Deployment Plan will be prepared to identify a complete plan of action that will support timely, thorough development. Potential deployment obstacles and remedies should be clearly identified.
- Four, but no more than eight innovations will be advanced annually to HA for deployment.
- There will be no limit to the number of innovations that can be introduced at any time.
- Bureau of Innovations (BOI) and the STIC Management Team will lend assistance to HA, if needed, to define a deployment process.

#### INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT PROCESS PHASES:

(See Figure 1.0)

##### Phase 1: Initiation

- Well-researched, proven and documented innovations are recommended by the STIC, STIC Management Team, TAGs or external sources.
- Management Team assigns the recommended innovation to a TAG for summary review or refers elsewhere for development outside of the STIC.
- PennDOT employees can also submit current challenges to the Management Team, who will assign the challenge to the appropriate TAG’s FHWA representative to research existing innovations to address the challenge. Research results will be referred back to the submitter for appropriate follow up.

##### Phase 2: Initial Evaluation

- TAG recommends “Go/No Go” for further development.
- Innovation presented to the STIC to provide initial feedback, and identify challenges, opportunities and benefits for advancing to Detailed Development Phase.
  - If fatal flaws are identified, the innovation will be dismissed and archived.
- If TAG recommends “No Go” for further development, STIC Management Team may refer to the STIC if more consideration is needed. Otherwise, the innovation will be dismissed and archived.

##### Phase 3: Detailed Development

- TAG Leader assign an Innovation Owner (IO).
- TAG Leader and the IO assemble a Development Team (DT).
- Development Team fully develops the innovation, culminating in an Innovation Development Summary and Deployment Plan for review and feedback by the STIC.
- If the DT indicates dismissal, or if the STIC does not concur with advancement, the innovation will be dismissed and archived.

##### Phase 4: Advancement

- The Innovation Development Summary and Deployment Plan is refined and presented to HA (or appropriate deputate) for deployment.
- The IO will directly support HA (or appropriate deputate) deployment and will report progress to the STIC Management Team.

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### KEY ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES:

(See Figure 2.0)

#### STIC Members

- STIC's scope will be focused on well-researched, proven and documented innovations.
- STIC members will recommend innovations for development and offer feedback during the Initial Evaluation and Detailed Development phases.
- Potential expansion of STIC membership. Gaps are identified in the areas of mass transit, bike/pedestrian, rail freight, aviation, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Community and Economic Development, and other transportation-related organizations.

#### STIC Management Team:

- Sets STIC policy.
- Provides high-level, executive oversight of the development of innovations for deployment.
- Provides administrative support to the STIC.
- Markets and promotes the STIC.
- Liaisons between the STIC and HA (or other deputates).
- Lends assistance to HA (or appropriate deputate), if needed, to define a deployment process.

#### Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) (See Figure 2.0)

- TAGs will be consolidated into four core TAGs: Design; Construction and Materials; Maintenance; and Safety and Traffic Operations.
- Innovations that do not fall under any of the four TAGs will be referred to separate task forces or ad-hoc committees for development outside of the STIC.
- TAG leadership should consist of District Executives (DEs); Assistant District Executives (ADEs); Bureau Directors; and Division Chiefs.
- Each TAG will have a TAG Leader and an Assistant TAG Leader, and standing membership by the FHWA.
- TAG Leaders will serve two-year terms. TAG Leaders will appoint Assistant TAG Leaders who, at the end of the two-year term, will assume the responsibilities as TAG Leader who, in collaboration with leadership, will appoint their own Assistant TAG Leader. Upon completion of their two-year term, TAG Leaders will have the option to maintain membership on the TAG in an advisory capacity.
- In addition to PennDOT employees, TAG membership may include FHWA, industry, academia and other state agencies.

#### Innovation Owner (IO):

- Individual TAG members may be appointed by the TAG leaders to serve as an IO to lead an assigned innovation through development.
- The IO and TAG leaders will assemble an ad-hoc Development Team (DT) charged with fully developing the innovation for deployment.
- The IO may also serve as a key resource to HA to help facilitate deployment.

#### Development Team (DT):

- Each DT will be led by the IO assigned to a specific innovation for development.
- DTs may consist solely of TAG members, key stakeholders or process owners or a combination thereof.
- DTs will fully develop the assigned innovation and develop the associated Innovation Development Summary and Deployment Plan.