Who we are
PennDOT understands the importance of research, education and technology transfer activities as they relate to the transportation industry. PennDOT places a focus on research and innovation and realizes that the initial investment will pay great dividends in the future as research innovations drive change and/or business process improvements. For this reason, the Bureau of Planning and Research (BPR) manages and administers a customer-driven, applied Research Program focused on providing solutions to real-world transportation issues and challenges.

What we do
The mission of the PennDOT Research Program is to identify, develop and conduct strategically-focused research, education and technology transfer projects. The mission is achieved through a contract research program that emphasizes applied research, implementation, performance monitoring and technology transfer. BPR works closely with all of the functional areas of PennDOT to ensure that the right research projects are being conducted and that the results are being implemented through a systematic process. BPR has developed an approach to identify, prioritize, select and manage needed research that engages senior executives and managers, as well as the subject matter experts located throughout the Department. This participation, input and support ensures that BPR is able to produce research results that are timely and critical.

In addition, BPR is dedicated to ensuring that research results are implemented across the Department and with our local government partners through the PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program.

Staff
PennDOT’s success is a result of the collaboration between a core staff of BPR Project/Contract Managers, along with numerous Technical Advisors and subject matter experts from throughout the Department.

How we are funded
Most of the individual elements of the PennDOT Research Program are partially or fully funded through the use of federal State Planning and Research (SPR Part II) dollars administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). BPR works closely with the FHWA Pennsylvania Division Office to develop the annual Research Program as well as to monitor the conduct of individual research projects. Additional funding is also leveraged to promote research and innovation through all available programs at the national and state levels.