

Highway Transfer “Turnback” Program

FACT SHEET

The Turnback Program is a cooperative and voluntary program between PennDOT and municipal governments.

The objective of the Turnback Program is to transfer the ownership of state-owned roads that are better suited to local government purposes. This includes roads that have low average daily traffic or would benefit the municipality both socially and economically.

Before a roadway can be transferred to a municipality, local officials must adopt a resolution authorizing the acceptance of a highway transfer.

PennDOT either rehabilitates the roadway before the transfer of the roadway to the municipality or pays the municipality for rehabilitating the roadway to bring into a satisfactory condition.

Municipalities receive an annual payment for the maintenance of the transferred roadway in perpetuity. The payments are released March 1, two years after the year of transfer. For example, if a highway transfer agreement is executed in the calendar year 2020, the maintenance payment will begin annually on March 1, 2022.

Act 70 of 2006 authorized an increase of the annual maintenance payment rate for all turnback miles of road transferred to a municipality from \$2,500 per mile to **\$4,000** per mile.

PennDOT Publication 310 establishes the policy and procedural guidance for the transfer of functionally-local state highways to municipalities. This is available on the website.

For more information on the Turnback Program, contact Zac Kopinetz at (717) 705-0687 or email at zkopinetz@pa.gov.