



# *Design-Build and other Innovative Contracting Methods*

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
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# Railroads in Pennsylvania



- **65 Railroads**
- Class 1 Railroads
  - Norfolk Southern
  - CSX
  - Canadian National
- Amtrak and SEPTA
- GWI Railroads (5 in PA)
- Short Lines
  - Conrail, RBMN, RJC, WNYP
- Public Ownership
  - SEDA COG JRA, PNERRA, LCRA, etc.

# Challenges with Railroads



- **Amtrak**
  - Federal/Not Federal
  - Different agreement structure
  - Very long lead times
- **Railroads are reorganizing, experiencing staff turnover or moving operations**
  - NS ROW –new staff, downsizing
  - G&W - staff to Jacksonville
  - CSX - downsizing staff

# Challenges within Pennsylvania



- **Public Utility Commission**
  - Per PA Code, exclusive jurisdiction at all Grade Crossings
  - Application process
  - Hearing process when there's no agreement on project
- **Commonwealth of PA cannot indemnify**
  - Effect on Master Agreements

# Pennsylvania Initiatives



- **Design-Build**
- **Public Private Partnership (P3)**

# Design Build



- **Design-Build**
  - PA PUC process
  - Slightly different process with plan review
- **SR 718 Project, Sharon, PA**
  - Roundabout installation
  - At-grade crossing on one leg
  - RR ROW acquisition beyond the crossing
  - PA PUC process

# Innovative Contracting Methods



- **Public Private Partnership (P3)**
  - Rapid Bridge Replacement project
  - Design, Build, Operate, Maintain
  - 3 year construction, 25 years maintenance
  - 558 bridges
  - 20 projects with railroad involvement

# Observations



- All procedures remain the same – they cannot be eliminated
  - ROW
  - Utility relocation
  - Railroad coordination
  - PUC process
- Some tasks must remain within the DOT
- Must still follow Federal procedures even when using State funds



# Observations



- Give the railroads plenty of lead time – coordinate early
- Ask railroads to prioritize projects (P3)
- Your schedule is not necessarily the railroad's schedule
- Designers with railroad experience are a real plus
- Ensure P3 contractor knows there are substantial costs to railroad work – don't just focus on highways or bridges
- Regular coordination meetings are helpful

# Observations



- **Railroads involved have been very cooperative**
  - Class 1s and Shortlines
  - Includes Engineering and Real Estate groups
- **Design changes for driver and railroad safety have been incorporated into the projects**

# Innovative Contracting Methods



- **Effect on Timelines**
  - Accelerated schedule
  - Constant communication with railroads
- **Effect on Existing Relationships**
  - Good existing relationships w/RRs a plus
  - Railroads have been very cooperative

**Questions?**