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William Penn Foundation
Two Logan Square, 11th Floor
100 North Eighteenth Street
Philadelphia PA 19103

The Greater Philadelphia Transportation Initiative (GPTI) is the region's first independent organization dedicated entirely to transportation research and policy analysis. This organization brings a rigorous analytical approach and fresh perspective to transportation issues. GPTI serves as a catalyst for original transportation research, policy analysis, and as a facilitator of collaborative efforts to enhance the quality of life and economic viability of the region. With startup funding from the William Penn Foundation, GPTI operates in association with Econsult Corporation and the Washington, DC based Surface Transportation Policy Project.

Now in its second year (2003), its mission is to improve the quality and accessibility of information needed to develop transportation policies that enhance the quality of life and economic viability of the Philadelphia region through (a) Accessible, affordable transportation choices, (b) Expanding, evolving transportation technology and, (c) Integrated land use and transportation planning.

Its primary activities are (a) Ongoing analysis of key regional transportation issues; (b) Long-term and short term transportation research affecting urban, suburban and rural areas; (c) Partnering with other organizations toward mutual objectives, and, (d) Facilitating broad-based communication and collaboration to improve regional transportation.

These activities result in GPTI offering (a) An annual series of policy analysis reports on key transportation issues; (b) Long-term research, analysis, and recommendations on unresolved transportation questions; (c) Web based (www.gptrans.com) and print overviews of regional transportation topics affecting urban, suburban and rural sections of the region; (d) Forums that facilitate discussion and collaborative work among transportation stakeholders - business, industry, government, academia, and community groups, and (e) Data and analysis for transportation policy practitioners and decision makers.