



Executive Order

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

Executive Order 2024-04 – PA Permit Fast Track Program

Date: November 19, 2024

By Direction of:

A blue ink signature of Josh Shapiro.

Josh Shapiro, Governor

WHEREAS, timely permitting and licensing is critical for spurring economic development, cutting costs, creating jobs, strengthening communities, and speeding up construction of critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council's FAST-41 Program provides a model to improve timeliness, predictability, and transparency of the federal environmental review and authorization process for certain critical infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, *Executive Order 2023-05* established the Office of Transformation and Opportunity to assist with the implementation of transformational economic development projects by coordinating interagency cooperation and expediting Commonwealth agency permit and license reviews;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth seeks to improve efficiencies in various permitting processes, which has been set forth in *Executive Order 2023-07*, Building Efficiency in the Commonwealth's Permitting, Licensing, and Certification Processes; and

WHEREAS, Act 54 of 2024 established the Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Economic Development (SPEED) program within the Department of Environmental Protection, giving applicants the opportunity to have their initial review conducted by a verified professional for certain permits; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth and stakeholders will benefit from improved predictability, timeliness, and transparency in the permitting and licensing process; and

WHEREAS, having a permitting or licensing process that is designed to accelerate critical infrastructure and transformational economic development project delivery within the Commonwealth will enhance Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness, increase economic opportunity within the Commonwealth, and position Pennsylvania as an infrastructure leader nationally and globally.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby establish the Pennsylvania (PA) Permit Fast Track Program, and order and direct as follows:

1. Purpose.

The PA Permit Fast Track Program will enhance public awareness, collaboration, accountability, coordination, transparency, and predictability in the Commonwealth's permitting, licensing, and authorizations processes for critical infrastructure projects and projects delivering significant economic development to Pennsylvanians. Through a collaborative process, governmental entities and private stakeholders will jointly develop clear project timelines, set milestones, and track progress through a publicly available dashboard.

2. Responsibilities.

The Office of Transformation and Opportunity (OTO) shall:

- a.** Issue program guidance and provide training on the PA Permit Fast Track Program process.
- b.** After gathering appropriate information, determine if a project should be designated for participation in the PA Permit Fast track Program.
- c.** Provide project coordination services to critical infrastructure and economic development projects identified by OTO in consultation with the Office of the Governor. Projected management services include developing coordinated timelines for permitting and approvals across relevant agencies, liaising with project sponsors, and updating the PA Permit Fast Track Dashboard.
- d.** Assist in the operating and maintaining of a public-facing dashboard to display progress against established permitting timelines associated with designated critical infrastructure and economic development projects.
- e.** Design and implement a process to facilitate coordination among permitting agencies and to improve the timeliness, predictability, and transparency of the agency's review and authorization processes for designated critical infrastructure and economic development projects.
- f.** Provide technical assistance to implement the PA Permit Fast Track Program.

3. Relationship with Other Agencies.

All Commonwealth departments, boards, offices, commissions, and other agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall cooperate with and provide assistance to OTO as needed with respect to its purpose and responsibilities as set forth in this Executive Order.

4. Implementation.

This Executive Order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and regulations. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, office, board, commission or council, or the head thereof. This Executive Order is not intended to, and does not create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the Commonwealth, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

5. Effective Date.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Governor.