



New Statewide Initiative Targets Wildlife Collisions, Safer Travel, and Habitat Protection

A new [statewide initiative](#), supported by \$840,000 in federal funding, will develop the Commonwealth's first comprehensive strategy to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, reconnect fragmented wildlife habitats, and guide future transportation and conservation investments.

Through the newly established Wildlife Connectivity Work Group, 11 state agencies will collaborate to identify high-priority wildlife corridors and crossing locations using data and mapping. The resulting strategic plan will help prioritize projects such as wildlife crossings, underpasses, stream-crossing improvements, and other habitat connectivity measures that improve motorist safety while supporting wildlife movement.

The initiative builds on existing investments that have incorporated wildlife accommodations into transportation projects and supported habitat protection, stream restoration, fish passage improvements, forest conservation, and dam removals. The statewide strategy will serve as a long-term blueprint for reducing crashes, improving public safety, protecting natural resources, and guiding future infrastructure investments that better align transportation and environmental goals.

To learn more about the initiative and track its progress, visit the [Wildlife Connectivity Work Group website](#).



Now Open: \$12 Million in Heavy Highway Workforce Grants

[Educational institutions across Pennsylvania can apply](#) through Sept. 1, 2026, for a new \$12 million grant program to expand career pathways in the heavy highway and construction industries. Grants of up to \$500,000 in federal funds will support efforts to address workforce shortages by connecting more students with skilled-trade careers and strengthening the future transportation and infrastructure workforce.

Eligible applicants include public school districts, private schools, cyber schools, Career & Technical Centers, Youth Development Centers, and institutions of higher learning. There are no regional or residential restrictions within the state, however an educational institution's primary campus must be located within the state of Pennsylvania.

Funding can be used to create or expand programs that provide career exploration, technical training, industry certifications, and hands-on learning opportunities. Applications must demonstrate collaboration with industry, labor, workforce development, or postsecondary partners.

Visit [the grant application page](#) for eligibility requirements, program resources, and application information.



2025 Pennsylvania Transportation Performance Report

How is Pennsylvania's transportation system performing? [The 2025 Transportation Performance Report](#) serves as a report card on the condition and performance of the transportation network.

The report also plays an important role in Pennsylvania's transportation planning process. [Last month, residents were invited to comment](#) on the draft [Statewide Transportation Improvement Program \(STIP\)](#), which identifies priority transportation projects and funding over the next four years. While long-range plans set goals and the STIP advances those priorities, the [2025 Transportation Performance Report](#) measures results—helping PennDOT and the public understand what's working, where challenges remain, and inform future investment decisions.

The report shows improvements in areas such as bridge conditions, transit ridership, and freight reliability, while highlighting ongoing challenges related to roadway safety, congestion, and funding.



Stay Connected: Community Charging Program Maintains Steady Progress

Following last month's announcement of new funding for Western Pennsylvania, PennDOT continues advancing efforts to expand electric vehicle (EV) charging access statewide. The program supports publicly accessible charging infrastructure that improves connections between communities and major travel corridors while helping meet the growing demand for EV charging.

The [next Community Charging Funding opportunities](#) are expected to open for Central and Eastern Pennsylvania in late summer or early fall 2026, with applications due in spring 2027. Meanwhile, proposals for the **current Southeastern Pennsylvania funding round are due Aug. 21, 2026, and Western Pennsylvania funding round applications are due Nov. 20, 2026.**

As Pennsylvania continues building one of the nation's largest federally funded EV charging networks, communities, businesses, and other potential applicants can use this time to explore project opportunities, review program requirements, and prepare for upcoming funding rounds on [PennDOT's Community Charging Funding website](#).



Explore Resources on PennDOT's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Website

PennDOT's [IIJA website](#) offers a centralized hub of resources to help communities pursue federal infrastructure funding. It provides practical tools for developing competitive grant proposals, planning projects, and navigating the application process. The site also shares ongoing updates on federal grants, keeping communities informed and better positioned to compete.

Key Features:

- [Pursuing Grant Funding: A Guide for Regional and Local Applicants](#)
- Technical Assistance and Resources
- Checklist for Local Governments
- Funding Opportunities

IIJA in Action: West Newton Bridge

IIJA funding supports transportation improvements across Pennsylvania, advancing safety, connectivity, and local economies. One example is the [West Newton Bridge Rehabilitation Project](#), supported by a [\\$17 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\)](#) grant awarded in January 2025.

Built in 1907, the historic bridge carries Main Street over the Youghiogheny River and serves about 6,500 vehicles and more than 100 daily trail users. Officials approved a construction bid in May 2026, and work will begin in September 2026.

The project will replace the deck, repair structural elements, and upgrade sidewalks—restoring the bridge to a state of good repair while preserving its historic character. Improvements will also strengthen connections to the Great Allegheny Passage. As a long-standing community landmark, the bridge will continue to support mobility, tourism, and economic activity.



For more information about PennDOT Pathways, visit our website at penndot.pa.gov/funding.

Contact Us



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