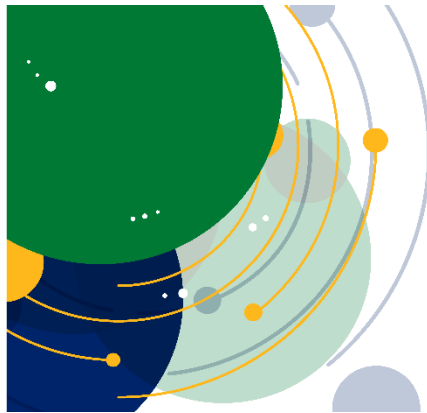




BETTER COLLABORATION

TRANSFORM

BETTER COMMUNITIES



The latest news and information from PennDOT Connects' network of people and places

PennDOT Connects August 2025 Newsletter

Navigating Transportation Project Development

Have you ever felt like you are aware of a safety, mobility, or other transportation issue in your community, but don't know where to start when it comes to addressing the problem? Perhaps an incident occurred that highlighted a clear safety issue, or existing infrastructure is inadequate to meet current demands.

Navigating the process to implement a meaningful solution can be daunting. In addition, the process of identifying a transportation problem or need, working through the project development process, and securing placement on a regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) can vary depending on project type, urgency, complexity, and location, among other factors.

Community leaders must consider many moving pieces including community outreach, stakeholder engagement, appropriate level of planning or feasibility analysis that needs to be completed to determine an appropriate solution and identifying necessary funding. These pieces may not occur in a linear fashion, but all need to be considered in developing the solution.

Municipalities may utilize free technical assistance through PennDOT Connects to help with initial evaluation. Types of assistance will vary but may include the development of a Road Safety Audit (RSA), sidewalk evaluation, or other analysis to assist with identifying the problem, documenting concerns, and assessing solutions. These initial steps can help facilitate conversations with the MPO in requesting consideration for placement on the TIP.

Transportation Program Development and Project Delivery Process



Graphic: PennDOT Publication 10A – Design Manual Part 1A

This article will review how three communities navigated the process of project development to ultimately secure TIP funding and successful implementation.

Improving Safety and Connectivity in Camp Hill

Camp Hill Borough, Cumberland County, recently completed a project that represented implementation of several planning studies and also served as a catalyst for future community improvements. The project was ultimately placed on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS), the regional Metropolitan Transportation Organization's (MPO). So how did they get there?

US 11/15, also known as Cumberland Boulevard, and known locally as the Camp Hill Bypass, bisects the Borough of Camp Hill, creating a barrier between one area of the borough that contains the downtown, schools, and residential neighborhoods, and the western part of the community that contains commercial areas, neighborhoods, and Siebert Park, a community park destination.

Cumberland Boulevard has an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) of approximately 40,000 vehicles, making it challenging to manage vehicular traffic and provide safe connections for pedestrians and bicyclists. Two pedestrian tunnels had been constructed under US 11/15 to facilitate pedestrian mobility from one side of the bypass to the other, but limited facilities existed on either side to realize complete connections.

Long recognized as a problem, the Borough, along with adjacent municipalities, partnered with HATS to evaluate safety along the corridor. The Borough also commissioned a number of other studies and focus groups to consider bicycle and pedestrian mobility and downtown revitalization. The planning process for all of these studies involved stakeholder collaboration, focus groups, and public meetings to vet ideas.

In looking to kickstart implementation, Camp Hill Borough applied to HATS Regional Transportation Improvement Plan Implementation grant program. This program provides funding for projects consistent with the regional transportation plan. Projects are evaluated by a review and ranking committee and if selected for funding, are placed on the TIP.

Camp Hill's project included lighting of both pedestrian tunnels, and sidewalk connections on either side of the bypass to complete connections to a neighborhood and an elementary school. The project also included installation of a protective barrier in the area of the elementary school to provide additional separation and safety between the vehicular travel lanes and pedestrian facilities.



Newly constructed sidewalk with concrete barrier along Cumberland Blvd. near 24th St, looking west. Photo: PennDOT Connects



Newly constructed sidewalk with barrier along Cumberland Blvd. near 24th St, looking east. Driveway was lowered and landscape wall and privacy fence were added to accommodate the improvement. Photo: PennDOT Connects

In addition to improving safety and mobility, the project set the stage for future improvements to a trail in Siebert Park that connects to the Conodoguinet Creek, as well as a series of downtown streetscape improvements. Through planning, outreach, engagement, and collaborative partnerships, Camp Hill Borough was able to complete a significant transportation improvement.



New sidewalk along Cumberland Blvd. near N. 27th St, looking east.
Photo: PennDOT Connects



Improvements included the installation of lighting in two pedestrian tunnels to improve safety. Photo: PennDOT Connects

Improving a Deteriorating Bridge in Lower Paxton Township

Lower Paxton Township, a suburb of the City of Harrisburg, is Dauphin County's most populous municipality. Land uses vary from dense residential areas to suburban neighborhoods, to large scale commercial areas. Arterial transportation routes, including I-81, I-83, and US 22 move people and goods throughout the region and the eastern United States.

Dauphin County conducts National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) bridge inspections on behalf of the local municipalities for all bridges over 20 feet in length. Based on an inspection conducted in 2009, the Jonestown Road Bridge in Lower Paxton Township was determined to be a structurally deficient, poor condition bridge and load postings were implemented. The weight limit was further reduced in 2014, which led the Township to more seriously consider the need to find a funding solution to replace the bridge. Jonestown Road is a busy corridor and serves as an alternate route to I-81 and US 22; weight limits significantly impacted the potential for redundancies in the overall network and day-to-day circulation patterns. The Township discussed these concerns with the MPO, and the bridge was placed on the TIP for funding. The bridge was replaced in 2018.



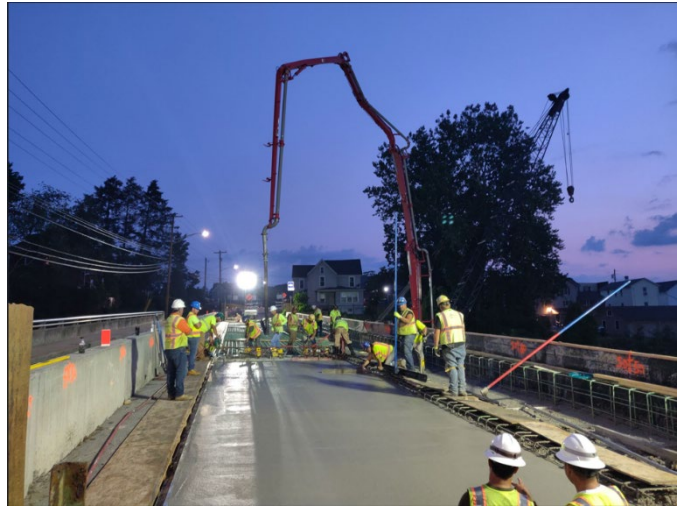
An aerial view of the new Jonestown Road bridge.
Photo: PEMA

Westmoreland County Bridge #29

Westmoreland County Bridge #29 was identified as a TIP project candidate in 2016 due to the poor condition rating of the superstructure. This bridge carries Ligonier Street over Loyalhanna Creek and is a crucial road for the City of Latrobe, which led Westmoreland County to seriously consider

the need to fund the replacement of the bridge's superstructure. During early coordination with the project stakeholders, it was evident half-width construction was necessary to maintain northbound traffic as it was crucial for access to the Latrobe Hospital which is just on the other side of Loyalhanna Creek. The project was placed on the TIP, and the superstructure of the bridge was replaced in 2021.

For a project to be successful, the development of the initial project is an important step. In addition to identifying the problem and performing an appropriate level of planning or feasibility analysis to determine an appropriate solution, it is important for municipal leaders to engage in community outreach and involve stakeholders along the way. Many times, these outreach efforts will help to inform the project development and ultimately lead to a more holistic and thoughtful project implementation. Throughout the process, keep an open line of communication with your MPO/RPO and PennDOT District Planner, as they may be able to direct you to funding sources. PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach is also there to provide assistance to get you started and assist with parts of the process.



Pouring the deck on the bridge. Photo: PennDOT District 12



Request Free Planning Assistance



Tech Sheet # 22 Project Development has the steps for project development and details on the different steps.

Tech Sheet #22

Planning a transportation project? Discover how PennDOT's Tech Sheet #22 can guide your community through the steps of identifying the transportation issue, problem assessment, planning and feasibility analysis, to working with your Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/Rural Planning Organization. Whether you're tackling congestion, safety concerns, or infrastructure gaps, this resource outlines a clear, collaborative process to project development. Don't miss out—explore the tech sheet today and take the first step toward smarter, safer transportation planning!



Photo: PennDOT District 12

Introduction

Project development can be defined as the process of formulating a solution to an identified problem and putting the pieces in place to ensure a funding solution and successful implementation. Having a project through the project development process can be thought of as a multi-step collaborative process that involves a variety of stakeholders.

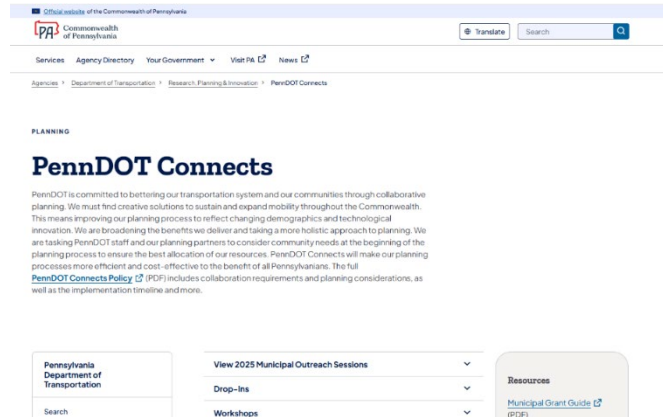


The tech sheet is on the [PennDOT Connects webpage](#).

[Tech Sheet #22 Transportation Project Development](#)

PennDOT Connects Resources

Go to the [PennDOT Connects webpage](#) to access tech sheets, recorded trainings, and other resources.



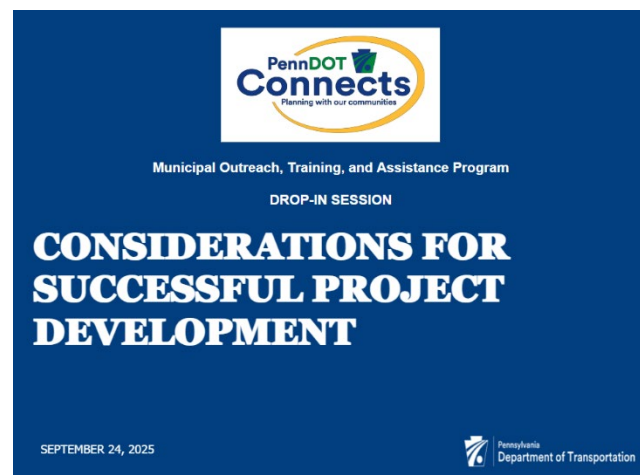
PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach Educational Opportunities

Go to the [PennDOT Connects webpage](#) to learn about upcoming educational opportunities. Click the down arrows next to the Drop-Ins and Workshops tabs to view the current offerings and past sessions.

Considerations for Successful Project Development

Have you identified a transportation problem, but don't know where to start when it comes to fixing it?

Join us for a drop-in session designed to help you turn ideas into action! Whether you're tackling a new project or navigating an existing one, we'll walk through the key steps of project development outlined in the PennDOT Connects Tech Sheet: Transportation Project Development. Topics from defining ownership and managing timelines to engaging stakeholders and exploring funding opportunities will be covered.



Wednesday, September 24, 2025,
Noon to 1 p.m. [Register Today!](#)

This is your chance to ask questions, share experiences, and connect with others who are working through similar challenges. No pressure, just practical insights and helpful conversation. Come ready to learn, share, and leave with tools to move your project forward!

What is 511PA?

The 511PA website is part of a statewide travel information service which provides reliable traffic, weather and transit information to travelers to reduce congestion, and improve safety and mobility in Pennsylvania.

Using real-time traffic data from various sources throughout the state, we are able to provide current information to commuters, travelers and commercial carriers so they can make informed decisions regarding their next drive to work, trip or delivery. By providing this information to travelers, 511 Pennsylvania helps to keep traffic moving.

Why Should I Sign Up?

Signing up for a free 511PA account isn't mandatory, but it unlocks personalized features that can significantly improve your travel planning. By creating an account with your email or phone number—and verifying via the link sent to you—you'll receive personalized traffic alerts via email or SMS text. This means you can stay ahead of delays, incidents, or other disruptions on the routes that you use frequently.

How to Sign Up and Set Up Alerts

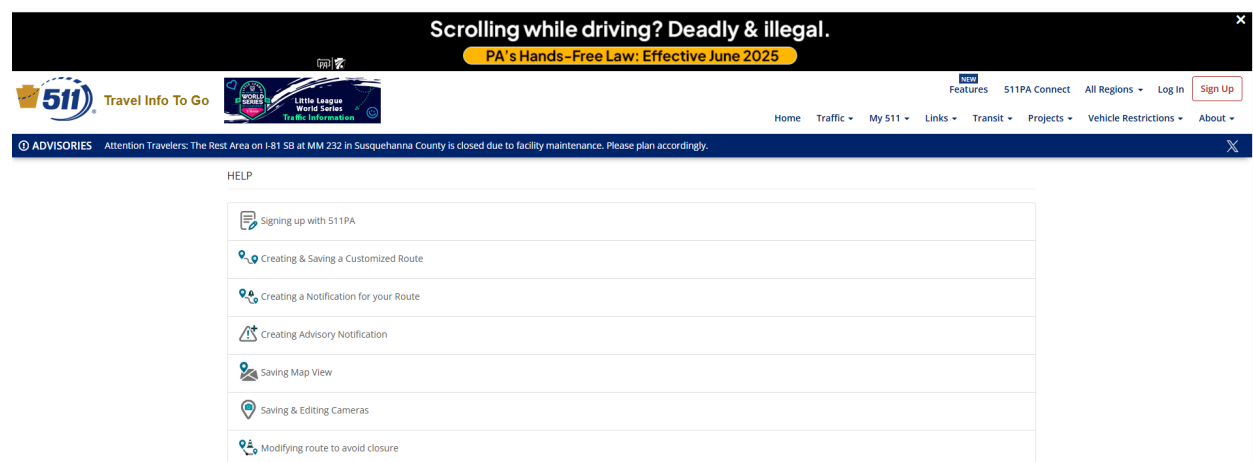
Once you register, simply log in and start customizing your experience. You can enter your preferred origin and destination—by typing or right-clicking on the map—to generate recommended routes. After you've created and saved a route, you'll be able to select text or email notifications.

Additional Features

The site also offers additional tools such as saving map views, managing cameras, and rerouting around closures—all accessible once you're signed in.

Get Started

Get started by signing up here: <https://www.511pa.com/about/help#signup>.



The screenshot shows the 511PA website interface. At the top, there is a black banner with white text: "Scrolling while driving? Deadly & illegal." and a yellow button: "PA's Hands-Free Law: Effective June 2025". Below the banner is a navigation bar with the 511PA logo, "Travel Info To Go", and several icons. To the right of the logo are links: "Home", "Traffic", "My 511", "Links", "Transit", "Projects", "Vehicle Restrictions", and "About". Further right are "Features", "511PA Connect", "All Regions", "Log In", and a "Sign Up" button. Below the navigation bar is a blue bar with white text: "ADVISORIES Attention Travelers: The Rest Area on I-81 SB at MM 232 in Susquehanna County is closed due to facility maintenance. Please plan accordingly." Below this is a "HELP" section with a list of links: "Signing up with 511PA", "Creating & Saving a Customized Route", "Creating a Notification for your Route", "Creating Advisory Notification", "Saving Map View", "Saving & Editing Cameras", and "Modifying route to avoid closure".

Discretionary Grants Spotlight – Update

[PennDOT's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\) webpage](#) offers the latest news and information on federal grant opportunities available through the IIJA.

Grant opportunities, application guides and other resources on federal grant funding are added as they become available, so please visit often to see if any of these grant funding programs are an opportunity that would benefit your community.

The following is a federal grant program currently accepting applications:

\$80 Million in Safety Grants for Pedestrians and Cyclists Still Available

[PennDOT's 2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside \(TASA\)](#) program is still open for applications until **October 31, 2025**. A total of \$80 million in funding is available to support projects that expand transportation options and improve safe access to schools across the state.

The TASA program funds a variety of projects, including:

- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Better access to public transportation
- Safe routes to school
- Improving neighborhoods by saving historic buildings and maintaining green spaces
- Protecting nature by managing rainwater or helping animals move around safely
- Useful trails that help people get where they need to go
- Making roads safer for pedestrians and bicyclists

Key Deadlines:

- There is a two-step application process to ensure projects are feasible and well-aligned with program goals. If a draft application isn't submitted by the deadline, the final application will not be accepted.
 - Draft application is due to PennDOT district offices by **September 5, 2025**.
 - This is a mandatory step so the proposal can be reviewed, and feedback provided.
 - Final application is due **October 31, 2025**.
 - Finals can only be submitted after a draft review and a meeting with PennDOT.
- Final project recommendations will be made in **March 2026**.

[PennDOT's TASA website](#) offers a recording of an informational session held in July and comprehensive information on eligibility and how to apply. [Guidelines and instructions for the TASA program](#) are available online, and any questions can be submitted to RA-pdTASA@pa.gov.

Guide for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Grant Applications

PennDOT has added a [guide for grant applications](#) to the website dedicated to the IIJA, and specifically the federal discretionary programs. Also, included are Grant Alerts that provide background on these opportunities including eligibility, application deadlines, and federal and Department of Transportation (USDOT) resources and guides to assist in applying for the specific programs.

Developing IIJA/BIL Grant Proposals:
A Guide for Municipalities



Revised
July 2024

Grants Resources

USDOT Discretionary Grant Resources

The USDOT has developed a discretionary grant preparation checklist for federal fiscal year 2024 to help applicants prepare and chart a strategic pathway to apply for infrastructure investments. More than \$32 billion is available to the USDOT this fiscal year to provide competitive grant funding to local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies, Tribal governments, U.S. Territories and state departments of transportation. The USDOT has published a list of anticipated dates for the upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for key programs within the IIJA and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as adjacent programs that support IIJA and IRA objectives. This list is not comprehensive, and the agency will periodically update it with additional programs and revised dates as appropriate. Both resources can be found on PennDOT's IIJA page at <https://www.pa.gov/en/services/pennidot/apply-for-pennidot-infrastructure-and-jobs-act--iija--grants.html>.

USDOT Navigator: <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

Federal Transit Administration IIJA Website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/IIJA>

DOT Competitive Grants Dashboard: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dashboard>

FREE Transportation and Land Use Planning – One-on One Assistance and Training

PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach offers **free** one-on-one assistance and training to municipalities to better integrate local land use development and transportation goals into the state transportation planning process.

Any municipal staff member, government official or planning partner is eligible to request **free** planning assistance or personalized training. Simply fill out the PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach Training/Assistance request form by [clicking here](#). If you answer yes to any of the questions below, reach out to [PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach for assistance](#).



- Are you involved with municipal land use and transportation planning activities?
- Could your municipality use assistance to help shape future land use or transportation projects?
- Would you like to learn how to advance your community's planning and transportation-related goals?
- Have you heard about PennDOT Connects, but would like to know more about the free training and assistance available to your municipality?

PennDOT Connects helps local governments and regional/municipal planning organizations consider community needs during the planning process. Examples include:

- Safety issues/concerns
- Bicycle/pedestrian accommodations
- Transit/multimodal considerations
- Stormwater management
- Presence of/impacts from (current/future) freight-generating land uses
- Utility issues
- Transportation operations considerations
- Emergency services accommodations
- Planned development
- Long-range transportation plans
- Regional planning studies (e.g., corridor studies, resource management studies, watershed studies, etc.)
- Consistency with current community comprehensive or other plans
- Consistency with current and/or proposed zoning
- Other proposed transportation improvements
- Impacts on the natural, cultural, or social environment
- Right-of-way considerations
- Anticipated public opinion
- Community or cultural events in the candidate project area
- Maintenance Agreement requirements

Do You Know Your MPO or RPO?

PennDOT and its Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Rural Planning Organization (RPO) partners have a long-standing relationship jointly preparing transportation studies, plans, and programs to make the best transportation project investments possible with available resources. This strategic alliance is now of even greater importance for PennDOT Connects implementation. Together, the MPO/RPO planning partners and PennDOT can effectively collaborate and communicate with municipalities — and other community stakeholders (e.g., transit operators, economic development agencies, etc.) — to improve transportation system performance and achieve more livable communities. The collaborative effort of municipalities, MPO/RPO planning partners, and PennDOT is key to ensuring that opportunities to improve transportation and communities are realized.

MPO/RPO contacts can be found [here](#). Use the “Sort & Filter” button to find your contact(s).

PennDOT Connects

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is committed to bettering our transportation system and our communities through collaborative planning. We must find creative solutions to sustain and expand mobility throughout the commonwealth. This means improving our planning process to reflect changing demographics and technological innovation. We are broadening the benefits we deliver and taking a more holistic approach to planning. We are tasking PennDOT staff and our planning partners to consider community needs at the beginning of the planning process to ensure the best allocation of our resources. This approach, PennDOT Connects, will make our planning processes more efficient and cost-effective to the benefit of all Pennsylvanians.

PennDOT Connects Newsletter

Was this newsletter forwarded to you? If yes, [click here](#) to subscribe to receive a copy directly to your inbox.



Pennsylvania Department of Transportation PennDOT Connects Municipal Resources

www.pa.gov/agencies/penndot/research-planning-and-innovation/penn-dot-connects.html

Email: PAConnects@pa.gov
Phone: 717-710-2090



Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

