



BETTER COLLABORATION

TRANSFORM

BETTER COMMUNITIES



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

PennDOT Connects September 2025 Newsletter

Rehabilitating Aging Infrastructure and Improving Connection Between Local Trails and City Businesses

PennDOT worked alongside the City of Connellsville and Fayette County to enhance the PA 711 Crawford Avenue Bridge, which spans the Youghiogheny River and CSX Railroad. The project focused on rehabilitating the aging infrastructure, strengthening the bridge, and improving the connection between local trails and city businesses, and through the use of PennDOT Connects, a more holistic and comprehensive project was created.

The Connellsville community expressed a strong desire for updates to the Crawford Avenue Bridge, particularly to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety. With the Great Allegheny Passage running beneath the bridge, the addition of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations was essential. Thanks to the PennDOT Connects program, local leaders and planners partnered with PennDOT project delivery experts to breathe new life into the bridge, creating a seamless link between Connellsville's recreational and commercial areas.

The city faced challenges in ensuring the revitalization adhered to zoning requirements and ran smoothly, and PennDOT Connects provided vital assistance. The program works with communities to find innovative solutions that meet evolving needs, helping to sustain and expand the commonwealth's economy.



In February 2024, the demolition of the old bridge began. Photo: PennDOT District 12



In June 2024, the new girders were placed. Photo: PennDOT District 12



In July 2024, the rebar was being set for the bridge deck. Photo: PennDOT District 12

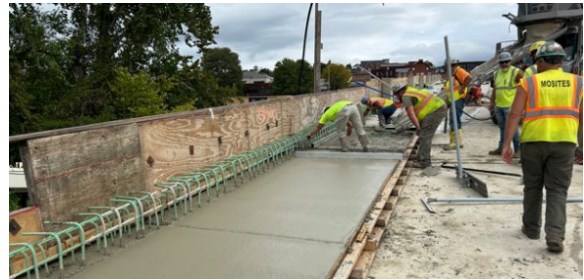
Collaborating closely with local planners, PennDOT Project Delivery experts ensured that the project aligned with zoning regulations, which included coordination with the railroad and utility companies. PennDOT and local officials revamped the bridge's deck layout, added a shared-use path, and upgraded sidewalks and sharrows (shared lane by bicyclist and motorist), ensuring safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle movement.

Josh Theakston, transportation planning specialist supervisor for PennDOT, noted, "Local officials have a deep understanding of their community, while Connects discussions provide logistical expertise to convey community ideas to department units, making this revitalization project a powerful success that benefits everyone."

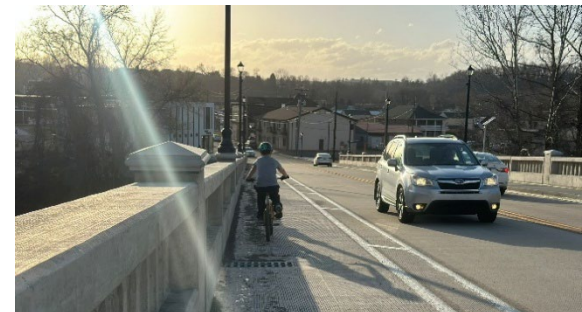
As a result of these collaborative efforts, the Crawford Avenue Bridge revitalization was completed in under a year. The community celebrated the project's completion with a grand opening, showcasing their pride in the newly renovated bridge.

Through careful listening, community engagement, and working with PennDOT Connects to bring plans to life, Connellsville has transformed the Crawford Avenue Bridge into a vital, safe, and accessible community asset.

PennDOT Connects played a key role in adapting Connellsville's infrastructure to the community's evolving needs, turning local ideas into actionable improvements. Thanks to this partnership, communities are inspired to grow, and the commonwealth is advancing its infrastructure to meet the demands of future generations. PennDOT Connects helped to unite the city, county, and community, turning revitalization ideas into tangible results.



In October 2024, the sidewalks were poured.
Photo: PennDOT District 12



In November of 2024 the new bridge was completed. Three Photos above:
PennDOT District 12



The community celebrated the project completion with a bridge opening ceremony.
Photo: PennDOT District 12



America's Transportation Awards

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Crawford Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation project won an America's Transportation Award for the NASTO region. Learn more here:

<https://americastransportationawards.org/2025/07/07/pennsylvania-crawford-avenue-bridge-rehabilitation/>

York Regional Freight Summit 2025

The York Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (YAMPO) and its Freight Advisory Committee in conjunction with the York County Economic Alliance (YCEA) will host a Regional Freight Summit on October 28, 2025 at the Wyndham Garden York from 9am to 3pm.

This unique event will bring together freight stakeholders at state, regional/county, local, and private sectors to discuss issues and opportunities in freight planning through two general sessions and six topical sessions.

PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll will be the morning keynote speaker and Erin Trone from PA DCED Business PA will be the lunchtime speaker. You can find registration link below.

[2025 Regional Freight Summit Registration Link](#)

**REGIONAL
FREIGHT
SUMMIT
2025**

OCTOBER 28, 2025
WYNDHAM GARDEN YORK,
2000 LOUCKS ROAD,
YORK PA 17408

SIGN-IN & BREAKFAST 8AM-9AM
SESSIONS 9AM-3PM LUNCH PROVIDED

**REGISTER
HERE!!**

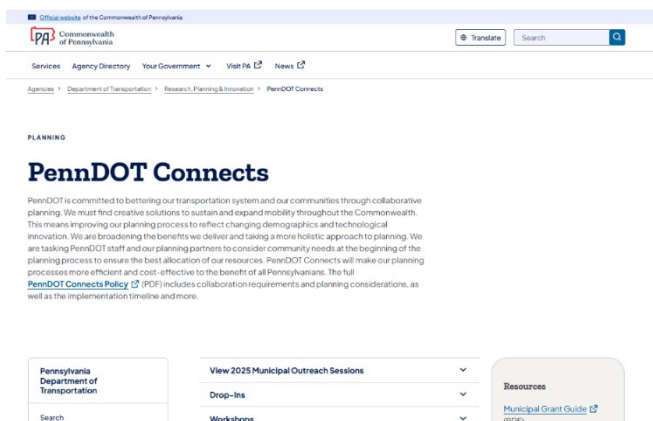
REGISTER AT
[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/PBWHJ3A02](https://forms.office.com/R/PBWHJ3A02)
EMAIL CHRIS CABA FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CCABA@YCPC.ORG

SPONSORS
YORK AREA METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(YAMPO) AND (YCEA)

YAMPO
York County
Economic
Alliance

PennDOT Connects Resources

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



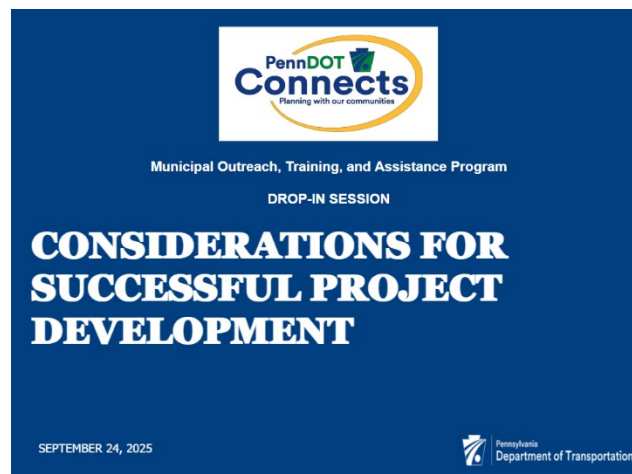
PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach Educational Opportunities

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?

Review the recorded 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 to engaging stakeholders and exploring funding opportunities will be covered.



[Recording Link](#)

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 wasn't submitted by the deadline, the final application will not be accepted.
 - The draft application was due to PennDOT district offices by **September 5, 2025**.
 - This was 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/penndot-connects.html
Email: PAConnects@pa.gov
Phone: 717-710-2090



Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

