



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



PennDOT Connects February 2024 Newsletter



Through PennDOT Connects, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and its regional planning partners are strengthening their partnerships with communities by involving local government at the very beginning of the planning process so that land use, development, and transportation are better integrated and more effective.

**Enhance Your Community with PennDOT Connects:  
Free Resources & Municipal Support!**

***Empower your municipality and its voice in local transportation: Join us for an interactive workshop where you can engage with PennDOT, collaborate with peers, and discover valuable resources to enhance your community.***

**Learn about:**

- **PennDOT Connects:** A collaborative planning process that *incorporates your community's needs*.
- **Funding and Support:** *Grant opportunities and expert guidance* available through IJA/BIL and state agencies.
- **Your PennDOT District and Regional Planning Partners:** Share ideas, network, and *develop a vision for your community's transportation future*.

**This workshop is intended for:**

- Municipal officials, planners, and engineers.
- Community leaders and advocates.
- Anyone interested in improving their local transportation systems.

**Don't miss out on this chance to:**

- Make your voice heard and shape your community's transportation future.
- Access free resources and expert support to achieve your goals.
- Network with other municipalities and learn from their successes and find areas for collaboration.

*Note: This session will focus on the resources available to municipalities through PennDOT Connects and other sources and is not on specific projects on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in PennDOT Districts.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Facility, Format, Registration Link</b>	<b>Address</b>
March 25, 2024	<b>District 2</b>	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 2 &amp; Virtual</a>	70 PennDOT Drive Clearfield, PA 16830
March 27, 2024	<b>District 12</b>	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 12 &amp; Virtual</a>	825 N. Gallatin Ave. Ext. Uniontown, PA 15401
March 28, 2024	<b>District 11</b>	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">All Virtual</a>	
April 22, 2024	<b>District 6</b>	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">All Virtual</a>	
April 24, 2024	<b>District 1</b>	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">All Virtual</a>	
May 7, 2024	<b>District 4</b>	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 4 &amp; Virtual</a>	55 Keystone Industrial Park Dunmore, PA 18512
May 14, 2024	<b>District 8</b>	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 8 &amp; Virtual</a>	2140 Herr Street Harrisburg, PA 17103
May 15, 2024	<b>District 9</b>	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">All Virtual</a>	
May 16, 2024	<b>District 5</b>	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 5 &amp; Virtual</a>	1002 Hamilton Street Allentown, PA 18101
May 28, 2024	<b>District 10</b>	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 10 &amp; Virtual</a>	2550 Oakland Avenue Indiana, PA 15701
May 29, 2024	<b>District 3</b>	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">All Virtual</a>	

### District Map

#### **Attendance options noted for each district:**

- In Person at District Office *or* Virtual (Go-To-Webinar)
- All Virtual (Go-To-Webinar)

**Registration:** To register, click on the **Facility, Format, and Registration Link** above for the session you want to attend.

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## PennDOT Connects Educational Opportunities

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

### Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Infrastructure Development Through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank

Uncover the power of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB) in our upcoming drop-in. We will analyze the PIB's role in financing critical infrastructure projects and discuss its impact on economic development. Learn about successful PIB-funded initiatives and gain insights into optimizing your grant funding applications for enhanced chances of approval. Join us for an hour of strategic planning and actionable knowledge.



Municipal Outreach, Training, and Assistance Program

Drop-In

**BRIDGING THE GAP: ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE PA. INFRASTRUCTURE BANK**

MARCH 14, 2024 

March 14, 2024, Noon to 1 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

### Broadband Ready Community Program

Is your community ready for broadband? Attend this drop-in and learn about the free resources available through the Broadband Ready Community Program (BBRC) for Pennsylvania municipalities. The BBRC program will provide participating communities with technical assistance and a “Broadband Ready Community” designation that will allow municipalities to showcase their willingness to work with public and private internet service providers.



Municipal Outreach, Training, and Assistance Program

Drop-In

**BROADBAND READY COMMUNITY PROGRAM**

MARCH 21, 2024 

March 21, 2024, Noon to 1 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

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## WalkWorks Active Transportation Grants Now Available

The state Department of Health and Pennsylvania Downtown Center's initiative, WalkWorks, has announced its eighth round of assistance to advance active transportation in the state. Townships are eligible to apply for grants and technical assistance to assist with the development of Active Transportation Plans during 2024 and 2025. Active transportation includes walking, biking, using a wheelchair or other mobility device, and accessing public transit.



Applications will be accepted until **March 22, 2024**, via email to [pawalkworks@padowntown.org](mailto:pawalkworks@padowntown.org). For more information, including the funding announcement and application form, visit the [WalkWorks website](#).



## Preregistration for Broadband Ready Community Program

Are you looking to improve broadband access in your municipality? The PA Broadband Development Authority is here to help!

Click the link below to preregister for the Broadband Ready Community Program and be the first to know when technical assistance resources, information on best practices, and steps to achieve Broadband Ready designation are released in March 2024!

[Broadband Ready Community Pre-Registration](#)

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## Discretionary Grants Spotlight

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

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 list of federal grant programs currently accepting applications:

## **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program is Now Accepting Applications!**

The [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Program](#) funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 SS4A grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructural, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians; bicyclists; public transportation, personal conveyance, and micro-mobility users; motorists; and commercial vehicle operators.

The SS4A program provides funding for two types of grants: Planning and Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants, each having their own deadlines:

- [Implementation Grant](#) applications have a single deadline:
  - May 16, 2024, by 5 PM ET for FY24.
- [Planning and Demonstration Grant](#) applicants have three deadlines for FY24:
  - April 4, 2024, by 5 PM ET;
  - May 16, 2024, by 5 PM ET; and
  - August 29, 2024, by 5 PM ET.

## **Bridge Investment Program**

The goals of the [Bridge Investment Program \(BIP\) - Large Bridge grants](#) are to 1) Improve safety, efficiency and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges; 2) Improve the overall condition of bridges in the United States and 3) Provide financial assistance that both leverages and encourages non-federal contributions from sponsors and stakeholders involved in the planning, design and construction of eligible projects that will cost more than \$100 million.

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT support for FY 2025 is July 1, 2024.
- The deadline for applying for FY 2025 funds in this rolling application process\* is August 1, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST.

\*Submissions will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis until program funding is expended or the notice of availability is superseded.

## **BIP – Planning and Bridge Project Grants**

The goals of the [BIP - Planning and Bridge Project grants](#) are identical to the above Large Bridge grants except eligible projects must cost less than \$100 million.

- The Bridge Project deadline for requesting PennDOT support for FY 2023/2024 is March 4, 2024.
- The Bridge Project deadline for applying for FY 2023/2024 funds in this rolling application process\* is March 19, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST.

\*Submissions will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis until program funding is expended or the notice of availability is superseded.

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## Guide for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant Applications

PennDOT has added a [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\) 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.

## Resources

[Guide for Developing BIL Grant Proposals \(PDF\)](#)

[Key Notices of Funding](#)

[Opportunity | US Department of Transportation](#) 

[Federal Transportation Funding:](#)

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## Grants Resources

### USDOT Discretionary Grant Resources

The U.S. Department of Transportation (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 upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for key programs within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as adjacent programs that support BIL 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.penndot.pa.gov/Doing-Business/Pages/IIJA.aspx>.

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

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

**Key Notices of Funding Opportunity:** <https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity>

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## FREE Transportation and Land Use Planning – Assistance and Training

PennDOT Connects offers **free** 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 Training/Assistance request form by [clicking here](#).



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## 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](#).

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## 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. The full [PennDOT Connects Policy \(PDF\)](#) includes collaboration requirements and planning considerations, as well as the implementation timeline and more.

## 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  
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