



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



PennDOT Connects July 2024 Newsletter

Stormwater Planning 101

Have you ever thought about what happens to rain and snow after they fall? It's not just about getting wet—when this water flows over surfaces such as parking lots, driveways, and roads, it picks up all sorts of pollutants, from trash and oils to excess nutrients. This polluted runoff then heads into storm drains and local waterways, causing both environmental and infrastructure headaches. That's why effective stormwater planning is so important.

In Pennsylvania, stormwater planning typically comes in two flavors: local stormwater planning and Act 167 stormwater planning.

Local stormwater planning is all about tailoring solutions to fit the specific conditions of a municipality. Think about different soil types, topography, and what kind of activities are going on in the area. This type of planning is often a requirement through the Municipal Planning Code (MPC) and gets woven into comprehensive plans and local ordinances. The beauty of it is that municipalities can set their own stormwater management standards based on their unique needs, making it easier to tackle specific challenges.

On the other hand, Act 167 stormwater planning, which stems from the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act of 1978, takes a broader approach. This type of planning happens at the county or watershed level and aims to manage stormwater across municipal boundaries. It's all about cooperation and ensuring that everyone is on the same page, using resources efficiently, and standardizing ordinance language. By doing this, municipalities can work together to tackle stormwater issues right at the source.

Why is this so important? Well, excess stormwater can lead to major flooding, causing damage to both public and private property. Did you know that urban flooding alone causes about \$9 billion in losses every year in the U.S., according to the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2021 Infrastructure Report Card? And it's not just cities and suburbs that are at risk—rural areas in Pennsylvania face their own set of challenges, even if they're not subject to the same regulations as urban areas. Proper stormwater management is key to protecting properties and maintaining good relationships between neighboring municipalities.

Act 167 stormwater plans do a great job of integrating state programs for construction stormwater management at the county level with municipal efforts. This integration helps streamline permitting processes, giving developers clarity and predictability, which in turn promotes economic development.

Stormwater carries a variety of pollutants, including trash, nutrients, oils, bacteria, and other harmful substances, to local waterways. These pollutants can harm aquatic ecosystems, impacting fish and other organisms. Humans can also be affected by these pollutants through contact or from diseases spread by vectors, like the West Nile virus, which can occur when stormwater pools and becomes stagnant. In cities like Philadelphia, water-based activities are often discouraged during rain due to the overburdened stormwater systems and the risk of sewage contamination.

Effective stormwater planning helps integrate management across different programs, including those required under state and federal regulations. This integrated approach ensures the efficient use of limited municipal resources. For instance, the National Flood Insurance Program, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Program under FEMA, and the EPA's MS4 Program have similar requirements. Addressing stormwater management in one program can help meet requirements in another, resulting in savings for both residents and municipalities.

In the end, stormwater planning is crucial for municipal officials to protect property, public health, and the environment. By understanding and implementing effective stormwater management strategies, officials can build resilient communities that are well-prepared to handle the challenges of stormwater runoff. Whether through local planning or Act 167 stormwater management, municipalities can safeguard their infrastructure, promote sustainable development, and ensure the well-being of their residents and the health of their natural environments.

Resource:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/StormwaterMgmt/Pages/Act-167.aspx>

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.

Recorded Drop-Ins

Did you miss the drop-in below? Click on the titles to watch the recording. All drop-ins are on the [PennDOT Connects webpage](#).

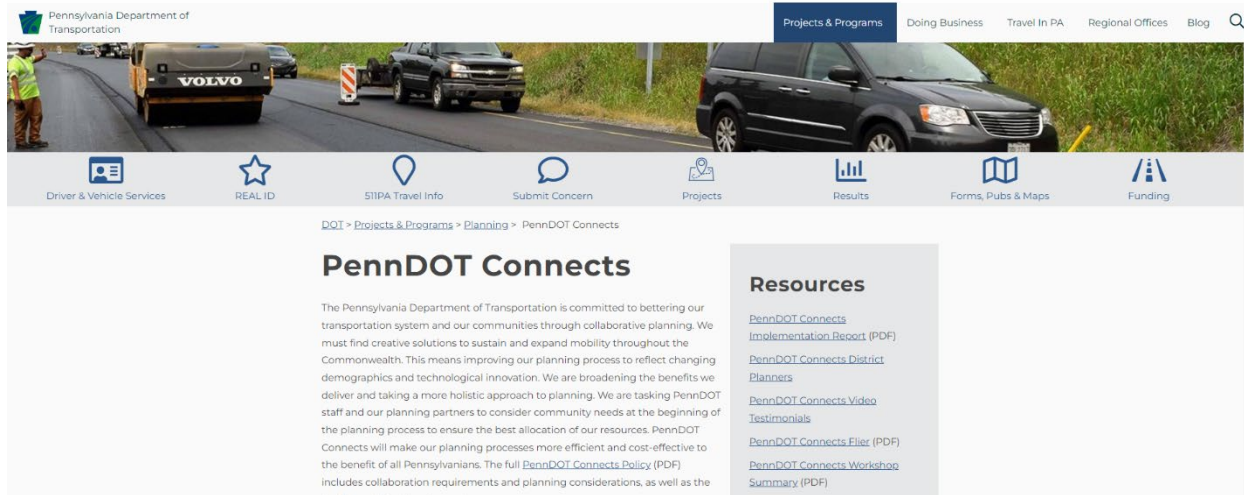
[Stormwater Planning ABCs for Municipal Officials](#)

Municipal officials, especially when newly elected, are faced with learning multitudes of new programs and rules, then making decisions regarding allocation of municipal resources. One critical program that municipal officials will encounter, stormwater planning, can assist in the protection of both public and private property, as well as public health and safety. Utilizing stormwater planning effectively involves understanding what stormwater is and how stormwater can negatively impact municipalities. This drop-in discussed what stormwater planning obligations exist for municipalities in Pennsylvania, as well as how effective and integrated stormwater planning can assist in meeting other municipal obligations, such as those related to flooding/flood insurance, permitting requirements and regional planning goals. Additional resources will be introduced, including case studies, cost estimates, and local contacts, that will assist municipal officials with implementing effective stormwater planning programs in their municipalities.



PennDOT Connects Resources

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



The screenshot shows the PennDOT Connects webpage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Projects & Programs' selected. Below the navigation bar is a banner image showing a road construction scene with a Volvo truck and a car. Underneath the banner is a row of icons for services like Driver & Vehicle Services, REAL ID, SIIIPA Travel Info, Submit Concern, Projects, Results, Forms, Pubs & Maps, and Funding. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: 'DOT > Projects & Programs > Planning > PennDOT Connects'. The main heading is 'PennDOT Connects'. The text below the heading describes the department's commitment to collaborative planning. To the right is a 'Resources' sidebar with links to various documents and videos.

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)

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:

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is:
 - August 15, 2024 (Round 3)
- [Planning and Demonstration Grant](#) applicants have multiple deadlines for FY24:
 - August 29, 2024, by 5 PM ET.

* Applicants may also reapply if not selected if the application is received by the last Planning and Demonstration Grants deadline of August 29, 2024, 5:00 p.m. EST.

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 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.

- **Planning** grant deadlines for FY 2025:
 - Requesting PennDOT support – September 17, 2024
 - Applying for funds in rolling application process* – October 1, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST
- **Bridge Project** grant deadlines for FY 2025:
 - Requesting PennDOT support – October 18, 2024
 - Applying for funds in rolling application process* – November 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.

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program

The [Charging and Fueling Infrastructure \(CFI\) Program](#) provides alternative fuels infrastructure grants through two separate grant categories: 1) Community Charging and Fueling and 2) Alternative Fuel Corridor. This program will fund grants to strategically deploy charging and alternative fueling infrastructure located on public roads or in other publicly accessible locations and along designated alternative fuel corridors.

Specific questions can be directed to the resource account at RA-PDEVCORRIDORS@pa.gov.

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT support for Round 2 applications is August 14, 2024.
- The Round 2 deadline to apply for this program is Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST.

Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP)

The [Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program \(WCPP\)](#) is a competitive grant program to reduce Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVC) while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. The grant provides funding for construction and non-construction projects. Construction examples include the design and pre-construction of an underpass or overpass for wildlife passage. A non-construction example includes research on safety innovations to reduce WVCs as well as research and monitoring the

effectiveness of WVC mitigation.

Because PennDOT is required to administer grants for local/regional partners for this program, we must review and approve all applications for this program to ensure the project can be delivered within the budget and schedule proposed by the applicant.

Specific questions can be directed to the resource account at RA@PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov.

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT's approval for FY 2024-2025 is August 21, 2024.
- The deadline to apply post-PennDOT approval for FY 2024-2025 is Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST.

Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program

The [Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage \(AOP\) Program](#) provides competitive grants for projects aimed at replacing, removing, and/or repairing culverts or weirs/barriers. The primary goal is to significantly improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish such as salmon, sturgeon, and shad. This may involve creating infrastructure to help fish pass around or over weirs/barriers and making improvements to the weirs/barriers themselves.

Specific questions can be directed to the resource account at RA@PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov.

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT's support is September 9, 2024.
- The deadline to apply is Monday, September 23, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST.

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

The [Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\) Program](#) advances community-centered transportation projects, prioritizing disadvantaged communities by improving access to essential services like jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation. It focuses on equitable development, providing technical assistance and grant funding for planning and construction to address infrastructure barriers and restore community connectivity.

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is September 16, 2024.
- The deadline to apply for this program is Monday, September 30, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST

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.

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 upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for key programs within the 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 IJJA page at <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/Doing-Business/Pages/IJJA.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>

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](#).



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](#).

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

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