



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



PennDOT Connects May 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.

The 2024 Municipal Outreach Sessions have concluded, but you can still learn about PennDOT Connects Resources and Municipal Support!

Audiovisual recordings of this year's sessions are now available! Click on the recording link for your district. The [District Map](#) shows what counties are in which district.

Learn about:

- **PennDOT Connects:** A collaborative planning process that *incorporates your community's needs*.
- **Funding and Support:** *Grant opportunities and expert guidance* available through IJJA/BIL and state agencies.
- **Free Municipal Resources:** Transportation Planning Support, Newsletters, and Training

This workshop was intended for:

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


District	Recording Links
District 1	Recording Link
District 2	Recording Link
District 3	Recording Link
District 4	Recording Link
District 5	Recording Link
District 6	Recording Link
District 8	Recording Link
District 9	Recording Link
District 10	Recording Link
District 11	Recording Link
District 12	Recording Link

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.

Maximizing Municipal Funding through Grant Best Management Practices

Empower your municipality with advanced grant management skills at our comprehensive drop-in, designed specifically for Pennsylvania local governments. Explore best management practices for grant funding that align with community needs and funding opportunities. Gain insights into evaluating grant requirements, developing contingency plans, and optimizing resource allocation. Participate in interactive sessions and case studies to refine your approach to grant funding and drive sustainable community development.




Municipal Outreach, Training, and Assistance Program

DROP-IN SESSION

MAXIMIZING MUNICIPAL FUNDING THROUGH GRANT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

JUNE 13, 2024



June 13, 2024, Noon to 1 p.m.
[Register Here](#)

Recorded Drop-Ins

Did you miss any of these drop-ins? Click on the titles below to watch the recording.

[Planning for Trucks](#)

Is your community worried about increasing truck traffic on local roads? This session explored opportunities to improve land use planning for development to mitigate the impact of trucks on your roads, as well as discussed ongoing truck traffic issues and potential solutions. Learn how to coordinate and work with your planning partners and neighboring communities to tackle tough truck issues.

[Coordination with Utilities—We're All in the Right-of-Way Together](#)

This practical drop-in session covered the keys to effective coordination between communities and the utilities that serve them. It included some of the common causes of breakdown, and how to prevent such communication and coordination mishaps (and avoid the consequences).

[Revitalizing Spaces: Exploring Adaptive Reuse](#)

This session discussed the transformative world of adaptive reuse in building and land development, providing an overview of the opportunities and challenges associated with repurposing existing structures and spaces. The instructors explored the economic, environmental, and community benefits of adaptive reuse, emphasizing sustainability and the preservation of cultural heritage. Additionally, the drop-in examined how thoughtful transportation planning can enhance the overall impact and viability of repurposed spaces, including discussion on transportation considerations that address the pivotal role of connectivity and accessibility.

[Highway Occupancy Permit Basics for Municipalities](#)

Do you know what "HOP" is? Do you know when one is required from PennDOT? Do you get questions at your municipality about them? If so, listen to the PennDOT Connects drop-in session that covered Highway Occupancy Permit Basics and common questions municipalities may have regarding them. The discussion covered when HOPs are required, the process of obtaining them for the different scenarios that may arise, and provided guidance that can be passed along to property owners and/or others working within your municipality.

[PennDOT Connects School Transportation Management](#)

Do you have safety issues around your schools? Are there conflicts between pedestrians, buses, bikes, and vehicles? This PennDOT Connects drop-in discussed some of the issues around school pick-up and drop-off times, as well as some of the approaches to school transportation management and safety. The drop-in discussed application of traffic control devices, transportation management techniques, assessment of school crosswalks, and school speed zones.

PennDOT Connects Resources

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

Have you used a PennDOT Connects Tech Sheet? PennDOT Connects has a variety of tech sheets on transportation planning topics. Click on the links below to learn about a topic.

- [Accommodating Growth \(PDF\)](#)
- [Building Transportation Asset Inventory in GIS \(PDF\)](#)
- [Community Character \(PDF\)](#)
- [Encouraging Multimodal Transportation \(PDF\)](#)
- [Funding \(PDF\)](#)
- [Highway Occupancy Permits \(PDF\)](#)
- [Improving Mobility and Efficiency \(PDF\)](#)
- [Improving Safety \(PDF\)](#)
- [Maximizing Adaptive Reuse \(PDF\)](#)
- [PennDOT One Map \(PDF\)](#)
- [Planning for Active Transportation \(PDF\)](#)
- [Public Engagement for Transportation Projects \(PDF\)](#)
- [Strengthen Transportation Funding Opportunities \(PDF\)](#)
- [Traffic Calming Plan \(PDF\)](#)
- [Transportation Impact Study \(PDF\)](#)
- [Utility Coordination \(PDF\)](#)
- [Working With Developers \(PDF\)](#)

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:

Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Program

The [Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation \(SMART\) Program](#) offers funding for projects that use advanced smart city technologies to improve transportation efficiency and safety. The program aims to help communities solve real-world challenges and enhance their data and technology capabilities.

It has two stages:

- Stage 1: Planning and Prototyping Grants
- Stage 2: Implementation Grants

Currently, funding is available for Stage 1, with Stage 2 funding opportunities to be announced soon.

Anyone submitting for a SMART grant is asked to reach out to Derrick Herrmann, PennDOT Transformational Technology Division at deherrmann@pa.gov.

- The deadline for applying is July 12, 2024, 5:00 p.m. EST.

Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)

The [Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment \(ATIIP\) Program](#) offers grants for planning, designing, and building safe and connected active transportation projects. ATIIP projects enhance safety, efficiency, and reliability; improve connectivity between active and public transportation, bolster infrastructure resilience; protect the environment; and enhance quality of life, particularly in disadvantaged communities. This program provides funding for two different grant categories: (1) Planning and Design Grants and (2) Construction Grants.

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is June 3, 2024.
- The deadline for applying is June 17, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST.

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 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.

- **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.

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 IJA, 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 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 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 IJA page at <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/Doing-Business/Pages/IJA.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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