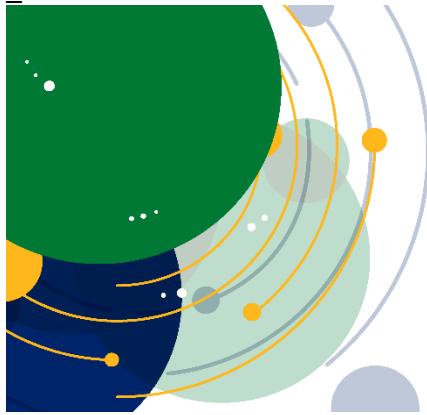




BETTER COLLABORATION

Municipal Resources

BETTER COMMUNITIES

The latest news and
information from PennDOT
Municipal Resources network
of people and places

September 2026 Newsletter

PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Awards Announced

PennDOT has announced the 2026-2027 Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) program awards, providing over \$54 million for transportation infrastructure projects across 27 counties. Awardees will receive financial assistance for projects to enhance communities, improve pedestrian safety, and revitalize transit across the Commonwealth. The PennDOT MTF program provides a funding opportunity for municipalities and other eligible entities to develop, rehabilitate, and enhance transportation assets. Notably, several of the recently funded projects are for much needed bridge repair or replacement. The City of Carbondale was awarded \$1,018,516 in MTF funding to repair two local bridges, Seventh Avenue bridge and Spring Street bridge. The project will bundle the delivery of the two bridges allowing the municipality to maximize efficiencies to improve this critical infrastructure.

PennDOT is now accepting applications for a new round of [Multimodal Transportation Fund](#) grants. Eligible entities, such as townships and COGs, may apply through **October 30, 2026**. Please note that PennDOT's multimodal program is separate from the Multimodal Transportation Fund administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

PennDOT will be accepting applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027-2028 Multimodal Transportation Fund between 8 AM on September 14 and 4 PM on October 30, 2026. A list of awarded projects for the 2026-2027 funding round and other PennDOT MTF resources are available at the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation [webpage](#).

Application Link to apply: <https://grants.pa.gov/Login.aspx>

Eligible projects include coordinating local land use with transportation assets; streetscape, lighting, sidewalks, and pedestrian safety projects; improvements to connectivity or use of existing transportation systems; or projects related to transit-oriented development. For more information, visit the [program page](#) or contact RA-PDMultimodalFund@pa.gov.

Automated Red Light Enforcement Transportation Enhancements Grant Program (ARLE Funding Program)

Grant Applicability and Applications

Paul F. Wood, PE, Pennoni

Municipalities across Pennsylvania face increasing demands to improve transportation safety while balancing limited local budgets. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Funding Program continues to be one of the most valuable funding sources available to local governments seeking to improve roadway safety, modernize infrastructure, and enhance mobility for all transportation users.

While ARLE may improve safety at signalized intersections within the municipalities which have deployed the technology, its impact can also be felt statewide. Each year, revenue from fines issued through red light enforcement programs is used to fund projects which improve highway safety and mobility. Grant requests from the 2025 application period resulted in 51 projects being awarded a total of \$27 Million. As the implementation of ARLE expands beyond larger municipalities, the funding generated is expected to expand too. Additionally, funds from Automated Speed Enforcement Systems are also being applied to fund grants which will make further safety improvements possible.



Figure 1: Automated enforcement funds the ARLE grant program Photo: PennDOT Municipal Resources

In order to maximize the effect of the available funding, PennDOT oversees its distribution through a competitive grant application process. Although the deadline for ARLE grant applications is on June 30 every year, preparation of a successful grant application starts well beforehand. Beginning in 2025, PennDOT required the submission of a pre-application scoping form by April 30 to screen applications and provide feedback to applicants. Information included on pre-application scoping forms includes total project costs, which include engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and utility impacts. Therefore, complex projects such as curb extensions, auxiliary turn lanes, medians, traffic signal modifications and installations, or even the installation of new red light enforcement systems, especially on a larger systemwide scale, will require prior planning to determine the amount of funding that should be requested for the project.

ARLE funds may be requested by municipalities, planning organizations, or state agencies for a variety of projects, and although partially funded projects are scored more favorably, there is no requirement for the project sponsor to provide matching funds. It should also be noted that multiple funding sources may be applied to a project. There are no minimum or



Figure 2: Pedestrian safety improvements are eligible for ARLE funding Photo: PennDOT Municipal Resources

maximum dollar amount of ARLE grant funding requests and no limit to the number of projects that can be applied for in a given year.

A great thing about ARLE funding is that it can be applied towards practically any transportation project that improves safety or mobility, including projects recommended by the PennDOT Municipal Resources Program and Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). It is much easier to define the types of projects that are ineligible. Ineligible project types include improvements required due to privately funded land development projects, large highway improvements (like new road construction, bridges, and interchange ramps), decorative street fixtures, and maintenance activities. The funds also can be applied to a variety of project costs like preliminary studies, engineering design fees, right-of-way, inspection, and secondary construction costs such as utility relocations, mobilization, and temporary traffic control. However, the highly competitive nature of the grant process favors projects which utilize relatively low-cost, highly effective, safety improvements.

The requirements of the ARLE grant program are outlined fully in Title 67, PA Code, Chapter 233 – Transportation Enhancement Grants from Automated Red Light Enforcement System Revenues. Further information on the ARLE grant program and application process is available on PennDOT’s Traffic Signal Portal

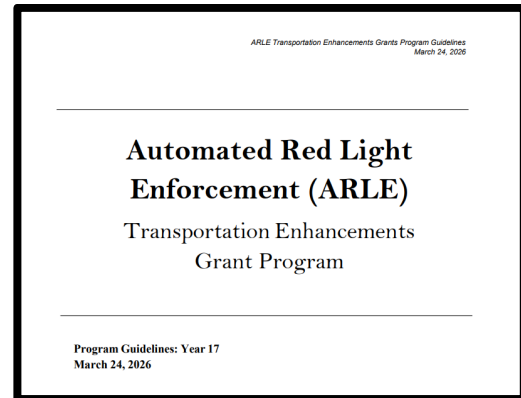


Figure 3: Guidance from the previous round of ARLE funding

(<https://docs.penndot.pa.gov/Public/Bureaus/BOO/TSPortal/FUNDARLE.html>). Each year PennDOT provides “Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Transportation Enhancement Grants Program Guidelines” which covers the grant application submission process through the Department of Community and Economic Development’s Electronic Single Application for Assistance system.

With the 2026 grant application window closed, now is the time to begin the process of identifying safety improvement projects which may be candidates for ARLE funding in 2027.

Projects should be discussed with PennDOT District Traffic Units, municipal engineers, consultants, and local stakeholders well before application deadlines. Early coordination often identifies other improvement opportunities, resolves potential concerns, and improves project readiness.

Are you interested in applying for an ARLE grant and want to strategize with experts?

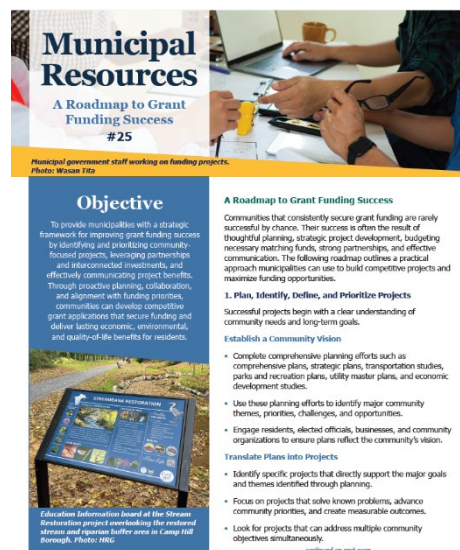
The PennDOT Municipal Resources team is available to provide free assistance.

[PennDOT Municipal Resources Assistance](#)

Road to Grant Funding Success

This tech sheet provides municipalities with a strategic framework for improving grant funding success by identifying and prioritizing community-focused projects, leveraging partnerships and interconnected investments, and effectively communicating project benefits. Through proactive planning, collaboration, and alignment with funding priorities, communities can develop competitive grant applications that secure funding and deliver lasting economic, environmental, and quality-of-life benefits for residents.

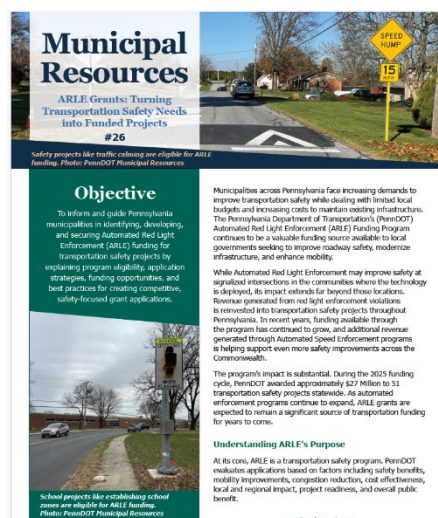
[Tech Sheet Link](#)



ARLE

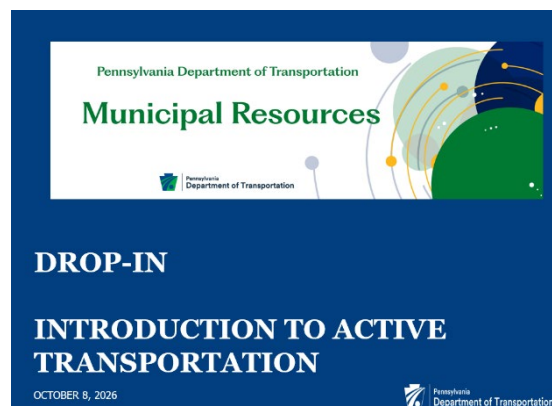
This tech sheet was written to inform and guide Pennsylvania municipalities in identifying, developing, and securing Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) funding for transportation safety projects by explaining program eligibility, application strategies, funding opportunities, and safety-focused grant applications.

The tech sheet will be posted on the [PennDOT Municipal Resources webpage](#) soon.



Introduction to Active Transportation

This drop-in will introduce you to the important concepts for active transportation. To have success with active transportation planning, we need to first understand what it is and which nonmotorized transportation modes should we plan for. The drop-in will also emphasize the various benefits of active transportation such as health, equity, and safety as well as the vulnerable users that could benefit the most from active transportation.



Thursday, October 8, 2026
Noon to 1 p.m.
[Register Today](#)

Packaging Projects (and grants) to Achieve Multiple Community Benefits

Successful project implementation begins with a clear understanding of community needs and long-term goals. Through proactive planning, collaboration, and alignment with funding priorities, communities can develop competitive grant applications that secure funding and deliver lasting economic, environmental, and quality-of-life benefits for residents.

This session will share practical tools for funding procurement success and provide examples that demonstrate how aligning projects and funding sources can achieve multiple community benefits.



Thursday, October 15, 2026

Noon to 1 p.m.

[Register Today](#)

Community Charging Funding Rounds

PennDOT's [Community Charging Program](#) is gaining momentum, expanding electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure into the everyday places Pennsylvanians rely on. Building on early success, new projects are moving forward statewide—bringing convenient, reliable charging to local destinations and closing critical gaps between highway corridors and communities.

From main streets to workplaces and public spaces, these new installations are making EV charging more accessible and practical.

With additional funding rounds on the way, the program continues to strengthen Pennsylvania's EV network and support a cleaner, more connected transportation future.

Interested partners can review available resources, [complete the brief interest survey](#), and explore upcoming funding rounds on [PennDOT's Community Charging Funding Rounds website](#).

EV CHARGING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

PennDOT is investing \$100 million of federal funding from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program in public EV charging stations throughout Pennsylvania. Any organization registered to do business in Pennsylvania is eligible to apply, and all locations available for public use are eligible.

Complete the survey below if your organization is interested in being part of a NEVI project.

DID YOU KNOW?

NEVI can fund up to 80% of the cost to build an EV charging station.

Throughout 2026, PennDOT will release 4 regional funding opportunities. Local transportation planning agencies determine the specific locations/areas within the region that are prioritized for investment, but all locations within the region are eligible to apply.

Interested Organizations' Directory: Any organization that it is interested in being part of a NEVI project may complete the survey. Applicable organizations include:

- Site hosts – property owners, local governments, parking facilities, and businesses that want an EV charging station to attract customers or visitors
- EV charging companies – charging station developers
- Installation contractors – construction companies that want to install EV chargers
- Others – charging network companies, design firms, charging equipment manufacturers, etc.

Survey responses will be available on pa.gov so others can reach out and work together in developing a project proposal.

Scan the QR code to take the Community Charging Survey.



Visit <https://forms.office.com/g/4UE4twWYaf>

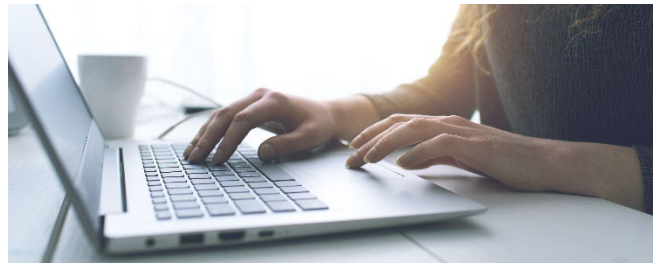
Looking for Help with a Grant?

Are you working on a transportation grant and want to strategize with experts?

Or have you completed a grant application and would like a thorough review with feedback to strengthen it?

If you answered yes to either question, the PennDOT Municipal Resources team is available to provide free assistance.

Reach out today to get expert support for planning, developing, or improving your transportation grant applications. **This includes the SS4A grants.** Contact the program by completing the form, [PennDOT Municipal Resources Assistance](#) and you will be connected with a technical expert.



PennDOT Municipal Resources can help you get started with a grant. Photo: Microsoft stock photos

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

PennDOT Municipal Resources 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 Municipal Resources Transportation Planning Assistance request form by [clicking here](#).

If you answer yes to any of the questions below, reach out to [PennDOT Municipal Resources](#) 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 Municipal Resources, but would like to know more about the free training and assistance available to your municipality?



A map of the roads being reviewed during a technical assistance field visit. Photo: PennDOT Municipal Resources

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

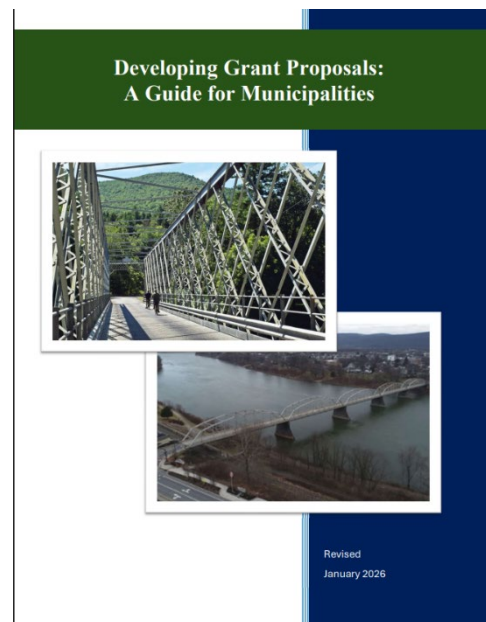
- Safety issues/concerns,

- Grant, preparation, development, and/or review,
- 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, and
- Maintenance Agreement requirements.

This list provides only a sample of the types of support available. If your municipality needs assistance related to transportation planning, please contact the Municipal Resources program to discuss how the program can help.

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.



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>

Federal Transportation Funding Grant Preparation Checklist:

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/discretionary-grant-preparation-checklist#non-federal-match>

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. 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 Municipal Outreach 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

Municipal Resources



Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

[PennDOT Municipal Resources Webpage](#)

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