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Municipal Resources

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

October 2026 Newsletter

PennDOT Municipal Resources Assistance
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Implementation

ALLENTOWN, Pa. – Megan Brehm knows the stakes of public works funding. As project manager at the City of Allentown's Bureau of Traffic Planning, her job is to make sure local streets get safer without letting federal grant dollars slip through the cracks.

Brehm spent four years working in the city's Grants Department before transitioning to Public Works in August 2024, right as Allentown was wrapping up its Safety Action Plan. City Council officially adopted the plan in February 2025. That grant-making background turned out to be an asset for a department trying to turn federal requirements into physical road upgrades.

"I came from our Grants Department, so I had a lot of knowledge on that end, but I am still learning about the transportation part," Brehm said. "Having support and learning the ins and outs of what things should look like here has been great for me. I need to make sure this plan is meeting every grant guideline that was in the NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity), so we don't lose our money."

That precision helped the city secure federal support through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program.

Allentown first received a $384,000 action plan grant to build the safety framework. It followed that up with a $1.1 million implementation grant to redesign a high-injury corridor.

"That was our first step with SS4A," Brehm said. The foundational plan serves as a roadmap for annual updates and targeted traffic fixes across the city.

To navigate state and federal requirements, Brehm worked closely with PennDOT Municipal Resources and the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). Program representative Marvin Ta sat on the project's steering committee, offering technical assistance and guidance on design guidelines.

"Marvin was great and really helped provide us with resources that we needed to be successful while developing our SS4A plan," Brehm said. "He sat on our steering committee, so he was a whole wealth of knowledge and really helped us guide these safety initiatives."

Brehm said other municipalities should reach out to PennDOT Municipal Resources for technical support.

"They are very helpful and very responsive to people that need help, which is not always the case," Brehm said. "It's always nice to see that coordination come through."

Are you interested in applying for or have received a SS4A grant?

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

PennDOT Municipal Resources Assistance

Community input played a key role in shaping the safety plan. The steering committee brought together officials from public works, police, parks and community development, alongside representatives from the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA), the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, PennDOT, and residents.

The committee also included a local resident who lost his sister in a crash on one of the city's high-injury streets. Brehm said his story provided a constant reminder of the project's real-world impact.

The city has already tested solutions through temporary demonstration projects. Following a 2023 crash that killed a teacher near Dieruff High School, the city installed speed cushions on Irving Street. Speed studies conducted before and after the installation showed vehicle speeds along the corridor dropped by roughly 80%.

With implementation funding in hand, Brehm and the city are moving forward with further redesigns and safety projects aimed at protecting drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

"PennDOT Municipal Resources really helped guide our plan, and even now as we continue to start demonstration projects here, we use them as a resource to help us navigate, design and make sure we're meeting the needs of our community," Brehm said.

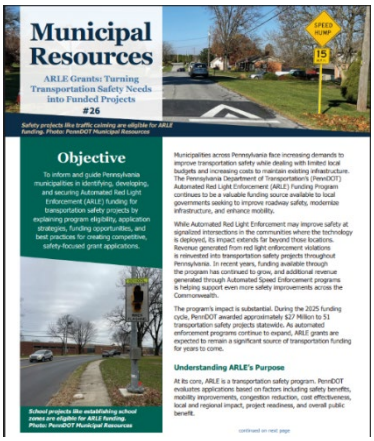


The City of Allentown is enhancing pedestrian safety with rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at crosswalks. These pedestrian-activated flashing lights alert drivers to people crossing the street and encourage motorists to yield, helping improve visibility and safety for pedestrians in busy downtown areas. Photo: City of Allentown.

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.

[Tech Sheet Link]



Decoding Grant Success: A Guide to Understanding Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant Program, Requirements, & Reimbursements

The drop-in is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the following:

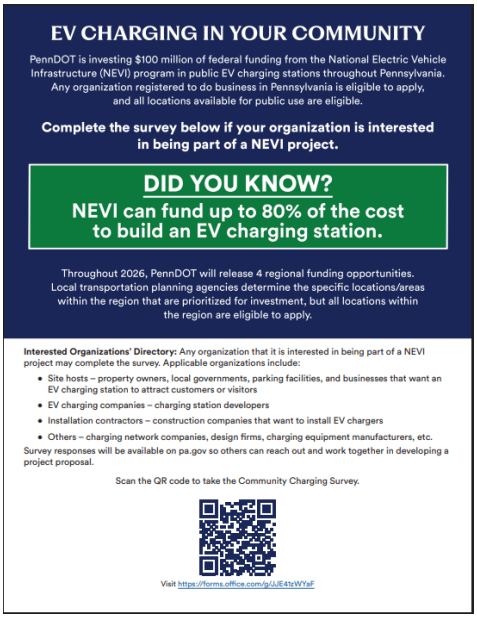
1) Background of the ARLE grant program.
2) An overview of requirements to qualify for the ARLE grant.
3) An introduction to the program's application process.
4) An overview of how to process a reimbursement request if the proposed project is selected.
5) Correct contacts for guidance during the duration of the program.



Thursday, November 12, 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.

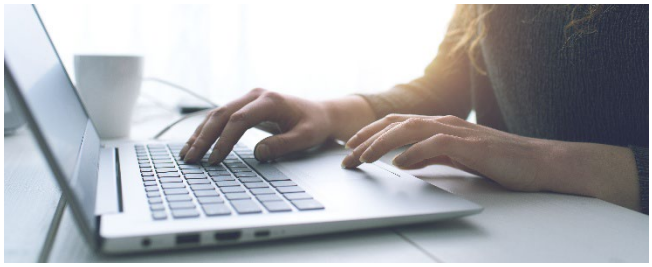
Interested partners can review available resources, complete the brief interest survey, and explore upcoming funding rounds on PennDOT's Community Charging Funding Rounds website.

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.



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

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.

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

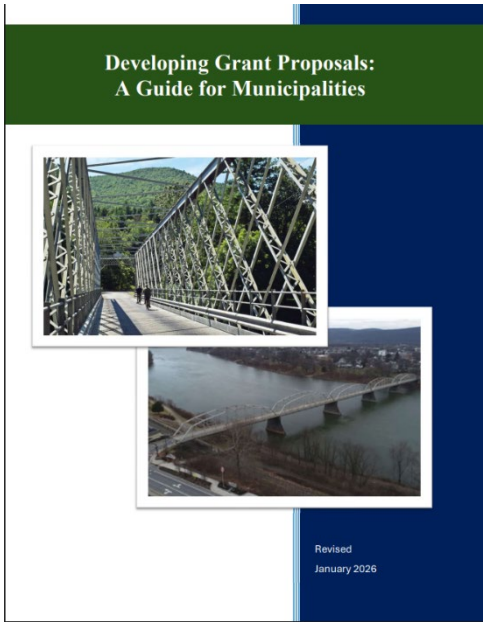
PennDOT Municipal Resources helps local governments and regional/municipal planning organizations consider community needs during the planning process. Examples include:

- 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/penndot/apply-for-penndot-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

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PennDOT Municipal Resources Webpage

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