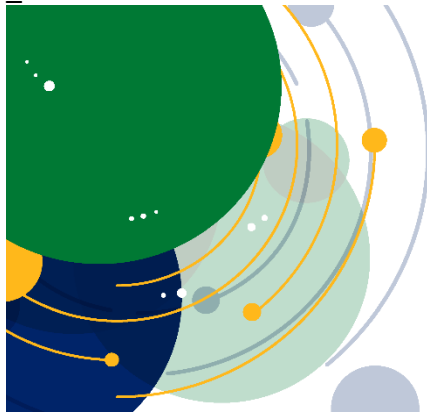




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information from PennDOT
Municipal Resources network
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August 2026 Newsletter

Funding: Packaging Projects and grants to Achieve Multiple Community Benefits

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As a municipal official, do you ever feel like you've made meaningful progress on your community's most important initiatives? How often do you complete everything you intended to accomplish at the start of the day?

Municipal leaders are responsible for managing a wide range of responsibilities. On any given day, priorities can shift repeatedly as officials balance board direction, resident concerns, operational needs, and unexpected challenges. While addressing immediate issues is essential, this constant focus on near-term demands can sometimes come at the expense of long-term goals and transformative community projects.

In some cases, long-term priorities have not yet been clearly identified. More often, communities have completed comprehensive planning efforts but struggle to translate high-level visions into actionable projects and secure the resources necessary to implement them. One of the most effective ways to bridge this gap is through thoughtful project development that aligns community priorities, maximizes available resources, and positions projects for grant funding opportunities.



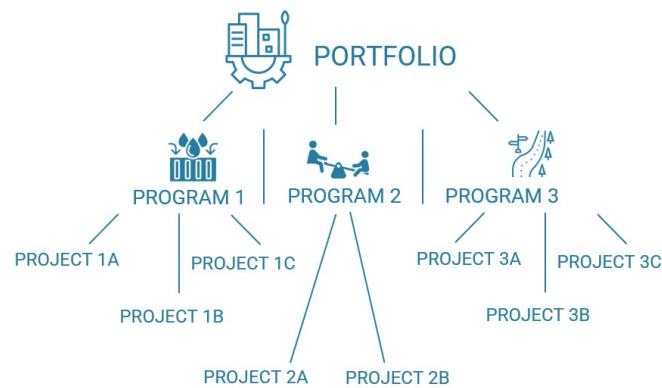
Municipal leaders have many responsibilities to juggle at one time. Graphic: Microsoft Graphic

Thinking Beyond Individual Projects

Municipalities typically manage a portfolio of projects that fall within various departments or program areas, such as transportation, stormwater management, utilities, parks, or recreation.

A transportation program may include roadway paving, sidewalk construction, routine maintenance, traffic signal upgrades, bridge improvements, and initiatives that enhance safety and mobility. Similarly, parks and recreation programs often include park maintenance, recreational programming, development of new facilities, and improvements to existing amenities.

Many projects, however, do not fit neatly within a single category. Pedestrian improvements, for example, can support both transportation and recreation goals. Recognizing these overlaps is important because the way communities plan, develop, and position projects directly impacts their ability to attract funding.



Projects that address multiple community priorities and benefit a broad range of stakeholders are often better

positioned for grant support. By demonstrating how a project contributes to transportation, recreation, environmental stewardship, economic development, public safety, or community health, municipalities can significantly improve funding competitiveness.

A municipality's organization of a portfolio of projects. There are typically many projects going on at one time in a municipality. Graphic: HRG

A Camp Hill Borough Success Story

Camp Hill Borough in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, provides an excellent example of how comprehensive planning and strategic project development can lead to successful grant funding outcomes.

Located just west of Harrisburg, Camp Hill is bisected by U.S. Route 11/15, known locally as Cumberland Boulevard or the Camp Hill Bypass. This major corridor separates residential neighborhoods, an elementary school, and the downtown business district from Siebert Park and the Conodoguinet Creek corridor.

Siebert Park serves as a vibrant community gathering place, featuring playgrounds, a community pool, and athletic facilities that host Camp Hill High School football games on Friday nights each fall. While a mowed grass path connected portions of the park to the creek, it was not fully accessible and lacked the appearance and functionality of a maintained public trail. A pedestrian tunnel provided a connection beneath Cumberland Boulevard to the elementary school area, but poor lighting and incomplete pedestrian connections created safety concerns.

Recognizing these challenges, Camp Hill Borough undertook several planning efforts to better understand existing conditions, establish a community vision, and identify future priorities. These efforts included:

- A downtown study
- A walking and biking study
- A strategic plan

The Borough also worked closely with regional partners, including the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization, to evaluate conditions along the Cumberland Boulevard corridor and its connections to the City of Harrisburg.

Across these planning initiatives, several common themes emerged:

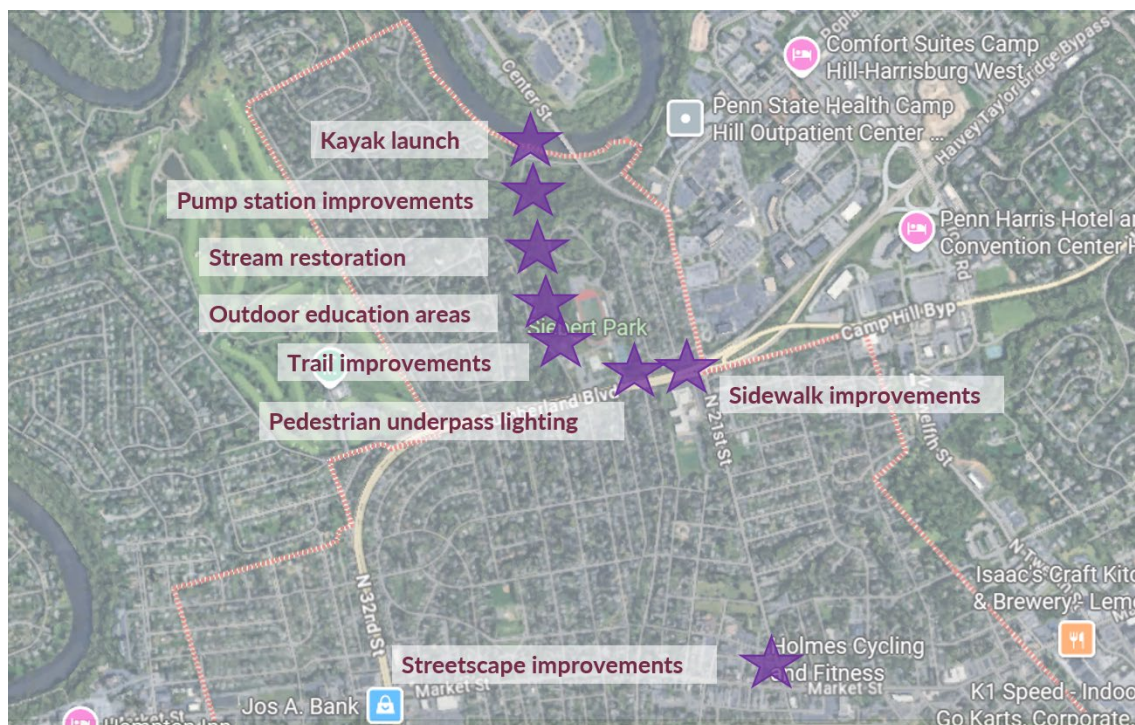
- Camp Hill is a walking school district and strives to be a walkable community.
- Walking is both a transportation issue and a recreation opportunity.
- Pedestrian mobility and safety concerns exist throughout the Borough.
- Community challenges—and their solutions—extend beyond municipal boundaries.

Building Projects Around Community Goals

These themes, combined with regulatory requirements related to the Borough's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit and infrastructure needs related to sanitary sewer facilities, provided the foundation for strategic project development.

Camp Hill identified and advanced a series of interconnected projects, including:

- Downtown streetscape improvements
- Sidewalk enhancements along Cumberland Boulevard
- Pedestrian underpass lighting improvements
- Stream restoration initiatives
- Pump station upgrades
- Trail development and improvements
- A new kayak launch



A map of the locations of the projects. Graphic: Google Maps

Rather than pursuing each project independently, the Borough focused on demonstrating how these investments worked together to achieve multiple community objectives. The projects improved transportation connections, enhanced recreational opportunities, supported environmental stewardship, addressed infrastructure needs, and strengthened community quality of life.

Leveraging Local Investment for Greater Impact

By aligning projects with identified community priorities, engaging regional and state partners, and emphasizing multiple community benefits, Camp Hill successfully leveraged local resources to secure more than \$2 million in outside funding.

Funding sources included:

Funding Source	Amount
Camp Hill Borough	\$110,000
Camp Hill Stormwater Authority	\$850,000
HATS MPO	\$225,000
CFA Multimodal Transportation Fund	\$700,000
Pennsylvania DCNR	\$250,000
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission	\$28,000
Lion Foundation	\$5,000



Education Information board at the Stream Restoration project overlooking the restored stream and riparian buffer area in Camp Hill Borough. Photo: HRG

Lessons for Other Communities

Camp Hill's experience demonstrates how planning can become more than a visioning exercise when communities actively connect plans, projects, partners, and funding opportunities.

Through thoughtful project development and strategic grant positioning, the Borough was able to implement recommendations from multiple planning documents, improve pedestrian connectivity, enhance recreational assets, restore environmental resources, improve water quality, and create new opportunities for outdoor education.

Communities that view projects through multiple lenses—and intentionally design them to achieve a range of community benefits—can strengthen their competitiveness for grant funding while making meaningful progress toward long-term community goals.



Ribbon cutting at the Siebert Park trailhead in Camp Hill Borough celebrating the park improvements. Photo: HRG

Truck Parking Considerations for Municipal Development Regulations

This technical sheet provides municipalities with guidance on recognizing and addressing truck parking needs through comprehensive planning, zoning, and land development regulations. As freight activity continues to grow and truck parking shortages persist across Pennsylvania, local governments play a critical role in ensuring adequate, safe, and accessible parking facilities that support supply chain operations, improve transportation efficiency, reduce illegal parking, and minimize impacts on surrounding communities and local road networks.

Link to Tech Sheet:

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/penndot/documents/research-planning-innovation/planning/penndotconnects/tech-sheets/penndot-municipal-resources-tech-sheet-24-final.pdf>



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/454WYaf>

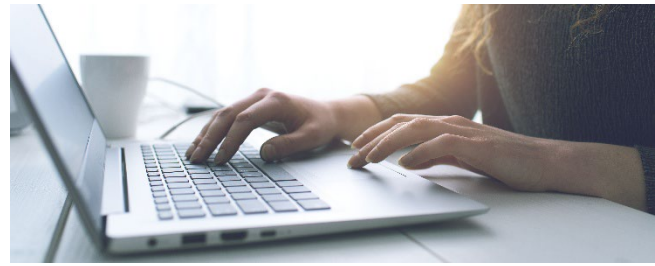
Looking for Help with a Grant?

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:

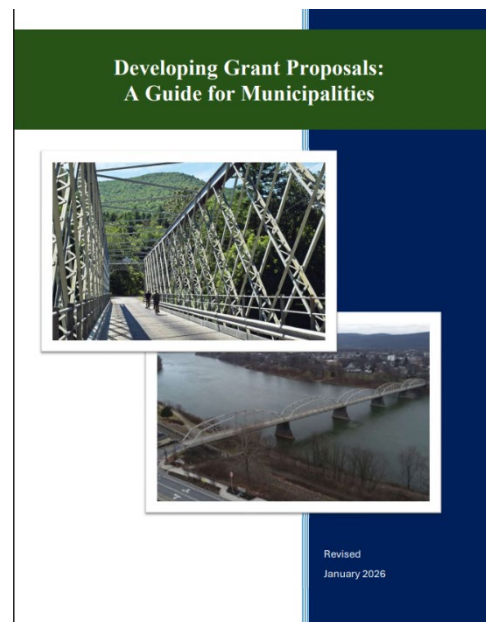
- Safety issues/concerns,

- 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

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Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Municipal Resources



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