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PennDOT Connects June 2023 Newsletter

PennDOT Connects Municipal Resources – Online Training

Adaptive Reuse of Land and Buildings

Many municipalities have underutilized properties that may detract from local aesthetics, community character, safety, and an overall positive sense of place. Adaptive reuse may potentially improve a community through a process of identifying such properties and developing plans for their construction, rehabilitation, or reuse.

Review the [“Adaptive Reuse of Land and Buildings”](#) PennDOT Connects online training at your convenience to learn how to combine relevant topics, recognize the advantages of adaptive reuse strategies for land and buildings, identify opportunities, and know the issues that may arise when considering the implementation of adaptive reuse strategies.



Go to the [PennDOT Connect webpage](#), on the [PennDOT website](#) for a full listing of the online training.

PennDOT Connects Educational Opportunities

Go to the [PennDOT Connects webpage](#) to learn more about upcoming educational opportunities. Expand the Drop-Ins and Webinars tab.

[Bicycle Selection Guide Workshop](#), June 29, 2023

[School Transportation Management](#), September 14, 2023

[Active transportation Workshop](#), September 28, 2023

New Webinar Features Federal Grant Programs Available and New

New Webinar Features Federal Grant Programs Available and New Dashboard for Searching Available Grants

A Webinar showcasing the launch of the new USDOT Discretionary Grant Dashboard is now available at [Identifying USDOT Grant Opportunities Webinar \(May, 22, 2023\)](#). The newly launched [USDOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard](#) is a tool that makes it easier to search for and find grant opportunities depending on the type of project, your organization type, and other considerations like match requirements.

The May webinar also highlighted currently open grant funding program opportunities from the Federal Highway Administration, including:

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

[The SS4A Program](#) provides grants to support planning, infrastructure, 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, micro-mobility users, motorists, and commercial vehicle operators. This program funds the development of tools to strengthen a community's approach to roadway safety and saving lives. SS4A funding is designed to meet the needs of diverse local, Tribal, and regional communities that differ in size, location, and experience in administering Federal funding.

PennDOT provides support for proposals as applicable but the deadline for requesting PennDOT support on this particular program has passed.

The deadline to apply for this program is Monday, July 10, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST.

Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program (WCPP)

[The WCPP is a competitive grant program](#) with the goal of reducing 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 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.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT's approval is July 11, 2022.

The deadline to submit the application post-PennDOT approval for this program is Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST.

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)

[The PROTECT Program](#) provides funding to build community infrastructure resilience in the face of extreme weather and natural disasters supporting the continued operation or rapid recovery of crucial local, regional, or national surface transportation facilities including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail. Projects in the PROTECT program also have the potential to demonstrate innovation and best practices that state and local governments can consider replicating.

PennDOT will consider providing support for regionally supported grant proposals as applicable and may provide data and subject matter expertise as available.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is August 4, 2023.

The deadline to apply for this program is August 18, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST.

Information on these and other grant opportunities can be found on PennDOT's [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\) website](#). Additional grant opportunities, application guides and other resources on federal grant funding are added as they become available, so please visit the site often to see if any of these grant funding programs are an opportunity that would benefit your community.

[DOT Navigator Home](#)[DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard](#)[Grant Application Resources](#)[Technical Assistance Resources](#)[Learn About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)[Find Transportation Contacts Near You](#)

DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard

The DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard provides communities with an overview of discretionary grant opportunities that can help meet their transportation infrastructure needs. Designed with all communities in mind, the Dashboard identifies grant programs with rural and Tribal set-asides or match waivers available. The Dashboard also includes Federal grant programs outside of DOT that may be of particular interest to [rural communities](#). An updated *Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit* will soon be published to help rural communities harness the Dashboard. The Dashboard is updated weekly.

The [DOT Navigator](#) is a resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.

New 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 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also referred to as the BIL, 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.

Resources

[Guide for Developing BIL Grant Proposals \(PDF\)](#)

[Key Notices of Funding](#)

[Opportunity | US Department of Transportation](#)

[Federal Transportation Funding](#)

Grants Resources

New USDOT Discretionary Grant Resources

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has developed a discretionary grant preparation checklist for fiscal year 2023 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 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (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 IIJA page at www.penndot.pa.gov/IIJA.

USDOT Navigator: <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

PennDOT IIJA/BIL webpage: <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/Doing-Business/Pages/IIJA.aspx>. The webpage has a new [Guide for Developing Grant Proposals](#).

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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Pennsylvania Department of
Transportation
PennDOT Connects Municipal
Resources

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