



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



PennDOT Connects February 2025 Newsletter



2025 Municipal Outreach Sessions

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.

Enhance Your Transportation Planning: Free Resources & Municipal Support!

Empower your municipality and its voice in local transportation: Join us for an interactive workshop where you can engage with PennDOT, collaborate with peers, and discover valuable resources to enhance your community.

Learn about:

- **PennDOT's One Map GIS Platform:** The demo will provide an overview of PennDOT's GIS platform to gather data to assist with local planning efforts.
- **PennDOT's Local Bridge Inventory:** The demo will introduce PennDOT's new inventory tool with information on local bridges.
- **Free Transportation Planning Resources:** The municipal outreach program has free one-on-one support, resources, newsletters, and tech sheets to support municipal transportation planning and land use development.

This workshop is intended for:

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

Don't miss out on this chance to:

- Network with other municipalities, learn from their successes, and find areas for collaboration.
- Network with PennDOT and county planning staff.
- Ask questions about PennDOT projects in your area.
- Access free resources and expert support to achieve your goals.

*Note: These sessions will focus on the resources available to municipalities through PennDOT Municipal Outreach Program and other sources and are **not** focused on specific projects on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in PennDOT Districts.*

Find your PennDOT District: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/penndot/regional-offices.html>

District	Date	Time	Facility, Format, and Registration Link	Address
District 1	April 28	1-3 p.m.	PennDOT District 1 & Virtual	255 Elm Street Oil City, PA 16301
District 2	May 1	9-11 a.m.	PennDOT District 2 & Virtual	70 PennDOT Drive Clearfield, PA 16830
District 3	May 12	9-11 a.m.	All Virtual	
District 4	April 8	9-11 a.m.	PennDOT District 4 & Virtual	55 Keystone Industrial Park Dunmore, PA 18512
District 5	March 27	1-3 p.m.	PennDOT District 5 & Virtual	1002 Hamilton Street Allentown, PA 18101
District 6	April 14	9-11 a.m.	All Virtual	
District 8	March 26	9-11 a.m.	All Virtual	
District 9	April 1	1-3 p.m.	All Virtual	
District 10	April 15	1-3 p.m.	PennDOT District 10 & Virtual	2550 Oakland Avenue Indiana, PA 15701
District 11	March 25	1-3 p.m.	All Virtual	
District 12	April 9	1-3 p.m.	PennDOT District 12 & Virtual	825 North Gallatin Avenue Ext. Uniontown, PA 15401

Attendance options noted for each district:

- In Person at District Office or Virtual (Go-To-Webinar)
- All Virtual (Go-To-Webinar)

Registration: To register, click on the **Facility, Format, and Registration Link** above for the session you want to attend.

District 12 Success Story

PennDOT Connects program turns traffic signal work into major community upgrade

What began as a simple traffic signal upgrade in Washington County has morphed into a comprehensive corridor development project, thanks to the collaborative efforts of local stakeholders and PennDOT Connects.

Located at the intersection of Wylie Avenue and PA 18, the Washington County Crossing was due for new traffic signals. Dubbed the “PA 18 Signals Improvements project,” the plan rapidly evolved into a multifaceted roadway improvement project.



Before the Washington County Crossing Signals Improvement project at Wylie Avenue and PA 18 looking north. Photo: PennDOT District 12.

After discussions with local officials from the Washington County Planning Commission (they represent the City of Washington), the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), and PennDOT, it evolved into a major improvement of pedestrian accessibility, infrastructure durability, and transit efficiency in the area. Freedom Transit also provided input for the part-and-ride features and bus shelter.

“PennDOT Connects helps project managers think beyond the initial scope and look at ways to make projects more effective and beneficial to the community,” said Josh Theakston, PennDOT District 12-0 transportation planning specialist supervisor. “This project is a great example of that approach in action.”

Through the PennDOT Connects process, which facilitates communication of local needs during the project development process, additional funds were secured, allowing for the incorporation of critical improvements beyond signal upgrades. Water lines were replaced and relocated to enhance functionality and drainage, with new inlets being added to better manage stormwater. The project also tackled gaps in pedestrian access through new sidewalk construction and the repair of existing ones. This ensures a safer and more convenient pathway for residents and visitors.

The PennDOT Connects initiative also led to a boost in business accessibility because of reconstructed roadways and the updated crosswalks and pedestrian signalization. Additionally, the project filled existing sidewalk gaps, making it much easier to navigate the area on foot. Recognizing the region’s transit needs, officials included a new bus shelter near the viaduct and paved parking areas, improving park-and-ride facilities for commuters.

“This project really grew from a basic signal replacement to something that positively impacts multiple aspects of daily life in Washington,” said Theakston. “It’s not just about traffic flow anymore; it’s about connectivity, accessibility, and long-term sustainability.”

The additional funding came from a mix of SPC and PennDOT programs, ensuring that these community-driven enhancements were feasible, all without burdening the local infrastructure. This cooperative planning approach emphasizes how small-scale local projects can evolve into significant urban improvements when stakeholders work together to maximize resources.

With improved sidewalks, upgraded roads, better stormwater management and enhanced transit facilities, the PA 18 corridor now serves as a prime model for transportation planning that is focused on the community it is a part of. Beginning as a routine roadwork project, the PA 18 Signals Improvements project has become a



The sidewalks were improved as part of the project. Photo: PennDOT District 12.



A transit shelter and finished park-and-ride lot was added under the viaduct. Photo: PennDOT District 12.



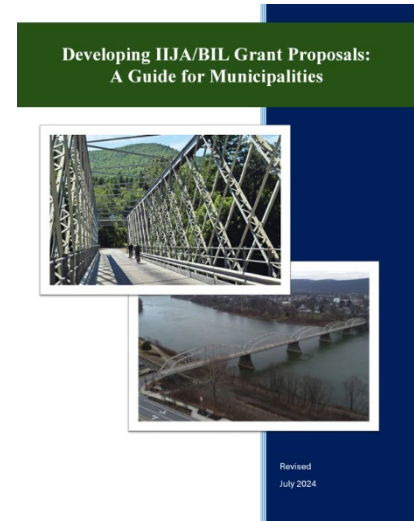
After the Washington County Crossing Signals Improvement project at PA 18 at the “Y” intersection with PA 844 looking north. Photo: PennDOT District 12.

testament to the power of collaboration. This serves as an example that with the right partnerships, even small projects can have a lasting impact on Pennsylvania's communities.

For more information on PennDOT Connects and its role in community-driven infrastructure projects, visit the [website](#).

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 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 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 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 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 – One-on One Assistance and Training

PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach 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 Connects Municipal Outreach Training/Assistance request form by [clicking here](#).

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

- Safety issues/concerns
- 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
- Maintenance Agreement requirements



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

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](#). Use the “Sort & Filter” button to find your contact(s).

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.

PennDOT Connects Newsletter

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**Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
PennDOT Connects Municipal Resources**

[PennDOT Connects Web](#)
[Municipal Resources Web](#)

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