

BETTER COLLABORATION

# TRANSFORM

BETTER COMMUNITIES



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

## PennDOT Connects March 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 the 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, Registration or Recording Link	Address
District 1	April 28	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 1 &amp; Virtual</a>	Oil City, PA
District 2	May 1	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 2 &amp; Virtual</a>	Clearfield, PA
District 3	May 12	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">All Virtual</a>	
District 4	April 8	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 4 &amp; Virtual</a>	Park Dunmore, PA
District 5			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 6	April 14	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">All Virtual</a>	
District 8	March 26	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 9	April 1	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">All Virtual</a>	
District 10	April 15	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 10 &amp; Virtual</a>	Indiana, PA
District 11	March 25	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 12	April 9	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 12 &amp; Virtual</a>	Uniontown, PA

**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, Registration or Recording Link** above for the session you want to attend.

**Recordings Available:** Did you miss the session in your area? Recordings of the sessions that have been held are available on the table above.

## Interested in Reducing the Risk of Crashes on Your Roads? Consider a Road Safety Audit

Have you heard of a story similar to this one? A young couple was driving home from a school dance on a dark December night. Unfortunately, they did not make it home. They lost control of their vehicle driving on a curve and crashed into a large tree. A tragedy and two unnecessary deaths for their families and the community.



Curves are often a safety focus area for rural roadways. Photo: PennDOT

Too many communities in Pennsylvania experience similar heartbreaking tragedies—about 1,100 people per year are killed in traffic crashes in Pennsylvania. Many crashes are preventable with a variety of factors, including some that can be controlled on your local roads. But how do you know which of your roads are at risk, and what can be done about it?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and PennDOT have established a Road Safety Audit (RSA) process that is a proactive method to plan for safety on your local roads. An RSA is the formal safety performance examination of an existing road or intersection by an independent, multidisciplinary team with a focus on safety for all road users. It qualitatively estimates and reports on potential safety issues and identifies opportunities for improvements in safety for all road users. The aim of an RSA is to answer the following questions:

- What elements of the road may present a safety concern: to what extent, to which road users, and under what circumstances?
- What opportunities exist to eliminate or mitigate identified safety concerns?

An RSA is a proactive planning process that provides recommendations that can be implemented in stages as time and resources permit. The methodology for this program is based on the eight-step RSA process.

For local roads, PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach offers a streamlined process that can provide suggestions based on proven safety countermeasures for road user risks. In North Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, PennDOT Connects staff worked with the township and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to assess Clearview Road following the RSA process. The township had several concerns about the roadway, including two existing curves, speeding, and recent development growth including two senior centers. The RSA team assessed crash and traffic data, conducted a field view of the corridor, and developed safety suggestions for a variety of issues. This resulted in a safety plan for the corridor, including short-, medium- and long-term suggestions. Within a year, the township had implemented the short-term safety suggestions.



FHWA's eight step road safety audit process.  
Graphic: FHWA



The RSA team for South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County reviewing the township planning maps in the field for Blue Barn Road in the first picture and then conducting a field review of road safety issues. The team included the township manager, planner, public works director, and chief of police. A metropolitan planner organization representative was also part of the team. The team discussed the concerns from residents and the long-term plans for this collector road. PennDOT Connects will now provide a report with short-term and long-term recommendations. Photos: PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach



In addition to corridors, RSAs can focus on specific locations, situations, or road users. PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach staff recently completed an RSA that focused on pedestrian safety in Darby Township, Delaware County. Another RSA examined cut-through and speeding traffic issues on three roadways in Lehigh County. In Coudersport Borough, Potter County, PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach staff focused on pedestrian safety at two locations within the borough.

The result of the RSA is a high-level safety plan for the issue(s) that the RSA team examined. The RSA focuses on the application of short-term, low-cost strategies that are easily implemented by your road crews. Examples include signage and pavement markings for curves, crosswalk markings and signs for pedestrians, and simple roadway maintenance such as trimming or removing vegetation.

Issue	Recommended Strategy	Level of Effort	Potential Safety Benefit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some crosswalks are marked, and the markings are in good condition. Some are not marked, or the marking is in poor condition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistently mark and maintain crosswalk markings.</li> <li>Conduct a crosswalk study for all uncontrolled crosswalks per MUTCD, Section 3B.18. The studies will determine the appropriate signs, pavement markings, and other features appropriate for each crossing.</li> <li>Use PennDOT Type C high visibility crosswalk marking for all school crosswalks and for uncontrolled crosswalks.</li> </ul>	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speed of traffic and following the law of yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider traffic calming options for pedestrian safety:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curb extensions.</li> <li>Raised crosswalks.</li> <li>Urban roundabouts (FHWA PSC).</li> <li>Median refuge islands (FHWA PSC).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Medium	High

*Example issues and strategy table from an RSA.*

If you're interested in reducing the risk of crashes on your roads, consider an RSA, a proven, low-cost FHWA countermeasure that will proactively improve safety on your roads.

Contact the PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach program to start the process by filling out the [form](#), calling 717-710-2090, or email [PAConnects@pa.gov](mailto:PAConnects@pa.gov).

\*Note: PennDOT Connects services are free to all PA municipalities.

## Resources

- PennDOT Safety: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pennidot/traveling-in-pa/safety.html>
- FHWA Road Safety Audit: <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/road-safety-audit>).
- FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures: <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures>
- FHWA Safe System Approach: <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/zero-deaths>

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## 2025 Public Outreach Campaign for the 2027 12-Year Program

Every two years the State Transportation Commission (STC) and PennDOT update the [12-Year Transportation Program](#) (TYP). The 2025 Public Comment Period for the TYP update began Monday, March 3, and continues through Wednesday, April 30. During the Public Comment Period, Pennsylvanians can submit feedback by taking the [Transportation Survey](#), emailing comments to [RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov), or calling 717-783-2262 from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to request a printed copy of the survey, or to complete the survey by telephone. The STC and PennDOT will document, review, and use the public feedback provided to help identify needs and prioritize transportation projects across the state, and is also used to inform other regional and statewide transportation plans and programs.



PennDOT will also host an online public forum on Thursday, April 10, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event will be conducted virtually and will feature a presentation from PennDOT Secretary of Transportation Michael Carroll as well as a live Q&A session with PennDOT personnel and STC members. Register for the 2025 Online Public Forum here: [Registration – 2025 Online Public Forum - Talk PA Transportation](#)

PennDOT will make all reasonable modifications to policies, programs, and documents to ensure that people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency have an equal opportunity to access all of the programs, services, and activities. Individuals interested in attending virtually and who do not have internet access can call 717-783-2262 to listen to the forum. To request assistance to participate in the survey or public forum, contact the Department's Program Center by emailing [RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov) or calling 717-783-2262 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For ADA coordination, complaints, or requests for accommodation on the basis of a disability, contact Robert Mulkerin at [rmulkerin@pa.gov](mailto:rmulkerin@pa.gov). Requests for public forum assistance should be made as soon as possible, but no later than Thursday, April 3. Individuals who have other questions or challenges can contact the Department's Bureau of Workforce and Business Opportunity to request help by emailing [RA-penndotreports@pa.gov](mailto:RA-penndotreports@pa.gov) or calling 717-787-5891; TTY 711.

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## PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach Educational Opportunities

Go to the [PennDOT Connects webpage](#) to learn about upcoming educational opportunities. Click the down arrows next to the Drop-Ins and Workshops tabs to view the current offerings and past sessions.

### Road Safety Audits; A Proactive Safety Tool

Unfortunately for most communities, road safety is a reaction; a reaction to a tragic event that just happened on one of your roads. While improvements after that tragic event will help at that location, the next tragedy will likely be at another location. How can your community get ahead—and prevent that next tragedy from happening? By using proactive, proven safety processes that identify risks and take action before the crashes occur. These methods include developing a local road safety plan, road safety audits, and a systemic approach—all part of the safe system approach. This webinar will discuss Road Safety Audits, and how they can be used in your community to identify potential safety risks, and deploy proven, low-cost safety measures to prevent future tragedies—before people are hurt.

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## 2025 ARLE Funding Program Application Period

PennDOT will be accepting applications for the 2025 Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Funding Program from **June 1st through June 30th, 2025**. The 2025 program will continue to prioritize safety enhancements considering both PennDOT's [Safety Network Screening](#) methods for the project location and [Crash Modification Factors](#) associated with proposed improvements.

A [pre-application scoping form](#) is **required** prior to submitting an application. Scoping forms should be submitted via email to [ARLE@pa.gov](mailto:ARLE@pa.gov). **Feedback on scoping forms submitted by April 28, 2025 will be provided by May 30, 2025.** The completed and reviewed scoping form must be uploaded as an attachment to the formal application submission.

The scoping form is a fillable web page. If you wish to save a partially-completed form to finish later, click the “Save” button at the top of the screen and save the file to your computer. When you want to work on the form again, navigate to the scoping form webpage, click “Open” at the top of the page, and select the file you saved to your computer.

When you are ready to submit the scoping form, click the “Save” button and then attach the file to an email to [ARLE@pa.gov](mailto:ARLE@pa.gov). Please also attach a detailed cost estimate and project location map.

Applications must be submitted electronically through the Single Application for Assistance at <https://grants.pa.gov/Login.aspx>.

ARLE Funding Program

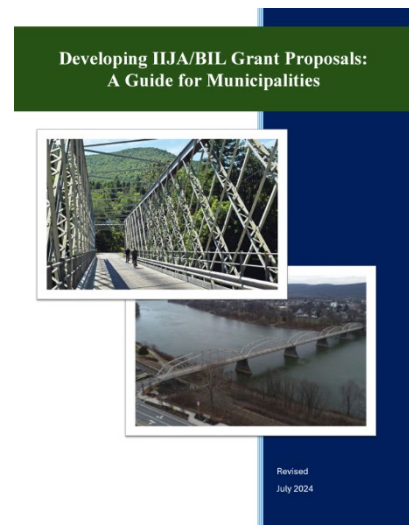
information: <https://docs.penndot.pa.gov/Public/Bureaus/BOO/TSPortal/FUNDARLE.html>

Contact us via email at [ARLE@pa.gov](mailto:ARLE@pa.gov) with questions.

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## 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.



- 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

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## 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).

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## 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.

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## PennDOT Connects 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 PennDOT Connects Municipal Resources

[PennDOT Connects Web](#)

[Request Land Use and Transportation Planning Assistance or Training](#)

Email: [PAConnects@pa.gov](mailto:PAConnects@pa.gov)

Phone: 717-710-2090



Pennsylvania  
Department of Transportation

