

BETTER COLLABORATION

# TRANSFORM

BETTER COMMUNITIES



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

PennDOT Connects April 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			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
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			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 5			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 6			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 8			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 9			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 10			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 11			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	
District 12			<a href="#">Recording Link</a>	

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.

## The Success of North Central PA Local Bridge Bundle Grant

Revitalization is essential for rural communities, but securing the necessary funding through grants presents significant challenges. In North Central Pennsylvania, the need for local bridge improvements across Jefferson, Clearfield, Cameron, Elk, McKean, and Potter counties was clear, but navigating the complex grant process posed a major obstacle. Rural areas often struggle to compete for federal funding due to limited resources and the difficulty of demonstrating a strong cost-benefit analysis for critical infrastructure. That's where PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach stepped in, providing expertise to help bridge the gap and strengthen the case for investment in these essential local assets.

PennDOT Connects collaborates with communities to develop innovative solutions that support sustainable growth across the commonwealth. Designed to enhance cooperation between PennDOT, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs), local governments, and community stakeholders, the program integrates local land use, transportation, and economic development planning to ensure infrastructure projects align with community needs. Through this partnership, The North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission successfully secured the Local Bridge Bundle Grant. Funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Program, this grant provides essential financial support for six local bridge projects.

Each bridge was the highest-priority project identified and submitted by its respective county planning office. Recognizing the urgent need for local bridge improvements across the six-county region, the North Central RPO worked in close partnership with PennDOT District 2 and District 10 offices, county planners, and municipalities to assess each structure and its specific requirements. Once the most critical needs were identified, the RPO proactively sought grant opportunities to secure essential funding.

Amy Kessler, director of community development and regional planning, and her team encountered challenges when they first applied for the funding. The biggest challenge in the initial funding attempt was meeting the required cost-benefit analysis, leading to the application's denial due to an incomplete assessment. For the second attempt, PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach provided economic expertise, delivering a more detailed and data-driven cost-benefit analysis to strengthen the application. Despite these improvements, however, the application was again denied.

On the third attempt, the RPO strengthened its application by integrating more preliminary engineering data into the cost-benefit analysis, developed in collaboration with PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach. This effort focused on refining the preliminary engineering and planning processes, ensuring that data from these activities was effectively incorporated throughout the narrative.

"The PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach collaboration played a critical role in updating our narrative and providing the supporting materials to demonstrate a strong cost-benefit for each bridge," Kessler said.

With an updated narrative and enhanced project readiness, the grant was finally awarded to the North Central RPO on the third try. The \$8.5 million Local Bridge Bundle Grant will replace five bridges and revitalize one in rural North Central Pennsylvania.

"Fighting for federal dollars in rural communities is no easy feat, but with the strong collaboration between all of our partners, we secured the funding to revitalize these essential bridges," Kessler said. "Thanks to this partnership, these bridges will improve safety, be in good repair, and provide significant community and economic benefits for years to come."

The following highlights a few of the bridges that were part of the bundle.



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### Kramer Road Local Bridge Rehabilitation McCalmont Township, PA | Jefferson County

#### ABOUT THE PROJECT

On Kramer Road, over Big Run, a 62-foot bridge serves as a critical piece of infrastructure in McCalmont Township. Constructed in 1988, the bridge provides access to homes, agricultural areas, and industries. Today, the bridge is in "Poor" condition via PennDOT inspection standards.

In order to rehabilitate the bridge, the superstructure and deck will be replaced to ensure its structural integrity and safety. The project was awarded \$1,423,400 in federal funds through a Rural Surface Transportation Grant. With a total budget of \$2,140,400, the remaining funding will come from North Central's TIP and PennDOT. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2026.



#### LOCATION:

Kramer Road  
McCalmont Twp, PA 15851

41.007676 -78.896598

The Kramer Road Bridge supports many essential industries, including sawmills, agriculture, and greenhouse nurseries. These industries are a large contributor to the GDP of Jefferson County, further highlighting the significance of this bridge rehabilitation project.



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### T-748 Mosquito Creek Bridge Replacement Karthus Township, PA | Clearfield County

#### ABOUT THE PROJECT

In Karthus Township, the bridge carrying Oak Hill Road (T-748) over Mosquito Creek is in need of an upgrade. The existing single-lane bridge can only support a load of 10 tons—creating challenges for current and future industrial traffic. Additionally, the bridge is classified as being in *Serious* condition, highlighting the urgent need for replacement.

Thanks to an \$8,552,175 federal Rural Surface Transportation Grant, a replacement bridge is on the way. From this grant, \$1,318,960 is allocated to this specific project. Supplemental funding from North Central's TIP and PennDOT brings the total budget to \$2,128,700. Construction of a new, 24-foot-wide, two-lane bridge is tentatively scheduled for 2026.



#### LOCATION:

Oak Hill Road  
Karthus Twp, PA 16845

41.117827 -78.109759

Oak Hill Road (T-748) is a crucial route in Karthus Township. It serves as the primary access point to large tracts of land ready for industrial use. A new, upgraded bridge will allow for regular industrial traffic and contribute to the economic prosperity of the region.







## Steam Mill Road Local Bridge Replacement Lumber Township, PA | Cameron County

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Currently, just off of SR 120 in Lumber Township, there exists a steel I-beam bridge on Steam Mill Road. With its initial construction dating all the way back to 1940, the bridge has deteriorated over time and currently has a "Poor" condition designation from PennDOT.

To continue the safe passage on Steam Mill Road, a full bridge replacement will take shape. Through the Rural Surface Transportation Grant, the project was awarded \$1,228,900 in federal funding. With supplemental funding from North Central's TIP and PennDOT, the project's total budget comes out to \$2,036,125. Construction of the replacement bridge is set to start in 2026, barring any setbacks.

Steam Mill Road is a crucial part of the Elk Scenic Drive and a key access point to the 217,000-acre Elk State Forest. The new bridge will not only facilitate access to this beautiful forest but will also ensure a reliable and safe alternative route to SR 120.



## Transportation Planning Assistance

Are you working on a grant application and could use assistance with getting started, reviewing, or enhancing for a resubmission? PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach can provide assistance.

To submit a request for assistance fill out the form [PennDOT Connects Municipal Outreach Assistance Form](#), email [PAConnects@pa.gov](mailto:PAConnects@pa.gov), or call 717-710-2090.

## 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



Municipal Outreach, Training, and Assistance Program  
DROP-IN SESSION

## ROAD SAFETY AUDITS; A PROACTIVE SAFETY TOOL

MAY 8, 2025



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.

Date: May 8, 2025  
Noon – 1 p.m.  
[Register](#)

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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 that were received 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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## Discretionary Grants Spotlight – Update

[PennDOT's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\) webpage](#) offers the latest news and information on federal grant opportunities available through the IIJA.

Grant opportunities, application guides and other resources on federal grant funding are added as they become available, so please visit often to see if any of these grant funding programs are an opportunity that would benefit your community.

The following is a federal grant program currently accepting applications:

## Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

[SS4A](#) provides competitive grant funding for the planning and construction of safer roads and streets to prevent death and serious injury for everyone, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and drivers. It also funds tools to strengthen approaches to roadway safety, tailored to the unique needs of local, Tribal, and regional communities.

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is June 12, 2025.
- The application deadline is Thursday, June 26, 2025, 5:00 p.m. EST.

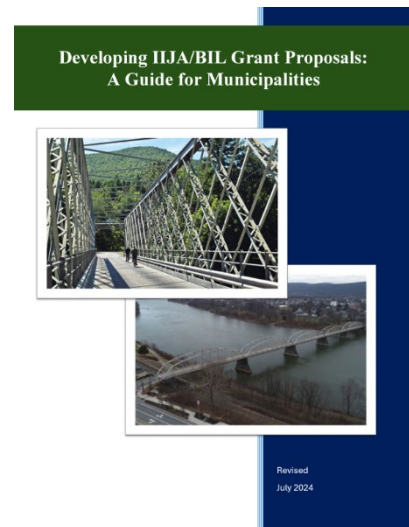
PennDOT will consider providing support for grant proposals on a case-by-case basis.

For any questions about transportation federal funding opportunities, please use the following email: [RA-PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov).

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## 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.



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## 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>

## **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](#).



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?

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

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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

[www.pa.gov/agencies/penndot/research-planning-and-innovation/penndot-connects.html](http://www.pa.gov/agencies/penndot/research-planning-and-innovation/penndot-connects.html)

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

Phone: 717-710-2090



Pennsylvania  
Department of Transportation

