

August 2023 Newsletter



Federal Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Funding Announced in Pennsylvania

A [recent press release](#) highlighted how Pennsylvania will use a \$33.8 million National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) federal investment to create good-paying jobs and improve the Commonwealth's infrastructure.

The first round of conditional awards for NEVI funding outlined the Shapiro Administration's work to address climate change, grow the Commonwealth's economy and ensure that the future of Pennsylvania transportation is on track to be cleaner, safer, more affordable and more reliable than ever before.

Fifty-four projects in 35 counties were selected to expand access to, and the reliability of, electric vehicle charging within Pennsylvania. The conditional awards include various recipients – including seven headquartered in Pennsylvania – and site locations across the state. Four federally compliant charging ports will be funded at each charging location for a total of 216 charging ports. Twenty-two of the projects are in or within half a mile of state or federally designated disadvantaged communities.

Moving forward, a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public involvement process will begin for each project. Projects can begin after those processes are successfully completed and agreements with each recipient are executed. Some projects may begin as early as late 2023.

The NEVI funding supports the Commonwealth and federal goal of expanding EV charging along the previously designated **Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs)** and Interstate lookalikes. Pennsylvania has over 1,800 miles of AFCs. NEVI formula funds must first be used to build out designated AFCs (meaning there must be no more than 50 miles between stations and less than one mile from an AFC exit) and meet U.S. Department of Transportation minimum standards and requirements.

Public Input Welcome on NEVI Plan Update

In early August, PennDOT submitted its **Federal Fiscal Year 2024 NEVI Plan Update** for federal review and is looking for the public to share input on the plan [through an online survey](#) or emailing ra-pdevcorridors@pa.gov. 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 provide feedback on Pennsylvania's transportation network. If you have questions or challenges, contact PennDOT's Bureau of Equal Opportunity to request help by emailing beodot@pa.gov or calling **717-787-5891 TTY (711)**.

For comprehensive Pennsylvania NEVI information, visit [PennDOT's NEVI web page](#).

\$36 Million in Green Light-Go Grant Funds to Improve Traffic Safety Across the Commonwealth

Governor Shapiro announced in a [recent press release](#) that 77 municipalities will receive over \$35.5 million to support traffic signal upgrades, increasing safety and mobility across Pennsylvania's communities through the Green Light-Go program.

Green Light-Go grants are provided as reimbursement to municipalities for updates to improve the efficiency and operation of existing traffic signals. These projects will be funded through the appropriation for fiscal year 2023-2024. Grant funding through the Green Light-Go program may be utilized for a range of operational improvements including, but not limited to, light-emitting diode (LED) technology installation, traffic signal retiming, developing special event plans and monitoring traffic signals, as well as upgrading traffic signals to the latest technologies.

For more information about Green Light-Go and a list of approved projects, visit [PennDOT's Traffic Signals and Management web page](#).



SMART and Other Federal Grant Programs Open for Applications

The second round of the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program is now open. Applications are being accepted for Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety. Awards are given to projects focused on technological interventions solving real-world challenges by building data, technology capacity and experience in the public sector. Funding is available to carry out projects demonstrating at least one of the following: Coordinated automation, connected vehicles, systems integration, delivery/logistics, innovative aviation, smart grid and traffic signals.

Please note, anyone submitting an application for a SMART grant is asked to reach out to **Derrick Herrmann**, PennDOT Transformational Technology Division at deherrmann@pa.gov.

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

Following is a list of additional federal grant programs that are also accepting applications:

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

The Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program provides grants to fund financial, technical and legal assistance to states and rural and tribal communities. The grants are intended to increase organizational capacity in communities that may not have resources available to evaluate and develop projects that qualify for federal funding and financing programs.

The deadline window for requesting PennDOT support begins July 31, 2023, and ends September 13, 2023.

The application window* to apply for this program is August 14, to September 27, 2023.

* Applications will be reviewed on a rolling, first come, first-served basis until available funding is expended or notice is superseded.

Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program

The Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program has been combined with the new Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program to form Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant Program. The RCN grant program advances community-centered transportation connection projects with a priority for projects that 1) benefit disadvantaged communities; 2) improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature and recreation; and 3) foster equitable development and restoration.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is September 14, 2023.

The deadline to apply for this program is September 28, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST.

Information on these and other grant opportunities can be found on the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#) section of PennDOT's website. Additional 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.



Federal Highway Administration Sponsoring an Upcoming Training Webinar

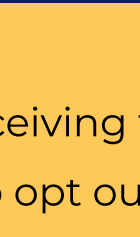
Are you interested in learning more about the funding opportunities the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides to local and tribal agencies? Do you want guidance on resources available to leverage the historic amount of funding available for transportation programs? Plan to join [the Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\) webinar scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. EST. Pre-registration is required](#) for all participants. Once registered, a web link to access the FHWA webinar will be provided.

For more information about PennDOT Pathways, visit our website at [penndot.pa.gov/funding](https://www.penndot.pa.gov/funding).

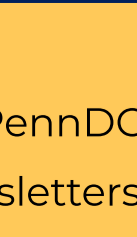
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PennDOTPathways@pa.gov



Hotline: 717-325-6129

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