



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



PennDOT Connects April 2023 Newsletter

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## 2023 Municipal Outreach Session

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.

### Register Today to Learn More about Funding Opportunities & Municipal Resources for Transportation Planning

- Engage with local transportation planners**
- Discover funding and resources**
- Enhance your community**

Join the almost 200 municipal participants who have attended sessions in March and April by attending a session in May. Audio recordings of this year's March and April sessions are now available! See the recording links below.

The municipal outreach/peer exchange sessions consist of an interactive workshop that engages participants in peer exchange and idea-sharing. Municipalities will have the opportunity to interact with PennDOT, their local metropolitan planning organization or rural planning organization (MPO or RPO) staff, and one another. Additionally, these sessions include:

- an overview of the PennDOT Connects Municipal Resources Program,
- information on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL) grant opportunities and available support,
- a presentation on PennDOT's [12-Year Program \(TYP\) survey](#) to begin the process of transportation project development,
- information on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program, and
- other resources available through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Participants will be encouraged to contribute their own experiences and to share their best practices in planning, land use, and project delivery.

PennDOT Connects is an opportunity for communities to make connections, be heard, and improve transportation projects in ways that previously may not have been considered or were recognized too late in the project delivery process. Attend a session near you to learn more about PennDOT Connects and the free resources available to municipalities.

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

District	Date	Time	Facility, Format, & Registration Link	Address/recording
District 4	March 28, 2023			<a href="#">Recording</a>
District 11	March 30, 2023			<a href="#">Recording</a>
District 1	April 11, 2023			<a href="#">Recording</a>
District 6	April 14, 2023			<a href="#">Recording</a>
District 10	Wednesday, May 3, 2023	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">Virtual</a>	
District 2	Thursday, May 4, 2023	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 2 &amp; Virtual</a>	70 PennDOT Drive, Clearfield, PA 16830
District 5	Tuesday, May 16, 2023	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 5 &amp; Virtual</a>	1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101
District 9	Monday, May 22, 2023	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">Virtual</a>	
District 8	Tuesday, May 23, 2023	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 8 &amp; Virtual</a>	2140 Herr Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103
District 12	Wednesday, May 24, 2023	1-3 p.m.	<a href="#">PennDOT District 12 &amp; Virtual</a>	825 N. Gallatin Ave. Ext. Uniontown, PA 15401
District 3	Thursday, May 25, 2023	9-11 a.m.	<a href="#">Virtual</a>	

**Attendance Options noted for each district:**

- **In Person at District Office and Virtual:** Go-To-Webinar
- **Virtual:** Go-To-Webinar

**Registration:** To register click on the **Facility, Format, and Registration Link** above for the session you want to attend. The registration links will also be on the PennDOT Connects webpage soon.

<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/PennDOT-Connects.aspx>

*All sessions held at a district office will have a virtual attendance option through Go-To-Webinar. The sessions noted as virtual will only be available through a virtual connection.*

## Transportation Impact Study Tech Sheet

The tech sheet describes PennDOT's 12-step process for conducting a Transportation Impact Study (TIS). From defining the study area to collecting data to assessing impacts and identifying mitigation measures, PennDOT's step-by-step guidelines can help municipalities execute a well-conducted TIS, which is essential for determining the effects of a proposed development and ensuring the transportation network can handle the expected increase in traffic. By following the 12 steps, transportation planners can ensure that a TIS is comprehensive, accurate, and meets the needs of the local community.



### Introduction

Transportation Impact Studies (TIS) are comprehensive evaluations conducted to assess the impact proposed land use development will have on the transportation system. These studies involve a thorough analysis of various aspects of how a new development and its associated traffic could impact traffic flow, pedestrian and cyclist accessibility, and safety of all road users. The objective of these studies is to help the developer make critical land use site-planning decisions and to determine the need for any required improvements to the adjacent and nearby transportation system. The results of these studies are used to help the decision-making process and project design, ultimately contributing to the creation of safe and sustainable transportation infrastructure in Pennsylvania.

PennDOT's Bureau of Operations has developed a 12-step process for conducting a TIS. From defining the study area to collecting data to assessing impacts and identifying mitigation measures, PennDOT's step-by-step guidelines can help municipalities execute a well-conducted TIS, which is essential for determining the effects of a proposed development and ensuring the transportation network can handle the expected increase in traffic and meet the needs of the local community.

**1 Scoping Meeting:** The first step in preparing a TIS is to conduct a scoping meeting with the relevant parties. This meeting, if deemed necessary, must be held as early as possible, as it is essential in determining the scope and objectives of the study, as well as identifying the other stakeholders and their respective roles. The scoping meeting is also a good opportunity to discuss any potential roadblocks or challenges that may arise during the TIS process. In this step, you will define the study area, determine its boundaries and the transportation elements that will need to be evaluated, including roadways and intersections.

**2 Data Collection:** Data collection is an essential part of the TIS process and is solely the responsibility of the applicant. This includes gathering data on the existing transportation network, such as traffic volumes, land use context, crash data, and other

## #12 Transportation Impact Study Tech Sheet

## PennDOT Connects Historic Metal Truss Bridge Capital Rehabilitation Program – Drop-In

Metal truss bridges are symbols of Pennsylvania's industrial heritage, and according to many experts, the Commonwealth has one of the earliest, most diverse, and most significant population of metal truss bridges in the United States. However, these irreplaceable resources are quickly fading from our landscape. Metal truss bridges were not designed to carry modern traffic loads and they do not conform to modern safety standards, which often leads to them being replaced in favor of new bridges. Pennsylvania has lost nearly 50% of their metal truss bridges within the last twenty years alone. To address the accelerating loss of metal truss bridges, and to preserve Pennsylvania's transportation heritage for the future, PennDOT developed the Truss Management Plan. This laid the foundation for the Historic Metal Truss Bridge Capital Rehabilitation Program.



May 11, 2023, Noon to 1 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

This Program, created as part of the 2021 Twelve Year Program (TYP) update, includes \$18 million spread over a ten-year period to promote the rehabilitation of historic metal truss bridges. The Program is primarily focused on county and municipally owned bridges where owners desire to work collaboratively with PennDOT, MPOs/RPOs, and other interested groups to rehabilitate their historic resource for continuous vehicular use. To learn more about the Historic Metal Truss Bridge Capital Rehabilitation Program, join us for the upcoming Drop-In. The session will provide a short background about the development of the Truss Management Plan followed by an overview of the new program, including where it currently stands and what projects are in progress.

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## Wildlife Crossing Program



The Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP) is a competitive grant program with the goal of reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVCs) while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species.

Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m., (EDT), on August 1, 2023.

<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/wildlife-crossings>

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## The Safe Streets and Roads for All FY23

The [fiscal year \(FY\) 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for Safe Streets and Roads for All grants is [live on Grants.gov](#) and open for applications.

The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. (EDT) Monday, July 10, 2023. Late applications will not be accepted. For details, more information, and applicant guidance:

- [Review the NOFO](#)
- [Visit our How to Apply page](#)
- [Visit our Resources page](#)
- [Review SS4A Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Attend a grant application webinar](#)
- [Learn about what's new in 2023](#)

Award announcements are expected to be made by late 2023.

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## FEDERAL Grant Alert: Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI)

The U.S. Department of Transportation has opened the first round of funding for the [Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program \(CFI\)](#). The CFI Program provides alternative fuels infrastructure grants through two separate grant categories: Community Charging and Fueling and Alternative Fuel Corridor.

The deadline to apply for this program is Tuesday, May 30, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST.

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## 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:](#)

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## 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](http://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>

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## 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](#).





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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](#).

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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. 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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