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PennDOT Connects May 2023 Newsletter

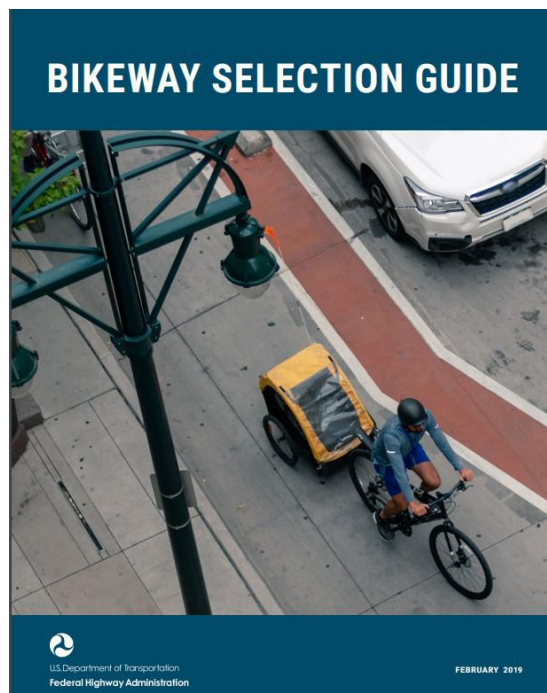
Bicycle Selection Guide Workshop

During this 2-hour virtual and interactive event technical experts, including Pa. PennDOT Connects experts will lead participants through the most important elements of the guide and facilitate group discussions. Topics will include policy and planning, bikeway types, facility selection tools, assessing and evaluating feasibility, and bikeway selection process examples. The course is based on PennDOT's Contextual Roadway Design Manual, Chapter 14, Bicycle Facilities, as well as the FHWA's Bicycle Facilities Selection Guide.

PennDOT Connects is hosting a Bicycle Selection Guide Workshop on June 29, 2023, from 8-10 a.m.

Register here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7713549488730398299>




PennDOT Connects Educational Opportunities

Go to the [PennDOT Connects webpage](#) to learn more about upcoming educational opportunities. Expand the Drop-Ins and Webinars tab.

Active Transportation Workshop, September 28, 2023, 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



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.

Did You Miss the Opportunity to Learn More about Funding Opportunities & Municipal Resources for Transportation Planning?

Audiovisual recordings of this year’s sessions are now available! See the recording links below.

The municipal outreach/peer exchange sessions consisted of an interactive workshop that engaged participants in peer exchange and idea-sharing. Municipalities had 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 included:

- 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).

Listen to a session to learn more about PennDOT Connects and the free resources available to municipalities.

District	Recording Link
District 1	Recording
District 2	Recording
District 3	Recording
District 4	Recording
District 5	Recording
District 6	Recording
District 8	Recording
District 9	Recording
District 10	Recording
District 11	Recording
District 12	Recording

Shapiro Administration Announces \$28 Million in Funding Opportunities Through Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

Eligible projects include Safe Routes to School

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced that the application round for the [2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside \(TASA\)](#) of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Surface Transportation Block Grant Program will open to project sponsors May 30, 2023. Approximately \$28 million in statewide funds will be made available.

The TASA provides funding for projects and activities defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation, and trails that serve a transportation purpose. Eligible project sponsors include local, county, and tribal governments, transit agencies, schools, school districts, nonprofits, and small Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

Additionally, the TASA includes Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects, which can include sidewalk/ADA ramp improvements, bike safety lessons, and bike rodeos.

"Projects like the ones TASA supports are crucial to improving mobility in our communities," said **PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll**. "The TASA program can provide critical aid our communities to support these important projects in communities across the Commonwealth."

Additional projects eligible for TASA funding may include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails, stormwater management, and construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas. Eligible projects are not required to be located on PennDOT roadways and may be located within local rights-of-way.

Sponsors may submit draft applications through July 17, 2023, for District review. After review, final applications may be submitted until September 15, 2023. Selections from participating large MPOs will be due December 1, 2023. The statewide project selection committee will meet in January 2024 to recommend projects for statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funds. Approximately \$28 million in statewide funds will be made available. Additional funds may be made available through participating MPO regional funds.

For more information on the TASA, [visit the PennDOT website](#).

Subscribe to statewide PennDOT news and traffic alerts at www.penndot.gov/news or choose a region under "[Regional Offices](#)." Information about the state's infrastructure and results the department is delivering for Pennsylvanians can be found at www.penndot.gov/results. Find PennDOT's planned and active construction projects at www.projects.penndot.gov.



The [CFI program](#) provides alternative fuels infrastructure grants through two separate grant categories:

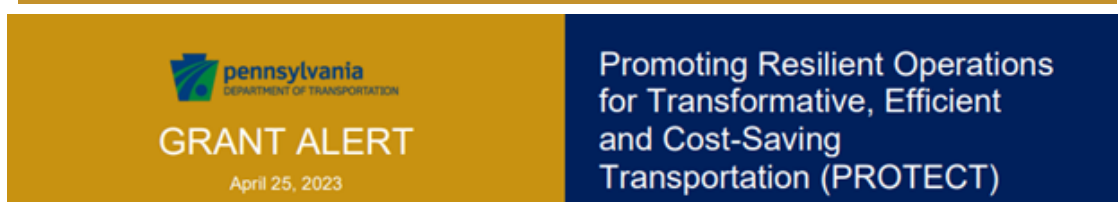
- 1) Community Charging and Fueling and
- 2) Alternative Fuel Corridor.

PennDOT will consider providing support for regional grant proposals as applicable. PennDOT support may include offering data and subject matter expertise as available.

PennDOT recognizes the potential this program has to significantly help communities and individuals and will consider how the Department might assist or collaborate with applicants to advance and strengthen competitive proposals. PennDOT will also collaborate with other state agencies where there may be an interest in this program.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT support was May 30, 2023.

The deadline to apply for this program is Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST.



The [Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation \(PROTECT\)](#) program is now open! PROTECT funding can be used to build community infrastructure resilience in the face of extreme weather and natural disasters. Information on this, and other opportunities, can be found on the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\) website](#). Please review this program to determine if it is an opportunity that would benefit your community. Also, return to [PennDOT's IIJA webpage](#) often, as additional information on federal opportunities will be added as it becomes available.

PennDOT will consider providing support for regionally supported PROTECT grant proposals as applicable and may include providing data and subject matter expertise as available.

The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is August 4, 2023.

The deadline to apply is August 18, 2023.

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.

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.

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.

The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. (EDT) Monday, July 10, 2023.

PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program

The purpose of the PROTECT Formula and Discretionary Grant programs is to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through formula and competitive discretionary grants. FHWA issued guidance for the formula portion of PROTECT in July 2022. This NOFO is for the discretionary portion of PROTECT. It will result in the distribution of up to \$848 million for the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program through a competitive discretionary grant process. FHWA intends to hold future solicitations for funding available in FY 2024-2026.

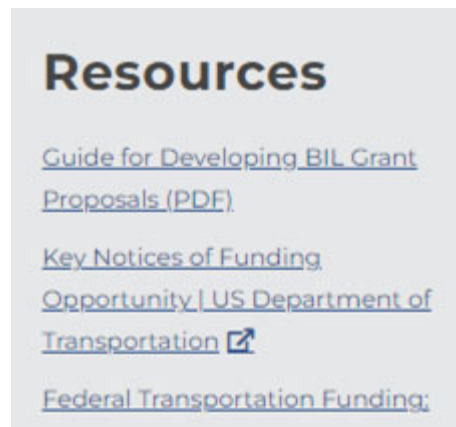
There are four categories of funding under the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program. One category is for Planning Grants. The other three categories are for Resilience Improvements, Community Resilience and Evacuation Routes, and At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure projects. Throughout the NOFO these are collectively referred to as Resilience Grants.

For more info, please visit: [Discretionary - PROTECT - Environment - FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#).

Applications are due August 18, 2023.

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.



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.

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>

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](#).



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](#).

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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