



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



## PennDOT Connects August 2023 Newsletter

### PennDOT Connects Educational Opportunities

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

#### School Transportation Management – Drop-In

Do you have safety issues around your schools? Are there conflicts between pedestrians, buses, bikes, and cars? This PennDOT Connects drop-in will discuss some of the issues around school pick-up and drop-off times, as well as some of the approaches to school transportation management and safety. Attendees will learn more about the application of traffic control devices, use of transportation management techniques, and the assessment of school crosswalks and school speed zones. Also, you can be a part of the discussion with questions about your situation and share your experiences with others.



Municipal Outreach, Training, and Assistance Program

DROP-IN SESSION

## SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023



September 14, 2023, Noon to 1 p.m.  
[Register Here](#)

#### Active Transportation – Workshop

The Active Transportation training course will discuss the latest research and guidelines for nonmotorized transportation modes. Many communities in Pennsylvania are encouraging more active transportation (walking, cycling, etc.) to enhance their community and foster healthy lifestyles. Corresponding to this encouragement of active transportation, communities are looking to develop active transportation plans to help create more facilities such as bicycle paths, sidewalks, trails, greenways, etc. This course will examine the safety and standards for these facilities, as well as how to develop an active transportation



Municipal Outreach, Training, and Assistance Program

Workshop

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023



September 28, 2023, 8 a.m. to Noon  
[Register Here](#)

plan, while highlighting successful examples of local plans, practices, and policies in Pennsylvania. Intended Audience: This workshop is intended for local officials responsible for the planning, design, and implementation of bicycle, greenways, trails, and related facilities, including municipal managers, elected officials, public works directors, roadmasters, and code enforcement officers.

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## NEVI-Update

### Local Government EV Education Sessions

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is hosting several [Municipal EV Education Sessions](#) this summer/fall. There will be three in-person sessions and three virtual sessions. These FREE education sessions are open to any municipality interested in learning about electric vehicles. Get educated on the basics of electric vehicles, charging, as well as associated planning and policymaking. Learn about electric vehicle incentives and methods for municipalities to support electric vehicle adoption. See the link above for more information and to register.

### Municipal EV Charging Infrastructure Case Studies

A new resource is available on PennDOT's website to help Pennsylvania municipalities plan for and implement EV charging infrastructure for public access. It provides recent activities that several Pennsylvania local governments have taken to advance EV charging in their communities. You may find the full report at [EV Resources \(pa.gov\)](#).

For more information about PennDOT's NEVI program please visit the [NEVI Homepage](#). Please contact PennDOT's EV team at [ra-pdevcorridors@pa.gov](mailto:ra-pdevcorridors@pa.gov) with any questions or comments.

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## Introduction to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Federal Requirements Webinar

### Why is this training important?

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)—also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)—there is a historic amount of funding available to transportation programs. Approximately \$567 billion is available for transportation funding across all modes over 5 years and about \$351 billion of that is for highway-specific programs. There are also many new formula programs and new, competitive, discretionary programs. It's important to know how to get this money.

### What does this training cover?

This training gives basic program familiarization awareness, including some content of the BIL, as well as key Federal program and project requirements. This training will not make you an expert in everything you need to know about these topics; however, it should greatly assist you in being able to

#### Topics to be covered in this training include:

- Funding opportunities that the BIL provides to local and tribal agencies
- Key federal project delivery requirements, how they may apply during the different phases of project delivery, and where to find answers on federal requirements
- Steps that should take place prior to application for Federal projects and BIL grants
- Activities, objectives, and outcomes of the application (pre-award), review and award, and post-award phases for Federal grants
- Resources to leverage throughout the Federal project and BIL grant application, award, and post-award phases of project delivery

identify what some of your program or project issues might be before you apply for a grant and who/where to get the answers to some of your questions.

### **Who is this training for?**

This training is focused on local agencies. While Tribal agencies are encouraged to participate in this training, please note that a Tribal agency specific version is planned in cooperation with the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP).

September 6, 2023, 2-3:30 p.m.

[Webinar Informational Flyer](#)

[Register Here](#)

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## **Discretionary Grants Spotlight**

### **Federal Grant Programs Open for Application**

#### **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 for a SMART grant is asked to reach out to Derrick Herrmann, PennDOT Transformational Technology Division at [deherrmann@pa.gov](mailto:deherrmann@pa.gov).

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

#### **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.

#### **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.

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

- 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.

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.

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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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## DCNR Schedules Virtual Grant Workshop for Recreation & Conservation Projects

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will host its 2023 Statewide Annual [Virtual Grant Workshop for Recreation & Conservation Projects](#) on November 16 at 9 am. This free, virtual workshop will help applicants develop project ideas and prepare to submit a grant application for the next round of the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2). Click [here](#) to learn more and register.



Need funding for your park, trail, or conservation project?  
**Start here.**

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is hosting its annual grant workshop virtually this November. Those interested in applying for grants in 2024 are strongly encouraged to attend. Get info on applying for grants to support:

The statewide, virtual workshop will be on:  
**Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023**

Community Recreation Planning & Development  
Trail Planning & Construction  
Land Acquisition & Conservation  
Rivers, Community & Watershed Forestry  
State & Regional Partnerships

Register FREE at [events.dcnr.pa.gov](https://events.dcnr.pa.gov) or by scanning this QR code

pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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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

Was this newsletter forwarded to you? If yes, [click here](#) to subscribe to receive a copy directly to your inbox.



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