



This edition of the STIC *Innovation in Motion* e-Newsletter includes information on a new specification to help improve concrete durability and features a story about the heroic actions of four PennDOT employees who received the Workplace Hero Award for their life-saving efforts.

## Specification Updates Aim to Improve Concrete Durability

The State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) innovation for certifying Pennsylvania concrete finishers, along with the new PennDOT Class S concrete specification, provide advantages for every municipality and resident across Pennsylvania.

The goal of the [Certified Concrete Finishers Course](#), which includes classroom and practical, hands-on work, is to help improve the durability and extend the service life of concrete and eliminate mistakes in concrete finishing that can result in costly repairs or reconstruction. Once completed, the course leads to lifetime certification.

Working together on this STIC innovation, PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Aggregates and Concrete Association (PACA), have collaborated to provide a new specification for the construction requirements and the materials used for sidewalks across Pennsylvania.

At the core of this innovation are two items:

- The Class S specification and revision to Section 676, which is new as of the April 2023 version of PennDOT Publication 408; and
- The requirement for concrete finishers to be certified, which was introduced into Section 704 of PennDOT Publication 408 in April 2022.

It was realized early on that both the material specifications and the quality of the work in placing and finishing the concrete are of equal importance to providing the long-term durability of sidewalks and exterior concrete flatwork.

Pennsylvania’s municipalities are most often the specifier, and many times the owner of sidewalks placed in commercial and residential developments across the commonwealth. Ensuring these are built in accordance with a specification that provides for their maximum service life will be of benefit to everyone.



## Tunnel Roadside Assistance Saves Lives

Did you know that the [Allegheny County Tunnels Organization](#) is the only tunnel

maintenance and incident response establishment within PennDOT? The individuals working on this team account for more than assisting motorist's travel – they save lives. Four members of this dedicated team of individuals recently received the PennDOT Workplace Hero Award for their heroic acts of service while on duty. [Read the full article here.](#)



## Coming Soon! PennDOT Focus on Innovations Publication

Stay tuned for the release of PennDOT's *Focus on Innovations* online publication in March. The publication features updates on several STIC and Every Day Counts innovations along with a variety of homegrown innovations that have been implemented across Pennsylvania. Some of the highlights include pavement solutions helping to improve performance, innovative use of technology to improve work zone operations and minimize congestion and delays, advances in traffic operations and incident management, and the continued evolution of drone usage in all facets of transportation.



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