

# April 2022 Newsletter



## Investing in Communities

Over the past few weeks, PennDOT officials and leaders of its regional offices have highlighted local road, highway and bridge projects that will get underway or continue in 2022, representing hundreds of millions of dollars in investments in Pennsylvania communities. They include projects accelerated or supported by the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed in November.

As Governor Tom Wolf noted when **announcing investments in more than 130 projects** in the south-central region of the state, “these projects are vital to ensuring the people who live and work in Pennsylvania have a safe, modern and efficient transportation network.”



The federal investment is a huge step in the right direction, and PennDOT is working closely with the state’s 23 Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations to achieve the greatest impact with these new funds. But the BIL does not address all of our challenges.

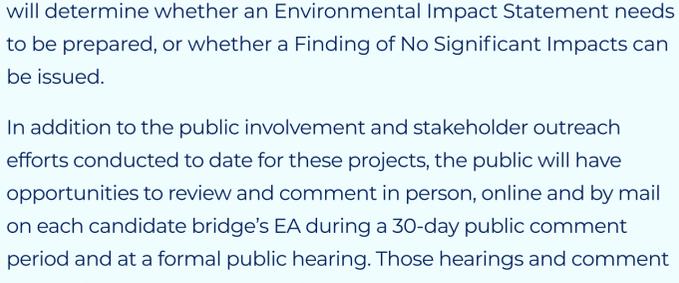
Without the future-focused alternative funding solutions being pursued by **PennDOT Pathways**, such as the **Major Bridge Public-Private Partnership (MBP3) Initiative**, there could be less money available to fund these projects. The latest investments also include many transportation improvements that might not have made this year’s list without the BIL. The BIL is expected to bring approximately \$4 billion in new federal highway and bridge funding to Pennsylvania over the next five years.

The gap between our available funding and the needs of our system continues to grow as fuel taxes – which account for more than three quarters of our highway and bridge funding – becomes a less reliable source of revenue. Such dependence on fuel taxes leaves Pennsylvania even more vulnerable to shifts in travel patterns, the growing transition to electric vehicles and increased fuel efficiency in others.

Pennsylvania’s funding challenges are complex, and there is no simple, one-size-fits-all solution. We need to modernize our approach to transportation funding and leverage state-level solutions such as the MBP3 initiative so that we can improve existing roads and bridges and build for the future.

Learn more about the **alternative funding solutions we’re exploring through PennDOT Pathways here.**

## Major Bridge P3 Initiative Updates



To view a larger version of the above timeline please [click here](#).

As we shared in last month’s e-newsletter, PennDOT, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, is preparing Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the Major Bridge P3 Initiative candidate bridges in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

These EAs examine the significance of potential impacts to natural, social, economic and cultural resources from the alternative(s) under consideration. The results of the EAs’ environmental analyses will determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement needs to be prepared, or whether a Finding of No Significant Impacts can be issued.

In addition to the public involvement and stakeholder outreach efforts conducted to date for these projects, the public will have opportunities to review and comment in person, online and by mail on each candidate bridge’s EA during a 30-day public comment period and at a formal public hearing. Those hearings and comment periods have been scheduled for six projects:

### I-80 North Fork Bridges Project

**Review and comment April 18 – May 18**

In-Person Public Hearing on May 3, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Chateau d’Argy, 345 Main St., Brookville, PA 15825

[www.penndot.pa.gov/i80NorthFork](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i80NorthFork)

### I-80 Canoe Creek Bridges Project

**Review and comment April 19 – May 19**

In-Person Public Hearing on May 4, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Wolf’s Den Banquet & Conference Facility, 291 Timberwolf Run, Knox, PA 16232

[www.penndot.pa.gov/i80CanoeCreek](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i80CanoeCreek)

### I-80 Nescopeck Creek Bridges Project

**Review and comment April 27 – May 27**

In-Person Public Hearing on May 12, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Nescopeck Township Social Hall, 510 Zenith Road, Nescopeck, PA 18635

[www.penndot.pa.gov/i80nescopeck](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i80nescopeck)

### I-80 Over Lehigh River Bridge Project

**Review and comment May 3 – June 2**

In-Person Public Hearing on May 18, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Mountain Laurel Resort, 81 Treetops Circle, White Haven, PA, 18661

[www.penndot.pa.gov/i80LehighRiverBridge](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i80LehighRiverBridge)

### I-78 Lenhartsville Bridge Replacement Project

**Review and comment May 4 – June 3**

In-Person Public Hearing on May 19, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Kempton Community Center, 83 Community Center Drive, Kempton, PA 19529

[www.penndot.pa.gov/i78Lenhartsville](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i78Lenhartsville)

### I-83 South Bridge Project

**Review and comment May 10 – June 9**

In-Person Public Hearings on May 25, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Penn Harris Hotel, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011, and May 26, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn Harrisburg East, 3943 Tecport Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111

[www.penndot.pa.gov/i83SouthBridge](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i83SouthBridge)

More information is available on each project’s web page. Details on the comment periods and public hearings for additional projects will be provided when they’re scheduled.

## I-83 South Bridge Update

The **I-83 South Bridge Project** is part of the larger I-83 Master Plan to update the Capital City Beltway around Harrisburg through a series of projects aimed at improving traffic operations and safety. The project directly east of the I-83 South Bridge Project is the East Shore Section 3 Project (ESS3), which previously included the construction of the east shore viaduct.

As PennDOT continues the process of analyzing and developing the I-83 South Bridge Project, we have determined that combining the construction of the east shore viaduct into the construction of the I-83 South Bridge could maximize construction efficiency, reduce overall costs, shorten construction duration and minimize impacts to traffic and other resources during construction. These efficiencies are estimated to result in savings of approximately \$70 million. Therefore, the proposed I-83 South Bridge Project will now incorporate the area from the eastern end of the South Bridge to Cameron Street, including the viaduct and the Front Street/2nd Street Interchange.

The estimated cost of the updated I-83 South Bridge Project is \$850 million to \$1 billion. The primary source of funding is still anticipated to be tolling and the toll rate would be in the \$1 - \$2 range for passenger vehicles using E-ZPass. Construction is tentatively projected to start in 2025.



To view a larger version of the above map please [click here](#).

## More News on EV Investments

Here’s an update to our **recent story about the future-focused investments Pennsylvania is making** to update our highway network to accommodate more electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrids.

PennDOT is encouraging the public to learn about planning and funding for EV charging infrastructure and to submit questions during a webinar on Wednesday, April 27.

The webinar with PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian as well as PennDOT and state Department of Environmental Protection officials will be livestreamed from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The public can register on [the department’s EV web page](#) under “National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program.” The public can also register or submit feedback by emailing [ra-pddevcorridors@pa.gov](mailto:ra-pddevcorridors@pa.gov).

The webinar will build on outreach the department is conducting with lawmakers, planning partners, utilities, local government organizations, EV-charging companies and stakeholders with equity, labor, education and environmental expertise. Additional public feedback will be gathered on the draft plan in June.

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

Want to share information on your social or digital platforms?

Find image, video and other resources in the [Funding Media Center](#).

## Contact Us

Website Comment Form: [Click here](#)



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