

# September 2022 Newsletter



## PennDOT Resumes Environmental Reviews for Bridge Replacement Projects

PennDOT has resumed planning work and federal environmental reviews for six bridge replacement projects as part of the **Major Bridge Public-Private Partnership (MBP3)**. You can read more about these projects and how PennDOT continues to evaluate alternative funding options to phase out the gas tax **[in this news release](#)**.

## Rural Drivers May Benefit from Mileage-Based User Fees



Mileage-Based User Fees (MBUF) generally refer to charging drivers for the use of roadways by the number of miles they travel instead of how much gas they use. While some may think that rural drivers would pay more using an MBUF system versus the gas tax, **[a survey conducted by the Eastern Transportation Coalition \(TETC\) in 2020](#)**, demonstrated how an MBUF approach, also called a Road-User Fee, may save rural drivers money — approximately \$34 a year — since they tend to drive less fuel-efficient vehicles. Motorists with more efficient vehicles are currently paying less in gas tax on a per-mile basis than those with less fuel-efficient vehicles. With MBUF, everyone would pay the same amount per mile travelled. MBUF is envisioned to replace the gas tax, not be in addition, and would result in a funding source that is not only more equitable — you only pay for what you use — but also more reliable as increasing numbers of fuel-efficient, hybrid and electric vehicles hit the road.

## Funding for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Pennsylvania is one of the first states in the nation to be approved for the first round of infrastructure funds under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The federal funding is part of a new **National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI)** Program under the BIL that will provide the state with funds over the next five years to support electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. **Governor Tom Wolf announced** that the Biden Administration has awarded Pennsylvania its first payment of \$25.4 million out of a total of \$171 million to invest in clean transportation.

Following the Governor’s announcement, PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian said, “PennDOT and our partners have been hard at work preparing for a future filled with electric vehicles. These new funds available to us through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law give Pennsylvania the opportunity to reinvent transportation in a way that is smarter, cleaner, safer, more equitable and more efficient than ever before, and we are ready to put them to good use.”

The **Pennsylvania NEVI Plan** will be administered by PennDOT. See **[last month's e-newsletter](#)** to read more about EV funding and infrastructure.

## Electric Vehicles: They’re Not Just for Passengers Anymore

*Phasing out the gas tax in a race with the rise of commercial EV fleets*



EVs are becoming more mainstream and not just with individual consumers. Companies like Amazon, UPS and FedEx have all made commitments to transition to either hybrid or electric fleets. These giants of logistics and delivery have long recognized the benefits of reduced emissions, lowered costs, and increased efficiency - both to their brands and their bottom lines.

**[Amazon committed to putting 100,00 electric delivery vehicles on the road by 2030](#)**. They were the first signatory of The Climate Pledge, which is a commitment to reach net-zero carbon emissions across all operations by 2040. By using EVs to deliver packages, Amazon will save millions of metric tons of carbon per year.

“Electric vehicles form a cornerstone to our sustainable urban delivery strategies,” said UPS Chief Information and Engineering Officer Juan Perez. UPS ordered 10,000 electric delivery trucks in 2020. And they have good reason. **[The US Department of Energy \(DOE\)'s renewable energy laboratory released a study](#)** showing that by 2030, nearly half of medium- and heavy-duty trucks will be cheaper to buy, operate and maintain as zero emissions vehicles compared to traditional diesel-powered combustion engine vehicles.

FedEx says their electric vehicles and charging infrastructure will not only help them meet their operational efficiency and sustainability goals, but will provide learning, scaling and experience to others in the vehicle-electrification journey. The company also believes that wider adoption of alternative-fuels, electric and hybrid fuel-electric vehicles in transportation will play a key role in reducing global emissions.

This move away from motor fuels underscores the importance of finding modern, reliable funding sources for our transportation system. Pennsylvania is especially vulnerable to these market changes, with approximately 75% (and as high as 78%) of our highway and bridge funding coming from state and federal gas-tax revenue. **[Learn more about how we are focusing on highway and bridge funding needs](#)**.

## See for Yourself:

-  **[Amazon Creating a Fleet of 100,000 Electric Delivery Vehicles \(businessinsider.com\) 7/21/22](#)**
-  **[UPS orders 10,000 electric delivery trucks, plans test of self-driving vans \(boston.com\) 3/22/20](#)**
-  **[Charged up about electric vehicles \(FedEx Website\)](#)**
-  **[FedEx and Chanje to Develop Groundbreaking Charging Infrastructure 2/27/20](#)**

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

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