



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



PennDOT Connects December 2022 Newsletter

PennDOT Connects Grant Assistance

Is your municipality looking to submit a grant application to help the community build and strengthen its transportation system? If so, PennDOT Connects Municipal Assistance can help you start the application process and review your application prior to its submission.

Located 30 miles from Harrisburg, Jonestown Borough is a small community with limited resources to enhance infrastructure through actions such as paving projects and stormwater system upgrades. Knowing it had limited resources, the borough utilized the PennDOT Connects Municipal program for free assistance on reviewing a multimodal grant application.

The PennDOT Connects Municipal program made the process seamless thanks in large part to its regional planning partners. After speaking with Lebanon County Transportation Planner, the borough council president was introduced to the program administrator. The borough engineer and a grant writer used their collective expertise with the PennDOT Connects Municipal program technical expert and its processes to ensure the grant application met the proper requirements for approval.



“The PennDOT Connects [Municipal] program was extremely helpful in our grant process and was a wonderful resource for Jonestown,” said Jonestown Borough Council President Thomas Keefe.

Through the opportunities, knowledge, and spirit of teamwork the PennDOT Connects Municipal program is beneficial to all municipalities, regardless of size.

To request assistance, simply fill out the [Assistance and Training Request form](#). To learn more about the available assistance go to the webpage, [Municipal Resources for Land Use and Transportation Planning](#) on the [PennDOT website](#).

Grants Open to Local Governments

PennDOT's new website dedicated to the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (IIJA), and specifically the federal discretionary programs, is now available. Included are *Grant Alerts that provide background on these opportunities including eligibility, application deadlines, and federal and U.S. DOT resources and guides to assist in applying for the specific programs.*

The 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program is now open! This year's RAISE funding opportunity will have \$1.5 billion available to award nationwide. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2023. Information on this, and other opportunities, can be found at the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act website](#). Please take a moment to examine this program to determine if it is an opportunity that would benefit your community. Also, return to PennDOT's IIJA page often, as additional information on federal opportunities will be added as it becomes available.

The National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program (Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program) is an annual competitive grant program that awards grants to eligible entities for projects for the replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish. Anadromous fish species are born in freshwater such as streams and rivers, spend most of their lives in the marine environment, and migrate back to freshwater to spawn. Eligible PA regions with anadromous fish are primarily Districts 3, 6, 8 but FHWA recommends coordinating with PennDOT. Applications are due February 6, 2023. Detail and deadlines are described here:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/engineering/hydraulics/culverthyd/aquatic/culvertaop.cfm>

Be sure to reach out to your [MPO/RPO](#) if you are considering applying for a grant. They may be able to provide resources and ideas to strengthen applications.

Other resources:

US DOT Navigator: <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

FTA BIL Website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/BIL>

Online Training

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.

One of the many resources PennDOT Connects offers municipalities is a series of interactive training modules on transportation and land use planning. These self-guided 15-minute online trainings cover key principles and practices, examples, key resources, benefits and challenges, and potential next steps.



[Access Management and Highway Occupancy Permitting](#)

[Capital Improvement Programming](#)

[Developer Negotiation Training](#)

[Integrating Transportation and Land Use](#)

[Loan and Funding](#)

[Official Map](#)

[PennDOT Connects Overview](#)

[Site Design and Roadway Standards](#)

[Traffic Operations](#)

[Transportation Impact Fees](#)

[Transportation Partnerships](#)

[Transit Revitalization Investment District \(TRID\)](#)

The online training is available on the [PennDOT Connects](#) webpage on the [PennDOT website](#).

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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