



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



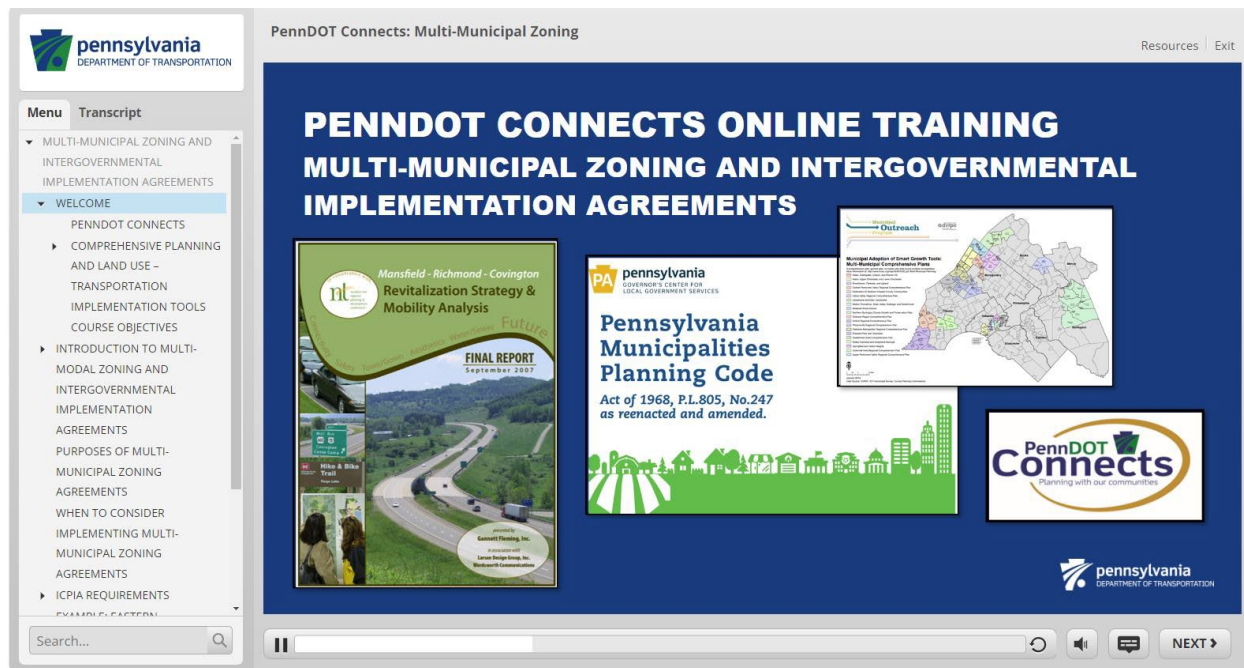
PennDOT Connects July 2023 Newsletter

PennDOT Connects Municipal Resources – Online Training

Multi-Municipal Zoning and Intergovernmental Implementation Agreements

Do you know when to enter into a multi-municipal zoning agreement? Multi-municipal zoning and intergovernmental implementation agreements support the cooperation and coordination of planning among adjoining municipalities on various issues, such as growth management, transportation needs, public services, preservation, and economic development.

Review the “[Multi-Municipal Zoning and Intergovernmental Implementation Agreements](#)” PennDOT Connects online training at your convenience to learn how to recognize potential savings, identify land use management issues, and how to conceptualize the roles and representations of participants.



Go to the [PennDOT Connect webpage](#), on the [PennDOT website](#) for a full listing of the online training.

PennDOT Connects Educational Opportunities

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

Developer Negotiations – Drop-In

Many municipalities find that negotiating with developers over the cost of off-site improvement—whose need is generated, at least in part, by their proposed development—can be a very effective means of implementing improvements to the transportation system and other infrastructure. These negotiations are acceptable if conducted in accordance with the MPC and current case law. This PennDOT Connects webinar will discuss developer negotiations from different perspectives, and provide a forum for you to ask your questions.



August 10, 2023, Noon to 1 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

[School Transportation Management](#), September 14, 2023, Noon to 1 p.m.

Do you have safety issues around your schools? Are there conflicts between pedestrians, buses, bikes, and vehicles? 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. The drop-in will discuss application of traffic control devices, transportation management techniques, 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.

[Register Here](#)

[Active transportation Workshop](#), September 28, 2023, 8 a.m. to Noon

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

[Register Here](#)

Discretionary Grants Spotlight

Currently Available Pennsylvania Discretionary Grants

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.

Both the RCP and NAE programs provide technical assistance and funding. RCP focuses on planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity and improve people's lives. NAE concentrates on improving walkability, safety and affordable transportation access through community connectivity; mitigating or remediating negative impacts on the human or natural environment and assisting economically disadvantaged or underserved communities with planning and capacity building activities.

PennDOT will consider providing support for regionally supported grant proposals as applicable.

PennDOT support may include offering data and subject matter expertise as available.

- 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. Grants are awarded for either the hiring of staff or the procurement of expert firms to provide financial, technical and legal assistance. This program provides opportunities for rural and tribal communities to grow capacity, either internally or through a third-party, and to prepare and develop projects which are or will be eligible for discretionary grant funding.

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.

Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant – INFRA, Mega, and Rural Grant Programs

The [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant](#) (MPDG) is soliciting applications for three funding opportunities: 1) Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways (INFRA grant), 2) National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega grant) and 3) Rural Surface Transportation (Rural grant). This program allows applicants to apply for one, two or all three funding opportunities by submitting a single

application. MPDG funds for the INFRA, Mega and Rural grants provide financial assistance to highway and bridge, intercity passenger rail, railway-highway grade and separation, wildlife crossing, public transportation, marine highway and freight and multimodal projects, or groups of such projects of national or regional significance, as well as projects improving and expanding the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas.

PennDOT will consider providing support for regionally supported grant proposals as applicable and may provide data and subject matter expertise as available. PennDOT recognizes the potential this program has to significantly help communities and individuals and will consider how to assist or collaborate with applicants to advance and strengthen competitive proposals. Collaboration with other state agencies where there may be an interest is also possible.

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is August 7, 2023.
- The deadline to apply for this program is August 21, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST.

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation

The Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation ([PROTECT](#)) program provides funding to build community infrastructure resilience in the face of extreme weather and natural disasters supporting the continued operation or rapid recovery of crucial local, regional or national surface transportation facilities, including highways, public transportation, ports and intercity passenger rail. Projects in the PROTECT program also have the potential to demonstrate innovation and best practices that state and local governments can consider replicating.

PennDOT will consider providing support for regionally supported grant proposals as applicable and may provide data and subject matter expertise as available.

- The deadline for requesting PennDOT support is August 4, 2023.
- The deadline to apply for this program is August 18, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST.

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.

Pittston Pair Bridge Bundle and Investing in America

In every state, across thousands of communities, investments in infrastructure projects are improving safety, creating jobs, and growing the economy. See what is getting built near your community at [Investing in America](#). This website provides an interactive map that illustrates the impact of these record-breaking levels of public and private investment across states and territories under the Biden Administration.

The grants are part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda that is growing the American economy from the bottom up and middle-out. During June 2023, the Biden Administration announced funding for 162 community-led infrastructure projects as a part of the Investing in America agenda. This year, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program will fund projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two territories with more than \$2.2 billion.

The RAISE grant program, expanded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, supports communities of all sizes, with half of the 2023 funding going to rural areas and the other half to urban areas.

One such program in Pennsylvania is the Pittston Pair Bridge Bundle which received a \$19 million RAISE grant award. This project will fund the design, right-of-way, utilities, and construction for the replacement of the Fort Jenkin Bridge and the Water Street Bridge, including on-street bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements in Pittston, Pennsylvania. The project will also involve the modernization of seven adjacent intersections to include ADA accommodations, traffic signal reflectivity, retiming, pedestrian interval considerations at approach intersections and dedicated turning lanes where warranted.

More details on this and other projects awarded RAISE Grants can be found reading the [RAISE 2023 Fact Sheets](#).

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:](#)

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.

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>

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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