



Transportation Investments Paying Off Across Pennsylvania

The importance of transportation investments and the progress PennDOT and its industry partners have made on roads and bridges across the state were highlighted [in a recent press release](#).

The state budget passed in the state Senate and House includes Governor Shapiro's priority to make \$125 million more available for infrastructure projects this year alone. This will enable PennDOT and its local and regional partners to continue to build on the outcomes already achieved this year as outlined in the [June 2023 Performance Results](#), which demonstrate:

- 403 bridges were put out for bid to be repaired, replaced or preserved;
- 74 state and local bridges were completed, two of which have gone out for bid;
- 1,200 roadway miles were improved, including 352 miles of paving (January 2023 through July 10, 2023) and
- 126 construction contracts for highway, bridge and other improvement projects were completed through private-sector partners in addition to work completed by PennDOT maintenance crews.

You can read more about the importance of investment in our transportation system and current highway and bridge projects occurring this year on [the PennDOT Project's website](#).

Survey Results Emphasize what is Important to Pennsylvanians

The results for the 2023 12-Year Program Update are in and were analyzed and shared with Pennsylvania's Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations (MPOs/RPOs) for future planning efforts and to help align regional and statewide transportation priorities with needs.

Highlights of Outcomes

Survey participants were asked to rank 10 transportation priorities. Statewide, road pavement was the top priority, bridges remained the second-highest priority and walking replaced traffic flow in third place.

Participants were also asked to distribute the state's budget between six funding categories. Responses identified in the table below show respondents feel that funding should be spent on technology, public transit and passenger rail, pedestrian and bicycle access and more economic support. Other common priorities identified include safety initiatives, environmental sustainability and electric vehicle infrastructure. The bar chart below also shows how responses compare with those in the 2021 survey.



When asked "How Pennsylvania can increase transportation funding?" over 1,000 survey respondents provided feedback, many including multiple ideas. The most suggested funding sources were:

1. Reallocation of Money
2. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
3. Tolling

All the [2023 Statewide Transportation Survey](#) results are available. The results are shown by region, which includes each MPO's/RPO's raw data, as well as demographic information and top priorities as identified by the survey responses. A statewide comparison shows how the response data received during the 2023 Public Comment Period compares to that of the 2021 cycle and an interactive mapping tool highlights transportation concerns and images submitted by survey participants. Raw survey data is also available.

Although the Public Comment Period has concluded, the [Pennsylvania Transportation Survey](#) will remain open until September 30, 2023, to provide an extended opportunity for the public to get involved in the process. Your feedback is a critical part of our statewide planning process and helps shape both statewide and regional Transportation Improvement Plans!

Please visit the State Transportation Commission website at [TALKPA TRANSPORTATION](#) to view more detailed content on the 12-Year Program.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS SPOTLIGHT

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.

Deadline to request PennDOT support: September 14, 2023.

Deadline to apply: 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.

Deadline window to request PennDOT support: July 31, 2023 to September 13, 2023.

Application window to apply: August 14 to September 27, 2023.

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

The [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant](#) (MPDG) involves: 1) National Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways (INFRA grant), 2) National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega grant) and 3) Rural Surface Transportation (Rural grant). MPDG provides 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.

Deadline to request PennDOT support: August 7, 2023.

Deadline to apply: 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.

Deadline for requesting PennDOT support: August 4, 2023.

Deadline to apply: August 18, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST.

Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program

The [Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program \(WCPP\)](#) is a competitive grant program with the goal of reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVC) while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species.

Deadline for requesting PennDOT support has passed.

Deadline to apply: Tuesday, August 1, 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.

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](#).

Transportation Trivia

1. What has led to the growing shortfall in transportation funding for Pennsylvania and states across the country?

- a. Inflation and higher maintenance costs, b. Increased vehicle fuel efficiency and electrification, c. Reduced pay-at-the-pump gas tax revenue, d. All the above

2. Electric vehicles registered in Pennsylvania have increased approximately ___ % since March 2019.

- a. 125, b. 200, c. 360, d. 500

3) Over five years, the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act will bring at least \$ ___ billion in new federal highway and bridge funds to Pennsylvania.

- a. 4, b. 10, c. 12, d. 20

Answers

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

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Contact Us

Website Comment Form: [Click here](#)

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