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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

news release

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College Township Wins Top Award in Statewide Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Contest

College Township in Centre County was named the roadway winner of the 36th Annual Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Awards, presented at the 96th Annual Educational Conference of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) in Hershey April 22-25, 2018. The conference attracted attendees from every county in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, which has no townships. College Township won the award for high-friction surface treatment on several dangerous curves.

PSATS sponsors the statewide Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Contest each year in partnership with the Pennsylvania Highway Information Association (PHIA) and the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to recognize townships for their extensive contributions of time and effort in making roads and bridges safer.

College Township was honored for improving safety on curve sections of three roads with the application of high-friction surface treatment, or HFST. Despite advanced curve warning signs and speed limits of 35 mph on two of the roads, all three curve sections had seen vehicle accidents that had resulted in significant property damage, especially during wet pavement conditions.

“We had pretty regular issues with downed signs and vehicles going off the road and into people’s yards,” Township Manager Adam Brumbaugh says. “It was becoming a big problem, particularly for adjacent property owners.”

To improve vehicle traction and motorist safety, the township solicited bids for a contract to apply HFST on the curves. High-friction surface treatment consists of a thin layer of polish- and abrasion-resistant aggregate placed in some kind of binder, such as a polymer. The technique has been shown to reduce hydroplaning on wet surfaces.

“Since the treatment last summer, we have had no crashes on those curves,” Brumbaugh says. “So far, it has worked very well.”

The township is very honored to have this project chosen out of all the projects from across the commonwealth, the manager says.

“I think it speaks highly of the township staff, especially the public works director, Garry Williams, who was instrumental in pushing the township to pursue a solution,” Brumbaugh says. “Garry will be retiring this year after 46 years of service. This award is a nice complement to an outstanding career here at the township.”

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The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors represents Pennsylvania’s 1,454 townships of the second class and is committed to preserving and strengthening township government and securing greater visibility and involvement for townships in the state and federal political arenas. Townships of the second class cover 95 percent of Pennsylvania’s land mass and

represent more residents — 5.5 million — than any other type of political subdivision in the commonwealth.