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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

# news release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Rapho Township Wins Top Award in Statewide Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Contest**

Rapho Township in Lancaster County was named the roadway winner of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Awards this morning during the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' Excellence Awards ceremony.

The event, which recognizes the significant achievements of townships and their officials from across the state, was held as part of PSATS' 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show in Hershey. Today is the opening day of the conference, which has attracted attendees from every county in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, which has no townships.

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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.

Rapho Township was honored for completing a road realignment project to improve sight distance and reduce vehicle accidents. The township removed a sharp curve in North Colebrook Road between North Chiques Road and Cider Press Road. Property owners along the stretch had complained for years about cars running off the road into their yards. Numerous reportable accidents, including several involving overturned tractor trailers, made this one of the township's most dangerous stretches of road.

With the donation of a half-acre of land from the owner of a preserved farm and the eventual approval of the county agricultural preserve board, the township was able to get to work. The project design involved removing, reconstructing, and relocating a portion of North Colebrook Road. It also called for the installation of drainage and stormwater management facilities, including roadside swales, storm pipes, and rain gardens.

“After years of design, permitting, land transfer, and setting aside of capital funds, in 2018 the township's public works crew started the project,” township manager Sara Gibson says. “Because of the heavy traffic, we decided to close the entire road, resulting in a lengthy and frustrating detour for travelers.”

The road crew, with the help of contractors, worked many hours of overtime to be able to reopen the road in four months.

“We are proud of the perseverance by our staff to complete a long-needed project,” Gibson says. “The safety improvements are visible from all angles, and our contractor's drone technology enabled us to provide our residents with dramatic views of our progress on social media.”

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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.

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