



August 25, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.

Township Video News



Follow the adventures of Salary Survey Plus Phil, who needs information to survive. Find out how you can help this overly dramatic little guy.

Latest News

FEMA Approves Lost Wages for Pennsylvanians

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Monday it has approved Pennsylvania for a grant under the Lost Wages Assistance program that will provide \$300 per week, on top of regular unemployment benefits, to those unemployed due to COVID-19.

FEMA said it will work with Gov. Tom Wolf to implement a system to make this funding available to Pennsylvania residents.

On Aug. 8, President Donald Trump made available up to \$44 billion from FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to Americans who have lost wages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Monday, Pennsylvania agreed to administer a lost wages program for its citizens who are unemployed due to COVID-19.

PennDOT Approval Needed for Street Dining, Special Events on Federal Aid Highways

The state Department of Transportation is reminding municipalities that many proposed local events use highways and highway rights of way for temporary non-highway uses, such as street dining. Under PennDOT's guidance to its engineering districts, the districts process requests for state-designated highway use as special event permits (for road closures).

PennDOT must approve proposed uses of federal-aid highway rights of way, even those on federal-aid local streets that are not state highways. Under federal law, PennDOT is required to collect the fair market value for non-highway uses of all federal-aid highways. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) delegated to PennDOT the approval of non-highway use and occupancy for non-interstate roads, including locally owned streets. The FHWA will grant waivers for the fair market value requirement, but all waiver requests to the FHWA must come through PennDOT.

PennDOT will apply its existing guidance to all requests for non-highway use of state-designated and federal-aid highways. Not all events, however, will require PennDOT special event permits. PennDOT will be issuing updated policy on FHWA approval for non-state highways soon. Contact your local Engineering District for guidance. [Click here](#) for PennDOT's current Guidance for Temporary Non-Highway Use of Right-of-Way.

2020 Census: Did you Know?

The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students, and younger children, such as:

- Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology.
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches.
- Maternal and child health programs.

PSATS is encouraging all townships to remind township residents to complete the 2020 Census. Remember, September 17th is Township Census Response Day!



Legislation & Policy



House Adds Additional Session Days

The House announced they will return to non-voting session on August 31 and will convene for voting session on September 1 and 2.

Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee Hearing on Fire and EMS Issues

On August 24th, the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee held a hearing on fire and EMS issues in Pike County. The hearing included a discussion on the Pike County 2018 Assessment of Emergency Medical Services Report, an update on the SR 6 commission, which was tasked with studying the commonwealth's fire and emergency medical services and issued a final report in November of 2018, making recommendations to strengthen and preserve these public safety services. The committee also heard testimony on Senate Bill 1274, which is a recently introduced bill that would amend the municipal authorities act to allow for the creation of countywide EMS

authorities. [Click here](#) to watch the hearing.

Learn

[Webinar - Innovation For Emergency Geohazard Mitigation - 8/26/20](#)

In Pennsylvania, Township Managers and Maintenance Professionals are increasingly faced with emergency geohazard (landslides, rockfalls, sinkholes, mine subsidence) events that impact critical infrastructure and local transportation networks. As the number of geohazard impacts continue to go up, funding is often being reduced, so innovative solutions and contracting are needed. This webinar, presented by Chris Ruppen, P.G., Pennsylvania Client Services Manager with GeoStabilization International, will discuss innovative stabilization tools available, the role of preventative maintenance and the importance of a safe and timely response. Several recent case studies will be presented that depict stabilization of local roads that were impacted by geohazards. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Points. [Click here](#) to register.



[So Where Is The Ambulance? - Virtual - 8/26/20](#)

This session will focus on the future of ambulance service and why all levels of government need to be concerned. Topics will include the EMS business model, current funding mechanisms, and short- and long-term solutions. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register.



CDL - Probable Cause Training For CDL Supervisory Personnel - Virtual Training - 9/8/20

Participants will learn what to do if they suspect or verify that a CDL employee is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol while on duty. Each attendee will receive a comprehensive student handout packet containing relevant instructional material. Each participant who completes the workshop will receive a certificate of attendance at supervisory personnel training for permanent retention in their employer's files. This training is required at least once for all personnel who have any supervisory responsibilities for CDL employees. All your CDL and CMV employees will benefit from attending this workshop. Eligible for 3 PMGA Public Safety points. [Click here](#) to register.

2020 Virtual Fall Solicitors Seminar - 9/8/20

In this two-hour Solicitors (Virtual) Fall Seminar, learn from experts on ways township solicitors can aid their townships unlock the value of passive public assets through solar development and about handling challenging ethics issues during these unprecedented times. Eligible for 2 Hours CLE (1 Substantive & 1 Ethics) and/or 2 Administrative PMGA points. [Click here](#) to see full agenda and register.



For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org>.



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