



January 22, 2021

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## Latest News

### **National Blonde Brownie Day**

Today is National Blonde Brownie Day and recognizes a treat often referred to as blondies. Almost everyone knows that a blonde brownie is similar to a chocolate brownie. In place of cocoa, bakers use brown sugar when making this delicious brownie, giving it a sweet-tooth-satisfying molasses flavor! In these challenging times, take a moment to share a snack!

### **PSATS Submits Comments on Conowingo Dam WIP**

PSATS submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan to address the sediment discharges to the Chesapeake Bay from the Conowingo Dam.

The letter asked for the EPA to support the creation of a wider menu of cost-effective financing options, including the development of credit trading to maximize the reduction in pollutants and sediments without bankrupting communities and shutting down economic growth. In addition, the letter urged any effort to impose reductions in nutrient or sediment discharges to equitably allocate responsibility between point and non-point sources on a proportionate basis to their discharges. [Click here](#) to view the letter.

### **Biden Signs Executive Orders on COVID-19 Response**

Yesterday, President Joe Biden signed a series of executive orders to address the COVID-19 pandemic. They include orders to use the Defense Production Act to address critical shortages in items needed for vaccinating and testing people and a full reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for testing and vaccination costs. Two new federal directives, which are already in place in Pennsylvania, include

a new federal requirement to wear masks on planes and buses, in airports, and on other forms of public transportation as well as to provide safety guidance for workplaces. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control extended the current order temporarily halting [residential evictions](#) until at least March 31, 2021. [Click here](#) for more.

### **DEP to Release Chapter 102 ePermit System**

On Monday, the state Department of Environmental Protection plans to release its Chapter 102 ePermit system, which DEP believes will help streamline the permit process for applicants and DEP. Chapter 102 permits are required for construction activities involving one or more acres of earth disturbance, timber harvesting, and road maintenance activities involving 25 or more acres of earth disturbance and oil and gas and other activities involving five or more acres of earth disturbance. [Click here](#) for more.

### **IFO Monthly Report Features Turnpike Traffic Decline, Price Increases**

The Independent Fiscal Office posted a monthly economic update featuring a report on the 26% decline in Pennsylvania Turnpike traffic in 2020 compared to 2019. The number of passenger vehicle trips declined by 30% while commercial vehicle trips fell 3.5%.

Another spotlight is on the Consumer Price Index and price increases for some items, such as used cars and household appliances, and decreases for car insurance and motor fuel. [Click here](#) to read the report.

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## Legislation & Policy



The Senate will convene for non-voting session today. Watch session live [here](#).

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Learn

## [CMV/CDL Records Management - Virtual Training - 1/26/21](#)

This virtual training workshop will review CMV/CDL employee and vehicle paperwork, including pre-employment inquiries regarding a CDL applicant's records in the FMCSA Clearinghouse; requests for CMV driver's license information from PennDOT; annually reviewing each CDL drivers records in the Clearinghouse; CMV daily vehicle inspection, maintenance, and repair reports; the employer's required policy on CDL drug and alcohol testing; and a general overview of all the CDL regulations. This class is eligible for 3 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.

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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](mailto:morningnews@psats.org).

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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors  
4855 Woodland Drive  
Enola, PA 17025

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