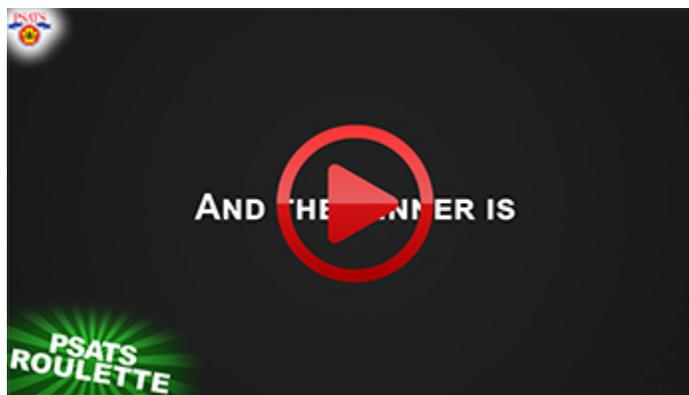




February 23, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's PSATS Roulette | Step Into the Winners' Circle

Get your township the recognition it deserves. PSATS has a handful of awards programs to help you step into the winners' circle, and some are accepting applications now. (1:19)

Latest News

LTAP Highlights Pub 213 Changes that Affect Municipalities

The March 2021 version of Publication 213, Temporary Traffic Control Guidelines, contains a variety of updates and enhancements to information about temporary work zones. Many of the updates clarify previous information in the publication and were not changes per se to PennDOT policy. For example, the requirement for using a shadow vehicle while mowing did not change. Rather, information about this traffic control

measure, including a new drawing and notes (PATA 307), were added to the publication.

Other updates to Publication 213, however, did affect municipalities, including the following:

- Under definitions, the **duration of a short-term operation** was extended from less than 24 hours to less than 72. Since most local maintenance activities are short-term operations, this provides municipalities with more time to conduct such activities while still following the short-term PATA drawings.
- **Sign legibility minimum distance requirements** based on the speed of the road were added to Note A-2.
- Also under Note A-2, **flagger positioning** was changed from 40 feet minimum distance from the first channelizing device to a range of 25 to 100 feet.
- With the addition of PATA 116B, **short-term closures of low-volume roads** with fewer than 1,500 vehicles per day may now use a red-arrow detour.
- New guidance is provided for **intersection traffic control options**, such as painting crosswalks, stop bars, turn arrows, and other markings, at tee- (PATA 109 series) and four-way intersections (PATA 110 series).
- In PATA 109 and 110, newly added drawings depict temporary traffic control that must be in place at **two-way stop, all-way stop, traffic signals, and other permanent traffic control locations**, for example, when maintenance is performed on pavement markings, such as crosswalks, stop bars, and turn arrows, near intersections.
- Newly added figures (PATA GA 06 series) show the **placement of signs** that are required on side roads that intersect with roads where temporary traffic control is in place.
- New figures (PATA GA 13 and GA14 A/B) address **hills, curves, and other obstructions** that could impact sight lines to flaggers and traffic control devices.
- New figures (PATA GA 15 series) address **temporary pavement markings for seal coat operations**.

[Click here](#) for Publication 213. [Click here](#) to access a free recorded LTAP virtual drop-in session. LTAP will also hold two free webinars March 18 and 19 on temporary traffic control at work zones, during which the 2021 updates will be covered. [Click here](#) to register for the March 18 session. [Click here](#) to register for the March 19 session.

Wolf Provides Additional Details on Natural Gas Severance Tax

Gov. Tom Wolf has provided some detail on his plans for spending revenues from a natural gas severance tax, which is estimated to bring in \$300 million per year and would be used to pay debt service on a multi-billion-dollar injection for workforce development, investments in business and communities, and broadband expansion. *It is PSATS'*

understanding that this proposal would preserve impact fee revenues.

The workforce development prong would build on the bipartisan [Keystone Economic Development and Workforce Command Center](#). The governor is proposing a multi-billion-dollar injection into the workforce development system to provide rapid re-employment assistance to workers impacted by the pandemic and address barriers to employment. The proposal would address teaching new skills, apprenticeships, training opportunities, and childcare.

Investments in business and communities would focus on expanding many existing programs, such as Business in Our Sites, fostering entrepreneurs, and providing strategic planning opportunities for municipalities, including expansion of the Municipal Assistance Program, the doubling of distressed communities in Act 47 (from 43 to adding in excess of 60 additional communities), and Strategic Management Planning Program. The plan also calls for building out high-speed internet in unserved areas of the commonwealth. [Click here](#) for more.

Reminder: Federal SAFER Fire Grant Applications Due March 12

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants **until March 12**. About 300 grants are available for a total funding of \$355 million. Career, volunteer, and hybrid departments are eligible to apply.

Volunteer and hybrid companies may use funds to assist fire departments with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with or trained in the operations of firefighting and emergency response. Funds may also be used for career and hybrid companies to hire new, additional firefighters, change the status of part-time or paid on-call volunteer firefighters to full-time firefighters, rehire laid off firefighters, or retain firefighters facing layoff. [Click here](#) for more information.

PennDOT Extends Expiration Dates for CDL Licenses

The state Department of Transportation has extended expiration dates for commercial driver's licenses and commercial learner's permits through March 31, 2021. This applies to CDL licenses and learner's permits that were scheduled to expire from March 16, 2020, through March 31, 2021.

Drivers with commercial licenses by the extensions that have not yet renewed are encouraged to renew as soon as possible but no later than March 31, 2021. **Please note that no further extensions will be given.** The extension deadlines on non-commercial driver's licenses, photo identification cards, learner's permits, and camera cards expired on August 31. [Click here](#) for more information.

National Banana Bread Day

February 23rd annually recognizes a well-known food holiday, National Banana Bread Day.

Bakers know that to make sweet and delicious banana bread, they need to use fully ripe, mashed bananas. The resulting quick bread is moist and almost cake-like. And while some recipes call for yeast, most don't. Either way, the finished product makes a tasty sliced snack. Toast it and add butter for an even more satisfying treat!

Legislation & Policy



The Senate will reconvene for session today, February 23. Watch session live [here](#).

[Click here](#) to watch today's House Appropriations Committee budget hearings.

Learn

[Webinar - Setting Up Stormwater Management Fees - 2/24/21](#)

The pressure on municipal leaders across Pennsylvania just keeps growing to do more to manage stormwater. No longer does stormwater management mean just piping flows to the closest stream. Now, communities are experiencing more frequent flooding, MS4 permit mandates, and eroding streambanks. This is over and above the routine operation of an aging storm sewer. The uncertainties of 2020 have many municipalities thinking again about a fairly-collected and reliable source of revenue to support even their basic stormwater activities. In this session, Steve Hann of Hamburg, Rubin,



Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin, PC and Nathan Walker of Gannett Fleming, Inc. will discuss how a stormwater user fee, when properly established, can be a transparent, flexible, and equitable way for municipalities to set and achieve a long-term vision for water quality and flood control goals that meet the needs of their residents and businesses. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Works point. Eligible for 1 CLE credit. [Click here](#) to register.

[Flagger Training - 3/2/21 - Erie County \(p.m.\)](#)

This instructor-led Flagger Training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes). [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

[Right-to-Know Law, Sunshine and Ethics, Oh My! - Virtual Class - 3/2/21](#)

as your township received bad publicity because of a misstep involving the Right-to-Know Law, Sunshine Act or Ethics Act? Not sure whether you or your township officials/employees are complying with your obligations under any of these laws? Or are you an experienced township official/employee just looking for a refresher? If you answered yes to any of these, you should take this class, which will provide best practices on how to more efficiently handle tricky (and common) RTKL requests, ensure smooth, and legal, public meetings (including remote meetings), avoid tripping yourself up with conflicts of interest and other Ethics Act problems, and much more. This course is eligible for 3 PMGA Administration points and 3 CLE credits (separate fee required for CLEs). [Click here](#) to register.



[Flagger Training - 3/9/21 - Allegheny County \(p.m.\)](#)

This instructor-led Flagger Training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes). [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Webinar - Understanding Sick Leave During a Global Pandemic - 3/23/21](#)

This webinar, presented by Neil Morris and Gabriel Celli of Offit Kurman, will be aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of the key changes to leave requirements, best practices, avoiding common misconceptions and pitfalls, and the interplay between these changes and the FMLA, ADA, state and local laws, and current leave policies that are already in existence. As laws are hastily enacted we have seen many questions arise over when and how a certain rule is to be applied. This has prompted guidance and regulations that are continuing to change and be updated; employers are wise to stay up-to-date on how these changes have impacted their workforce and, specifically, the administration of their leave policies. Eligible for 1 PMGA Administration point. Eligible for 1 Continuing Legal Education Credit (CLE). [Click here](#) to register.



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.



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