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March 23, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's PSATS Roulette | Lots to Learn

We're kicking off the PSATS Conference Virtual Workshop Series on Monday, April 26. Watch to find out about our new Virtual Conference Workshop Pass and the special savings for 2021 conference registrants. (2:16)

Latest News

One More Chance for Virtual Town Hall on Federal Aid for Your Township

Due to overwhelming demand, PSATS added a second Town Hall on Federal Aid for Townships that **will take place today at 10 a.m.**

Join PSATS staff for our second Virtual Town Hall on *What the American Rescue Plan Means for Your Township*. With the recent passage of the American Rescue Plan Act, \$13 billion is coming to Pennsylvania, including \$7.5 billion to the commonwealth and \$1 billion to municipalities with populations of less than 50,000. As a result, EVERY Pennsylvania township will receive funds. These township amounts will range from a low near \$1,000 to a high of \$8.6 million. [Click here](#) to see how much your township will receive.

While many of the details are still being worked out at the federal and state levels, this PSATS Virtual Town Hall will provide critical information about the timing of the funding, permitted and prohibited uses of the funds, and more. [Click here](#) to register for the town hall.

Call in Tonight and Stake Your Claim to Local Funding Support

PSATS is urging township officials to participate in a Public Forum to be held by the state Department of Transportation from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. this evening. The forum will feature Secretary of Transportation Yassmin Gramian, P.E., who will be answering questions and collecting feedback on the Department's long-term planning efforts, including its 12-Year Program, Long-Range Transportation Plan, and the Freight Movement Plan. These plans help PennDOT develop its funding and project priorities for the future.

ONLINE PUBLIC FORUM

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Yassmin Gramian, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation
and STC Chair

Three Key Initiatives:

- 12-Year Program
- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Freight Movement Plan

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Register Today!
TalkPaTransportation.com

Township officials should stress the importance of the partnership between local and state government in delivering our transportation system, including roads and bridges, to our mutual constituents. Local officials efficiently maintain their portion of the system with

To register for this free event, [click here](#). Note that registration is desired, but not required. [Click here](#) to livestream the forum. Questions may be submitted during the Q&A session or in advance by registering or emailing RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov. To learn more about the plans, [click here](#).

Township officials are also encouraged to take a few minutes to complete a survey by [clicking here](#) and telling PennDOT which priorities are important to you. Responses are due April 14.

Commonwealth Updates Masking Order to Follow CDC Guidance

Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam has revised Pennsylvania's Universal Face Coverings order to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's current public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people.

Fully vaccinated people may:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

For now, fully vaccinated people must continue to take precautions in public, such as wearing a mask and physical distancing, or when visiting unvaccinated people at increased risk for severe COVID-19; avoid medium and large in-person gatherings; follow employer guidance; and get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. [Click here](#) for more.

IFO Monthly Report Features Increase in Pennsylvania Home Values, Refinancing

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) posted a monthly economic update featuring recent data showing that Pennsylvania home values grew 10.9% in the fourth quarter of 2020, a report on home prices and refinancing, and the current state of employment in Pennsylvania. [Click here](#) to learn more.

State Government to Generate 50% of Electricity Usage from Solar

Gov. Tom Wolf announced an initiative to produce nearly 50 percent of state government's electricity through new solar energy arrays in 6 counties totaling 191-megawatts, which will go into operation on January 1, 2023. The administration says this is the largest solar commitment by any government in the U.S. to date. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Reminder: Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing for 814 Area Code Begins April 3rd

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is reminding everyone within the 814-area code that 10-digit dialing will be mandatory for all telephone calls in the region beginning on Saturday, April 3, 2021. Now is the time to confirm that your mobile and landline phones and tablets are set with 10-digit numbers, as well as alarm and security systems, Internet dial-up systems, voicemail and call-forwarding and any other device that can save, store and automatically dial phone numbers. [Click here](#) for more.

National Puppy Day

Observed each year on March 23rd. National Puppy Day celebrates the unconditional love

without a doubt, there are squeals of delight when there are puppies around!

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session today, March 23. Watch session live [here](#).

House Passes Motorcycle Procession Legislation

Yesterday, the House passed HB 113 which would amend the Vehicle Code to authorize organized motorcycle processions, except within cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Specifically, HB 113 would authorize a designated member of an organized motorcycle procession to direct, control, or regulate traffic. This legislation would also require the organized motorcycle procession consist of at least 10 motorcycle drivers and meet the following criteria; be conducted between the hours of 8 AM and sunset, be sponsored by a corporation or a nonprofit organization, be conducted for memorial or charitable purposes. Additionally, at least 10 percent of the total number of motorcycle drivers in the procession must wear a Class 2 yellow reflective vest and the sponsor of the procession must notify the affected municipalities of the planned procession no later than 14 days in advance. HB 113 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

Learn

[Webinar - Sinkholes - A Perplexing Geologic Condition - 3/24/21](#)

This discussion will provide you with an uncomplicated explanation of geology in Pennsylvania, review the triggers that cause land subsidence and give an overview of some basic investigative tools that your township can employ to better prepare itself to manage potential and actual sinkholes. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[2021 Engineers Virtual Spring Seminar - 4/19 & 4/20/2021](#)

The 2021 Spring Township Engineer's Seminar is a 2-day on-line event held this year from 8:30 -11:30 a.m. the mornings of Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20, 2021. [Click here](#) for agenda and to register.



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