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April 30, 2021

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## Latest News

### **PennDOT Releases Updated Transportation Funding Study for Public Input**

The state Department of Transportation is exploring sustainable transportation funding options and has released a revised version of its PennDOT Pathways Program, which contains ideas for filling the \$8.1 billion annual highway and bridge transportation funding gap. The revised document provides additional details about the funding options being studied and incorporates public comment from the first round into the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study results. The Department is requesting public feedback on the plan **until June 1, 2021**. To view a website outlining the findings, [click here](#). To read the study, [click here](#).

Through the PennDOT Pathways program, the department is conducting an extensive initiative into near- and long-term transportation funding solutions for Pennsylvania. Options under consideration include the Major Bridge Public-Private Partnership (P3) Initiative, which would fund the reconstruction or replacement of the identified bridges through tolling. Other options include corridor tolling, managed lanes, congestion pricing, and a road user charge.

To comment, email [PennDOTPathways@pa.gov](mailto:PennDOTPathways@pa.gov), call 717-325-6129, or mail comments to PA Department of Transportation, Keystone Building, 400 North St, Fifth Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Please copy PSATS Government Relations Director Joe Gerdes on submitted comments to [jgerdes@psats.org](mailto:jgerdes@psats.org). PSATS will review the study and provide comments in accordance with existing policies and resolutions. To view PSATS comments on the original plan, [click here](#).

### **FCC Announces Start Date for \$50 Emergency Broadband Credit**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced May 12 as the start date for the Emergency Broadband Benefit program, which will help make broadband more affordable by providing a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute at least \$10 towards the purchase price.

Eligible households include those participating under the current Lifeline program, which receive benefits under a free and reduced-price school lunch or meet other income eligibility criteria. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### **National Prepare-a-thon Day**

National PrepareAthon! Day on April 30th reminds us that crises happen suddenly. Being prepared needs to happen now, not later.

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods or wildfires require us to make decisions with little or no warning. Do you have an emergency plan in place with your family in the event of an emergency situation? Does your township have a plan to protect your residents?

PrepareAthon! Day offers tools and resources for communities and citizens that help them to prepare their businesses, families, and schools in the event of a disaster. Large or small, it takes members of the community getting involved to help keep a crisis from turning into a tragedy. While our emergency resources supply one arm of the response team, many others step forward. Some help with a supply chain while others coordinate medical personnel. Communication is also vital to a successful plan. When everyone has a blueprint, our plans run more smoothly. Check in with TEMA (Emergency Management Association) for more details on emergency planning for your community. [Click here](#) for more info.

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## Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

**[Fire & EMS Issues in Your Township: A Panel Discussion - Virtual - 5/3/21](#)**

It's no secret that many townships are struggling to provide adequate fire and EMS services. Attend this session to hear from and question a panel of fire and EMS leaders about trends, best practices, and other public safety issues. [click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[The Pros and Cons of Fire Department Stipend Programs - Virtual - 5/3/21](#)**

The presenter will discuss their implementation, successes and failures, and their relationship to regionalization. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[Dealing With Constantly Changing Public Safety Challenges- Virtual - 5/11/21](#)**

This session will focus on how one township managed this eventful period of time. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[That Day You DIDN'T Make National Headlines! Creating Effective Police Policies - Virtual - 5/14/21](#)**

The presenters will explain how understanding current law, implementing good personnel practices and policies, and providing direction and leadership can help mitigate these problems. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**[Rx for Disaster: The Effects of COVID-19 on the EMS System - Virtual - 5/17/21](#)**

This workshop will focus on the impact of the pandemic on the commonwealth's EMS system, including the toll it's taken on agencies' finances and their workforces. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

4855 Woodland Drive  
Enola, PA 17025