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Newsletter of the Township Engineers Association

May 2021

The Township Engineer Is Now Monthly!

We are committed to giving you timely information so we have updated *The Township Engineer* and are emailing it monthly.

Look for quick bites about trending topics, pertinent news, upcoming training opportunities, and other interesting items.

We would love to hear what you think about the new format, plus any suggestions you may have. Drop us an email at engineers@psats.org or call Editor Brenda Wilt at (717) 763-0930, ext. 123.

Latest News

Mark Your Calendar for the Engineers Fall Seminar

Although the Engineers Virtual Spring Seminar is still in the rearview mirror, plans are already underway for the Engineers Fall Seminar, which will return to live, in-person sessions in several locations.

Scheduled dates and locations include:

- **September 28** — Mohegan Sun Pocono, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne Co.
- **October 14** — PSATS Education Center, Enola, Cumberland Co.
- **October 21** — Valley Forge Casino Resort, King of Prussia, Montgomery Co.

To register for the session of your choice, go to learn.psats.org and choose Seminars.

Sanko Appointed to Transportation Commission

PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko has been appointed by Gov. Tom Wolf to the newly created [Transportation Revenue Options Commission](#). The group is charged with exploring comprehensive funding recommendations for Pennsylvania's transportation system. Sanko will represent local government on the commission.

"There's no magic pot of gold at the end of the rainbow when it comes to paying for roads and bridges," Sanko says. "I look forward to representing local government to explore not only funding options but also cost controls and mandate relief to make projects more affordable."

Wolf proposes phasing out Pennsylvania's gas tax, which he said is becoming an unreliable source for funding Pennsylvania's transportation network. The tax, which is the source of liquid fuels funding, has seen decreases for two straight years due to more fuel-efficient cars and electric vehicles, as well as reduced driving from state COVID-19 restrictions.

The commission will meet over the next few months and develop a report by August 1. For more about the commission and the funding ideas under consideration, visit the [commission's webpage](#).

FHWA Launches a 'Do-It-Yourself' Website for Municipalities to Create Road Safety Plans

The [Federal Highway Administration](#) (FHWA) recently unveiled a website to help communities reduce serious and fatal crashes on their roads. The [Local Road Safety Plan Do-It-Yourself \(DIY\) website](#) includes resources that municipalities and their partners can use to create their own safety plans.

Approximately 40% of the nation's fatalities occur on locally owned roads, resulting in an average of 12,000 deaths each year. Local road safety plans are an FHWA proven safety countermeasure that municipalities can use to identify at-risk locations on their roads and deploy cost-effective safety solutions. You can learn more about these plans [HERE](#).

The DIY site can be accessed [HERE](#). For more information about the website or safety plans, email Hillary Isebrands at hillary.isebrands@dot.gov or Jerry Roche at jerry.roche@dot.gov.

Transportation Innovation: What Happened in 2020?

The [Pennsylvania State Transportation Innovation Council](#) (STIC) has announced that the 2020 STIC Year-End Report is available in an online and interactive format. The report highlights accomplishments in transportation innovation across Pennsylvania last year.

Featuring several videos and in-depth articles, the 2020 STIC Year-End Report showcases:

- updates on innovations currently under development;
- newly introduced innovations;
- Every Day Counts innovations;
- STIC Incentive Program project introductions and updates; and
- innovation partnerships and successes.

Click [HERE](#) to read the report. For more information, please contact the STIC Team at penndotstic@pa.gov.

Note: Please use Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge to view the report.

Grant Opportunities Available for Stormwater, Watershed, Transportation Projects

State and federal agencies are offering the following grant opportunities:

- **Growing Greener Grants** — The state [Department of Environmental Protection](#) is accepting applications for [Growing Greener Plus Grants](#) until **June 25**. The department is prioritizing projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution, including nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment pollution from agricultural and stormwater runoff. For more information, see the April 17, 2021, edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin [HERE](#).
- **Watershed (Section 319) Grants** — The state [Department of Environmental Protection](#) is accepting applications for [Watershed Planning and Restoration Grants](#) until **June 25**. The department is prioritizing projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution in targeted watersheds with watershed implementation plans. For more information, see the April 17, 2021, edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin [HERE](#).
- **Federal Transportation Grants** — \$1 billion in federal discretionary grant funding is available through the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) for all sizes of communities. Funding for this highly competitive program comes from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. Applications are due **July 12** and must be submitted through [grants.gov](#). To learn more, visit the [RAISE webpage](#).

Training Opportunities

[Technical Assistance Programs Available from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers \(Virtual\) — 5/4/21](#)

Learn about the technical assistance programs that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed to help townships with flooding and water resource management. These include the Planning Assistance to States and Floodplain Management Services programs, which offer federal and non-federal cost-sharing, partnering opportunities, and technical assistance.



[MS4 Pollutant Control Measures \(Virtual\) — 5/5/21](#)

This session is for MS4 communities that are preparing to address the pollutant control measure phase of their permit. The presenters will identify steps you should take now and in the future.



[Full-Depth Reclamation to Upgrade Distressed Roads \(Virtual\) — 5/12/21](#)

Full-depth reclamation (FDR) and cold-in-place recycling (CIR) are becoming more popular within Pennsylvania for reconstruction and repair of distressed roads. This workshop will explain what is needed to select, design, bid, and construct an FDR or CIR project.



[Landslides, Rock Falls, Sinkholes, Mine Subsidence: Minimizing Geohazards \(Virtual\) — 5/13/21](#)

Has your client township experienced a geohazard — landslide, rockfall, sinkhole, or mine subsidence — that impacted critical infrastructure and roads? As geohazard impacts increase, funding is often being reduced, which requires innovative solutions. This workshop will focus on innovative stabilization tools, the role of preventative maintenance, and the importance of a safe and timely response to these events.



[Stormwater Mapping Done Easily and With Purpose: Conewago Township Tells How \(Virtual\) — 5/17/21](#)

Learn about the experiences of Conewago Township, Adams County, which was looking for a mapping solution for its MS4 permit that also allowed it to collect, manage, and maintain these assets moving forward. With the help of Gannett Fleming, the township set up a collection system that was easy to use, cost-effective, and not only enabled employees to record updates and inspection criteria but also intelligently map the township's stormwater network.



[MS4 Municipal Partnerships \(Virtual\) — 5/19/21](#)

Attend this session to learn about PennDOT's MS4 municipal partnerships that are helping local governments and authorities save money.



[PennDOT's RoadMaP Program \(Virtual\) — 5/19/21](#)

This session will provide an overview of PennDOT's RoadMaP Program. Topics will include core maintenance activities, low-volume road resurfacing, alternative low-cost treatments, and agility.



[It's Not Just a Chip Seal! \(Virtual\) — 5/20/21](#)

This workshop will explore all the chip seal essentials to ensure your projects are a success. Attendees will learn about proper site selection and prep, lab testing, aggregate and emulsion selection, quality assurance, public education, fog seal treatment, and bid writing. The presenters will also share new online tools that can help before, during, and after a chip seal project.



[How to Implement Ag Best Management Practices for MS4 Stormwater Credits \(Virtual\) — 5/25/21](#)

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has opened the door to allow MS4 permittees to meet their pollutant reduction requirements with agricultural best management practices on private land. This workshop will showcase the process that Lancaster County municipalities use to identify farms and farmers for these conservation practices and calculate pollutant reductions that DEP will accept.



[Pavement Preservation \(Virtual\) — 5/25/21](#)

This workshop will review and evaluate pavement preservation techniques.



[Get on Point With 3D Laser Scanning in Your Municipalities \(Webinar\) — 6/9/21](#)

Learn how municipalities can accelerate project completion, reduce costs, and utilize data collection for future developments with the help of 3D laser scanning. This webinar will explore the 3D laser scanner equipment and software, applications, and the advantages of this digital surveying technology method. Do not miss your chance to be entered in a drawing to win one of three giveaway prizes!





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