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Newsletter of the Township Engineers Association

October 2021

Past Issues of This Newsletter Are Now Available on PSATS' Website

Looking for information in a past *Township Engineer* newsletter? Access previous editions at www.psats.org. Log in and look under the "Newsroom" tab.

Latest News

More Unfunded Mandates Coming from Harrisburg

The Wolf Administration has released its "Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan 2021" and is calling for statewide action on climate change by all sectors, including local governments. Mandates on flood mitigation and more restrictive building codes are sure to add new costs to local communities. The document sets Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas reduction goals at 26% by 2025 and 80% by 2050 compared to 2005 levels. The 278-page document details 18 actions to meet statewide emissions goals if carried out by the affected sectors. [Click here](#) to review the plan for an indication of how it could impact your municipal clients.

PennDOT Data Shows Roundabouts Reduce Fatalities, Injuries, and Crashes

The state Department of Transportation has announced that fatalities, injuries, and crashes decreased overall at 26 roundabouts at 23 locations in the time since they were built.

PennDOT recently reviewed data for 26 roundabouts on state routes at intersections that were previously stop- or signal-controlled. These roundabouts were selected based on having at least three years of crash data available before and after the roundabouts were built. Department data based on police-submitted crash reports spanning the years 2000 through 2020 shows that fatalities at these locations were reduced by 100%, and the total number of crashes decreased by 22%. In addition, suspected serious injuries were reduced by 81%, and suspected minor injuries were reduced by 36%. [Click here](#) to read the report.

Don't Miss These Grant Opportunities

Funding Available to Help Restore Water Quality and Habitats of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), is soliciting proposals to restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

NFWF's 2022 Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) Grants Program aims to accelerate the rate and scale of water quality improvements specifically through the coordinated and collaborative efforts of sustainable, regional-scale partnerships in implementing proven water quality improvement practices more cost-effectively. Proposals to implement water quality improvement projects or practices at the pilot or demonstration scale, through ad-hoc project-scale partnerships, or via small-scale applications of new or innovative technologies are encouraged to apply for funding through the separate Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program, which is anticipated for release in early 2022.

NFWF expects to award \$7 million to \$10 million in grants through the INSR program in 2022, contingent on funding availability. Major funding comes from the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office, with other important contributions by Altria Group, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

All prospective applicants are required to consult with NFWF before submitting an application and no later than November 15, 2021, with final proposals due by 11:59 p.m. Monday, November 29, 2021. NFWF program staff will confirm the applicant's eligibility and provide initial feedback on the proposed project's alignment with the grant program priorities. Prospective applicants should contact Jake Reilly at jake.reilly@nfwf.org to schedule project consultations. NFWF is also scheduling informational webinars for interested applicants. More information can be found [here](#).

Prepare Now for DCNR C2P2 Grant Program

The 2022 grant application period for the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) will open January 18, 2022, and applications will be accepted until **4 p.m. April 6, 2022**. All applications should be submitted through the [DCNR Grants Customer Service Portal](#).

Although the application period is a few months away, it's never too early to contact your [regional advisor](#) to discuss your project idea and ways to make it more competitive for state grants.

Anyone interested in applying for C2P2 grants in 2022 is strongly encouraged to attend one of three virtual workshops coming up in November. Use the links below to register for a workshop based on the county where your project will take place:

- [Eastern counties – Thursday, Nov. 4](#)
- [Central counties – Wednesday, Nov. 10](#)
- [Western counties – Tuesday, Nov. 16](#)

Legislative Report

Right-to-Know Vexatious Requester Relief Passes Senate

The Senate has passed SB 552, which would allow townships to petition the Office of Open Records for relief from a vexatious requester. A "vexatious requester" would be an individual who uses the Right-to-Know Law with malicious intent to intimidate, harass, or punish an agency, resulting in the waste of taxpayer dollars and resources. PSATS supports SB 552, which would address a PSATS resolution. The bill is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

Training Opportunities

Calling All Subject Matter Experts

PSATS continues to host numerous in-person and virtual educational events targeted at both township engineers and municipal officials. If you are interested in sharing your expertise for an in-person or virtual presentation on any topic of interest to our audience, please contact Education Director Scott Coburn at scoburn@psats.org.

Fall 2021 Virtual Engineers Seminar (PDH eligible)

Save the date for the Fall 2021 Virtual Engineers Seminar, which will be offered on-line October 21. To register, click [HERE](#). If you registered for a previous in-person session, you should have been contacted by PSATS staff about moving the registration to Oct. 21.

[PSATS SEO Precertification Academy – November 1-5, 2021](#)

Are any of your employees looking to become sewage enforcement officers (SEOs)? The PSATS SEO Precertification Academy is designed to teach the basic skills prospective SEOs need to know to work for a local agency. Whether you work for a municipality in need of a good SEO or are considering the SEO field as a career, you will benefit from attending the academy. Not only is it a prerequisite to taking the commonwealth's SEO certification exam but it also prepares attendees to enter the multi-faceted world of local agency sewage enforcement.

[The PSATS Zoning Academy – December 7-9, 2021](#)

The new PSATS Zoning Academy, which will be held in-person **December 7-9** at the PSATS Education Center in Enola, is designed to give attendees a foundational understanding of all important aspects of zoning in Pennsylvania. It will include small-group and individualized exercises and post-academy assessments and will leave attendees well-prepared for the Certified Zoning Officials exam.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Legal foundations and framework of zoning
- Overview of key elements of the Municipalities Planning Code
- Review of important zoning terminology and elements
- Permitting process
- Use regulations and zoning districts
- Enforcement
- Zoning hearing boards
- New and emerging zoning uses

This will also be a great refresher for seasoned zoning officials and a good start for those looking to get into the zoning field. Watch your email and this newsletter for more details in the coming weeks.

At the conclusion of the PSATS Zoning Academy, attendees who want to join the Pennsylvania Association of Zoning Officials (PAAZO) may take the Certified Zoning Official examination for an additional \$75 fee. This prestigious designation is currently held by fewer than 200 people statewide.

Registration fees:

- \$249 for members (*academy only*)
- \$299 for non-members (*academy only*)
- \$75 additional fee to take the CZO exam (*includes one-year PAAZO membership, a savings of \$50*)

To register for the PSATS Zoning Academy, click [here](#).

[Webinar: Hot Topics In Planning: Storefront Vacancies, Recovery, & Multifamily Impacts – 10/13/21](#)

In this webinar, representatives of the Montgomery County Planning Commission will cover several new and emerging areas in the planning world and their efforts to address them. They will review the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on commercial environments and how those impacts might continue. They will also share suggestions on what municipalities and developers are doing or could do in the future to address the pandemic impacts on their commercial areas. In addition, they will address the uptick in the number of multifamily residential developments that have been proposed or are in development and review new research on the impacts of multifamily housing and how the COVID-19 pandemic impacts this residential segment.

[Webinar: How Capital Improvement Plans Position You To Maximize ROI And Reduce Costs – 10/27/21](#)

With a capital improvement plan, municipalities can take the guesswork out of infrastructure investment, identify their highest priority needs, and ensure they have the funds in place for repair and replacement before failure or regulatory action puts them at risk. Capital improvement plans are also a valuable tool for obtaining grants and loans. As Washington considers a major infrastructure funding bill, now is the time to get your capital improvement plan in place. Find out how in this webinar.

[Webinar: Efficiencies In Park And Open Space Management – 11/10/21](#)

Designed to emphasize the importance of parks and public open space as essential elements in community infrastructure, this webinar will highlight opportunities for land managers to improve maintenance, operational efficiencies, and sustainability efforts. Participants will also network in small groups to share best practices in resource management and capital planning across various industries that can be applied to public works, facilities, grounds, and public property stewardship.



Comments and suggestions about this monthly newsletter for members of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Engineers can be emailed to James Wheeler at jwheeler@psats.org.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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