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Township Engineer

Newsletter of the Township Engineers Association

November 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

Commonwealth Outlines Pennsylvania's Expected Share of Federal Infrastructure Funds

Gov. Tom Wolf outlined Pennsylvania's expected share of the new federal infrastructure package. Here are the highlights, based on historic formula funding:

- \$11.3 billion for federal-aid highways and \$1.6 billion for bridge infrastructure
- \$100 million minimum to provide high-speed internet access and lower prices for service
- \$1.5 billion for drinking water, including the elimination of lead pipes
- \$75 million to protect against droughts, heat, floods, and wildfires, as well as weatherization
- \$2.8 billion for mass transit
- \$355 million for airports
- \$171 million for electric vehicle chargers

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

PennDOT Accepting Public Comment on Bridge Tolling Proposals

The state Department of Transportation is currently accepting comments on the

following proposed bridge reconstruction and tolling projects as part of the Major Bridge Public-Private Partnership (P3). If you have comments or concerns on any of these projects, you are encouraged to submit comments online. Comments are due as follows:

- [I-78 Lenhartsville Bridge Replacement Project](#) (Berks County): November 24
- [I-83 South Bridge Project](#) (Dauphin County): November 24
- [I-80 Canoe Creek Bridges](#) (Clarion County): December 1
- [I-81 Susquehanna Project](#) (Susquehanna County): December 8
- [I-80 Nescopeck Creek Bridges](#) (Luzerne County): December 15
- [I-80 Over Lehigh River Bridge Project](#) (Luzerne and Carbon counties): December 17
- [I-80 North Fork Bridges Project](#) (Jefferson County): December 22

To submit comments, click on the bridge links above and scroll to the bottom of the page to provide your thoughts and concerns on the project. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about these proposed projects.

Learn More About PennDOT Connects

Are you interested in information on land use and transportation planning and free municipal resources? Opt-in to receive the monthly PennDOT Connects E-Newsletter. The newsletter will share information about the municipal resources available through PennDOT Connects. Click [HERE](#) to opt in.

To learn more about PennDOT Connects, click [HERE](#).

To learn more about PennDOT Connects' Municipal Resources, click [HERE](#).

DEP Publishes New Recycling Documents

DEP recently published several recycling documents that may be of interest to your municipal clients. These publications and others are available online at: <http://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/> (select Publications and then Waste Management).

Fact sheet on the current impacts of recycling in Pennsylvania: [Recycling in Pennsylvania.pdf 2520-FS-DEP5375 6/7/2023](#)

Informational Booklet – a simple guide to help residents and businesses understand recycling in Pennsylvania: [Guidelines for Recycling in Your Community.pdf 0110-BK-DEP5415 \(NEW\) 9/20/2023](#)

Fact sheets on implementing recycling programs at various commercial, institutional, and municipal establishments in Pennsylvania:

- [Recycling at Work in Pennsylvania.pdf 2520-FS-DEP5426 \(NEW\) 11/10/2023](#)
- [Recycling in Pennsylvania Apartments and Condominiums.pdf 2520-FS-DEP5427 \(NEW\) 11/10/2023](#)
- [Recycling in Pennsylvania Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities.pdf 2520-FS-DEP5428 \(NEW\) 11/10/2023](#)
- [Recycling in Pennsylvania Hotels and Motels.pdf 2520-FS-](#)

[DEP5414 \(NEW\) 9/14/2023](#)

- [Recycling in Pennsylvania Manufacturing and Warehouse Operations.pdf 2520-FS-DEP5409 \(NEW\) 9/8/2023](#)
- [Recycling in Pennsylvania Office Buildings.pdf 2520-FS-DEP5413 \(NEW\) 9/14/2023](#)
- [Recycling in Pennsylvania Restaurants and Taverns.pdf 2520-FS-DEP5412 \(NEW\) 9/13/2023](#)
- [Recycling in Pennsylvania Retail Operations.pdf 2520-FS-DEP5411 \(NEW\) 9/13/2023](#)
- [Recycling in Pennsylvania Schools, Colleges, and Universities.pdf 2520-FS-DEP5410 \(NEW\) 9/8/2023](#)

Don't Miss These Grant Opportunities

Grants Available for Severe Stream Erosion from Ida

Townships that experienced storm damage from Tropical Storm Ida may apply for grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service until December 8 to fund streambank stabilization activities. Projects must be in the following eligible counties: Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Chester, Huntingdon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and York. The funds will help local governments stabilize severely eroded stream banks that threaten homes, businesses, and utilities. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

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 must 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.

Legislative Report

The following is a summary of relevant legislation affecting townships that is under consideration by the General Assembly. Please note that the status of these bills may have changed.

Bonds for development improvements (SB 208/PN 177)

This bill would amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to clarify that a municipality may not require a developer to post a bond of more than 110% of the costs of the improvements. Would clarify that a municipality may retain 110% of the estimated cost of the remaining improvements.

Status: Before the House.

Restrictions on utility services prohibited (SB 275/PN 1163 and HB 1947/PN 2223)

This bill would prohibit municipalities from restricting access to any energy source and clarify that this bill does not affect municipal land use authority under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code or a municipality's ability to take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities and operations.

Status: SB 275 has passed the Senate and is before the House Local Government Committee. HB 1947 is before the House.

Electronic transmission of land use documents (SB 755/PN 943)

This bill would amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to give municipalities and counties the option to transmit land use documents electronically that they are currently required to submit to another entity for review and comment, such as proposed zoning ordinance amendments and comprehensive plans.

Status: Has passed the Senate and is pending committee assignment in the House.

Regulation of fireworks (SB 894/PN 1135)

This bill would prohibit the use of consumer fireworks between the hours of 11 p.m. and 10 a.m. except for July 2, 3, and 4 and December 31, when consumer fireworks could be used until 1 a.m. the following day. It would also increase fines for fireworks used in violation of state law from \$100 to up to \$1,000 for a first offense, up to \$2,500 for a second offense, and up to \$5,000 for a third or subsequent offense.

Status: Before the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

Boundary changes (HB 1877/PN 2309)

This bill would establish the Municipal Boundary Change Act to consolidate and standardize municipal code provisions that deal with boundary change but not mergers or consolidations and would allow municipalities to adjust a municipal boundary or settle a dispute over an unclear boundary by agreement.

Status: Before the House.

Regulation of fertilizer and professional applicators (SB 251/PN 1183)

This bill would regulate the application of fertilizer and professional fertilizer applicators to reduce excess levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Additionally, it would include a homeowner education program and require local governments that choose to have employees apply fertilizer to public property, including public parks, to obtain a fertilizer application license and employ at least one certified public applicator to manage the fertilizer applications and keep records of each application. Finally, it would clarify that local governments that use a licensed fertilizer application business would not need to follow these provisions.

Status: Has passed the Senate and is before the House.

Liability protection for recreation volunteers (HB 1694/PN 2324)

This bill would amend the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act to provide protection from liability for volunteers and volunteer organizations that care for, preserve, or maintain land for recreational purposes, recreation land, and nonprofits.

Status: Before 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.

Upcoming PSATS Educational Opportunities (many PDH eligible)

In-person Classes

[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. At the conclusion of the academy, attendees who want to become certified and 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)

[PSATS SEO Precertification Academy - March 2022](#)

The PSATS SEO Precertification Academy is designed to teach the basic skills a

future sewage enforcement officer (SEO) needs to know to work for a local agency. Whether you work for a municipality in need of a good SEO or are someone who is considering the SEO field as a career, you will want to check out the benefits of sending someone to or attending the academy yourself. Not only is the academy a prerequisite to taking the commonwealth's certification examination for SEOs, but you will leave the course better prepared to enter the multi-faceted world of a local agency SEO.

PowerPass-Eligible Webinars

[Webinar - Vehicle Automation and What Townships Should Know - 12/1/21](#)

Pennsylvania has always been at the forefront of innovation and industry so it should come as no surprise that the state is at the very epicenter of the rise in Automated Vehicles (AVs). What started with Carnegie Mellon University doing on-road testing a decade ago has expanded to eight authorized AV developers, one teleoperations developer, and a single personal delivery device. Based on information provided by these companies, testing is expected to occur in 56 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Join representatives of PennDOT as they share information about the current status of AV testing in Pennsylvania and what townships should know so that they and their residents can be better prepared for AVs.

[Webinar - The Benefits Of Grid-Independent Solar For Municipalities - 12/8/21](#)

This webinar will review the many benefits — cost-savings, long-term resiliency, and sustainability — that grid-independent solar operations can bring municipalities and municipal authorities. The session will present a case study of the University Area Joint Authority in State College, which incorporated a battery energy storage system into its original solar array and has since achieved roughly 80% grid-based energy independence at its wastewater treatment and reuse facilities.

Virtual Class

[The Code Officials Guide To Zoning - Virtual Class - 1/18/22](#)

This 90-minute online course provides a comprehensive overview of current zoning issues and problems as they relate to the Uniform Construction Code. Topics include an overview of the Municipalities Planning Code, zoning requirements and difficulties, responsibilities of building code officials to meet and manage zoning challenges, permit issuance and enforcement conflicts, violation letter requirements and templates, and legal issues in zoning.



2021 Sponsor
Township Engineers Association

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.



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