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March 2, 2022

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## Latest News

### **PennDOT, PSATS Announce Release of Liquid Fuels Funding**

The state Department of Transportation announced the release of the 2022 liquid fuels payments at a press conference yesterday that was joined by PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko. The press conference discussed the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and local governments' road and bridge needs. \$455.9 million in liquid fuels funds payments are available for 2022, approximately 1% more than last year. These funds will help 2,560 municipalities manage 78,000 miles of roads and 6,600 bridges longer than 20 feet.

"We have the fifth-largest state-maintained road system in the country, and the locally owned roadway network is even larger," PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Planning Larry Shifflet said. "The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's bridge funding will help with some local bridges, but we need to leverage all available state and local funding solutions to help our municipalities."

Local government unmet needs for roads and bridges is currently projected to be 3.9 billion expected to grow to 6.1 billion. Pennsylvania will receive \$1.6 billion in new bridge funds, with 15% committed to "off-system" local bridges from the BIL.

"We appreciate that PennDOT recognizes that local government is an important partner of the transportation network in Pennsylvania, being responsible for 2/3 of the road miles in the commonwealth," said PSATS Executive Director David Sanko. "This liquid fuels distribution is an integral part of local funding, but by no means enough to cover the costs of building and maintaining our portion of the network." [Click here](#) for more.

### **Inflation Hits State Revenues, Too**

The Independent Fiscal Office and state Department of Revenue have released February 2022 revenue reports. State General Fund collections year-to-date exceed estimates by nearly \$2.5 billion or 9.4%. The overage was primarily due to stronger-than-anticipated collections for the sales and use tax and personal income tax. Much of this is an extension of out-of-control inflation. PIT collections alone were 9.6% above estimate. February brought in \$2.4 billion in General Fund revenues.

The Motor License Fund received \$197 million in February, \$24.8 million below estimate. As fuel prices rise, people seem to be consolidating trips and driving less. The fund includes liquid fuels taxes and other license, fine, and fee revenues. Motor License collections for the fiscal year-to-date total \$1.8 billion, 2% above estimate.

[Click here](#) for the Independent Fiscal Office report. View the state Department of Revenue [press release here](#).

### **Learn More About WalkWorks Grant Opportunity**

WalkWorks is accepting grant applications from municipalities to assist with the development of Active Transportation Plans, Complete Streets policies and/or Vision Zero policies. These plans and policies establish activity-friendly routes that connect people to everyday destinations and opportunities for physical activity. Active transportation includes walking, wheeling or biking, and public transit. Applications are due May 13.

Interested township officials may participate in a non-mandatory webinar about the grant program on April 8. For more information, including program details and applications, [click here](#). Look for "Funding Opportunity Announcement" on the right side of the page.

### **Today in History.....**

On March 2, 1962, Philadelphia Warriors center Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points against the New York Knicks during a home game in Hershey, Pennsylvania. It was the first time that a professional basketball player had scored 100 points in a single contest; the previous record, 78, had been set by Chamberlain earlier in the season. During the game, Chamberlain sank 36 field goals and 28 foul shots, both league records.

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## Legislation & Policy



Yesterday, Joe Gerdes, PSATS' Director of Government Relations, testified before the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee on EMS issues. Gerdes cautioned the committee against trying to apply a one-size-fits-all solution to every municipality or region. Gerdes asked for new revenue raising options, including increasing the ambulance tax from .5 to 1.5 mills. Gerdes said that PSATS has heard from its members about the cost of training requirements and would like to see if there are alternative ways of offering some training and certifications. [Click here](#) to read the testimony.

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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.

### **[Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board - 3/15/22 - Virtual Class](#)**

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more.



### **[Fundamentals of Zoning – The Why and How of Zoning - Virtual Class - 3/22/22](#)**

The workshop is intended to educate both the newest supervisors and the ones who have seen it all. We will discuss the legal roles of supervisors and others, zoning hearings (including conditional uses), and several other important aspects of zoning ordinances that are often overlooked or misunderstood.



[2022 PAAZO Spring Educational Forum - 4/24/22](#)

This educational forum explores issues that zoning officers and planning and zoning officials face on a regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them.



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**Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

David M. Sanko, Executive Director  
4855 Woodland Drive  
Enola, PA 17025



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