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December 12, 2022

Latest News

PSATS Executive Director Discusses New Session, Broadband Maps

PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko recently recorded an episode of Behind the Headlines talk show, which will be aired beginning this week. On the show, produced by Susquehanna Valley Center, Sanko discussed expectations for Gov.-Elect Josh Shapiro and the new legislature, concerns with the recently released Federal Communications Commission's broadband maps, the future for transportation funding and electric vehicles, and PSATS 100th Conference. Watch the episode on PCN at this schedule or watch now by [clicking here](#).

Broadband Authority Holding Hearings on New FCC Maps; Challenges Due January 13

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority will hold listening sessions across the commonwealth **beginning tomorrow** to give Pennsylvanians the opportunity to learn about the Authority, federal funding for broadband, and the important role they have in reviewing the new Federal Communications Commission's [broadband access map](#). The map's accuracy is crucial for the commonwealth to receive sufficient federal funding to ensure high-speed internet access for all Pennsylvanians. **Challenges to the maps are due January 13**, and townships interested in ensuring that residents currently not served by land-based broadband have an opportunity for funding should visit the maps, provide input to the Authority, and submit challenges to inaccurate data.

"In today's world, having access to high-speed internet is a necessity," said Authority Executive Director Brandon Carson. "Pennsylvanians need broadband access for school, work, and to ensure public safety, and it is critical that we close the digital divide across the commonwealth. The more accurate we can make the

FCC map, the more we ensure we get a fair allocation of federal funding to expand broadband.”

The FCC’s broadband access map shows all broadband serviceable locations across the United States where fixed broadband internet access service is or can be installed. The commonwealth’s allocation of funding for broadband deployment under the federal infrastructure law is dependent upon the map being accurate.

Township officials should visit the map to search for their communities to determine whether the information listed by the FCC is accurate, specifically those areas in need of land-based broadband service. [Click here](#) to learn more about challenges, which anyone can submit, and [here for the map](#).

Here are the dates and locations for these in-person sessions. Hybrid sessions will allow for in-person and virtual participation. Registration is needed for virtual participation. [Click here for specific locations](#) and registration information.

- **December 13 at 10 a.m. in Beaver County**
- **December 13 at 2 p.m. in Somerset County**
- **December 14 at 10 a.m. in Venango County (hybrid)**
- **December 14 at 2 p.m. in Elk County (hybrid)**
- **December 15 at 10 a.m. in Luzerne County (hybrid)**
- **December 15 at 2 p.m. in Tioga County (hybrid)**
- **December 16 at 10 a.m. in Union County (hybrid)**
- **December 19 at 11 a.m. in Chester County**

2023 Bid and Quote Limits Announced

The state Department of Labor & Industry published notice of the 2023 bid limits in the [December 10, 2022 issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin](#). On January 1, 2023, the minimum purchase amount that will require the advertisement for bids will increase from \$21,900 to \$22,500. In addition, the minimum purchase amount for telephone quotes will increase from \$11,800 to \$12,200. While the increase in the consumer price index was 8.2% for the 12-month period ending September 30, there is an annual cap of 3% on increases to these limits.

Meeting in Montgomeryville 12/14 for Input on Hurricane Ida Draft CDBG Action Plan

The state Department of Community and Economic Development will hold an in-person public meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Montgomery Township Community and Recreation Center, 1030 Horsham Road, Montgomeryville, PA 18936 to review and seek public comment on the department’s action plan for spending \$23.15 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CDBG funding for recovery from Hurricane Ida in 2021. At least \$18.5 million of these funds must be spent in Delaware and Montgomery counties. Bedford, Bucks, Chester, and York counties also qualify for these funds.

The [Draft Action Plan](#) detailing how the funds will be used is available for public review and comment until **January 9, 2023**. [Visit DCED's Website on Hurricane Ida Disaster Recovery](#) for more information on the program. Comments may also be submitted to DCED at RA-DCCDBG-DR@pa.gov or by phone at (717) 787-5327.

Today in History.....

On December 12, 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the Constitution, by a vote of 46 to 23. Pennsylvania was the first large state to ratify, as well as the first state to endure a serious anti-Federalist challenge to ratification. Pennsylvania was the most ethnically and religiously diverse state in the new nation.

Learn

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

[Get Prepared For The 2023 Organization Meeting - 12/13/22](#)

If you are unsure whether you have everything ready for your township's 2023 Organization Meeting, required to be held Tuesday, January 3, 2023, then make sure to attend this webinar. Holly Fishel of PSATS will review best practices and checklists to help ensure that your township has a smooth organization meeting.



[How We Can Better Recruit Volunteer Firefighters - 1/5/23](#)

This webinar will share case studies of what works and does not work when recruiting volunteer firefighters and, more importantly, discuss the changes that are necessary to keep people volunteering within your communities.



[The Municipal Chart Of Accounts - What And Why - 1/18/23](#)

In this webinar, Terri Cunkle from DCED's Center for Local Government Services will provide best practices when operating within the municipal Chart of Accounts, which is a listing of the account numbers used for municipal budgeting.



[Best Practices For Local Bridge Owners - 1/25/23](#)

Managing your local bridges can be a daunting task. This presentation will discuss how to assess your inventory, prioritize projects, review various funding options, and provide tips to extend the life of the structures.



Understanding Your Township's Emergency Operations Plan - 2/1/23

One of the most important matters a township supervisor needs to become familiar with is the status of their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The EOP specifies activities to be taken by the township and other community officials to protect the lives and property of citizens in the event of a natural or human-caused emergency or disaster.



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