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January 23, 2023

Latest News

Drones: Help PennDOT Learn About Current Applications, Needs for Local Roads

The state Department of Transportation would like to learn how municipalities are currently using or could potentially use unmanned aerial systems (UAS), or “drones,” for local transportation. PennDOT would like to provide appropriate training and technical support for drone use for transportation purposes. Please take a few minutes to complete a [brief survey on drone use](#) by February 1. Questions on the survey can be directed to Chris Metka, Transportation Planning Manager, at cmetka@pa.gov.

Shapiro Signs New Gold Standard for Ethics, Relaxes Wolf Gift Restrictions

Gov. Josh Shapiro has signed a new three part gold standard for Ethics for state employees. The gift ban portion will continue to prevent improper influence from lobbyists and special interests and applies to all executive branch employees under the governor’s jurisdiction. The new policy is grounded in commonsense and maintains rigid restrictions on trips, tickets and cash, but does allow reasonable exceptions, such as a bottle of water, certain meals when representing the commonwealth and plaques and other awards with di minimis value. [Click here](#) to view the gift ban.

The ethics package also includes an [integrity pledge](#) that all cabinet members, Governor’s Office staff, and senior managers at commonwealth agencies will be required to sign, as well as mandatory ethics training for all cabinet members, Governor’s Office staff, and senior managers.

Todd Becomes Chief Justice for Pa. Supreme Court

On Friday, Justice Debra Todd was formally installed as Pennsylvania’s 58th Chief

Justice, the first woman to serve as chief in the court's 300-year history. Todd has been acting as chief justice since the passing of Chief Justice Max Baer in October. [Click here](#) to learn more about Todd.

Legislation & Policy



Speaker Rozzi to Hold Statewide Listening Tour

On Friday, Speaker of the House Mark Rozzi announced a statewide listening tour to meet with the public and good government groups to address partisan gridlock. He invited members of his bipartisan Speaker's Workgroup to join him. The first session will be at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh this Wednesday, January 25 at 6 pm. Additional sessions are planned in northeast and southeast PA. [Click here](#) for the press release.

Learn

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

[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.



More Than Water: Other Benefits Of Stream Restoration - 2/8/23

Unfunded MS4 requirements....The need to preserve land and protect against encroaching development....Rising demand for recreational amenities....Can a township address all of these competing challenges with limited funds? They have in Conewago Creek!



Operational And Financial Considerations For Electric Vehicles - 2/15/23

This webinar will focus on the operational and financial issues that municipalities must consider with respect to the use of electric vehicles within their fleets, as well as choosing providers for EV charging stations for municipal and public use.



The Anatomy Of Limiting Municipal Liability - 2/16/23

In this webinar you will learn about the core areas of municipal risk and ways in which you can achieve the most benefit for a minimal investment in time and money.



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