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January 25, 2023

Latest News

Oregon Announces Mileage Fee for Electric Vehicles

In an attempt to maintain vital transportation funding that is being lost as gas tax revenues go away, Oregon has a program for a mileage-based fee to be paid on electric vehicles in lieu of a gas tax to fund infrastructure repairs. Currently the fee is less than 2 cents per mile. Pennsylvania is considering a similar proposal which will be important to townships for help in funding roads and bridges. [Click here](#) for the article.

Medium and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Fleet Grants Available

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is accepting applications for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle (MHD-ZEV) Fleet pilot grants under the [Driving PA Forward Program](#) until **March 1, 2023**.

Townships that operate diesel-powered fleets may apply for funds to replace either 20% of the fleet or at least five Class 4 to 8 trucks from model years 1992 to 2009. Townships may be reimbursed for up to 90% of eligible project costs, including vehicle purchases and associated infrastructure (*charging stations and electric service upgrades*).

A virtual pre-application meeting with a DEP program administrator is **required for all applicants**. To schedule a pre-application meeting, contact Driving PA Forward program staff at (717) 787-9495 or RA-EPVWMITIGATION@pa.gov. DEP is currently scheduling pre-application meetings from now until February 2 and February 7-9.

Shapiro Creates Office of Transformation, Economic Development

Gov. Josh Shapiro signed an executive order establishing the Pennsylvania Office of Transformation and Opportunity within the Governor's Office and the Economic Development Strategy Group. This office is designed to be a one-stop-shop to coordinate Commonwealth agency responses for businesses looking to grow. Shapiro named business leader Ben Kirshner to lead the new office. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

Shippensburg Offering GIS Immersion Course

Are you looking to learn about geographic information systems (GIS) and its applications? Shippensburg University is offering a condensed class that is being held over two weekends in February and March. The course could be taken to better understand GIS, for credits, or as part of a mini-GIS certification program. [Click here](#) to learn more.

PA American Water Accepting Applications for Environmental Grants

Pennsylvania American Water is accepting applications for the company's 2023 Environmental Grant Program. The program offers funding for innovative, community-based environmental projects that improve, restore, or protect the watersheds, surface water, and groundwater supplies in local communities.

To qualify, proposed projects must be:

- Located within the [Pennsylvania American Water service area](#);
- Completed between May and November of the grant funding year;
- Be a new, innovative, community initiative or serve as a significant expansion to an existing program;
- Be carried out by a formal or informal partnership between two or more organizations; and
- Provide evidence of sustainability (*continued existence after the grant monies are used*).

A panel of judges will evaluate the applications based on environmental need, innovation, community engagement, and sustainability. Information and applications can be found on the [Environmental Grant Program page](#) of the company's website, under News & Community. For additional information, please contact pa.communityrelations@amwater.com. Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2023, and recipients will be notified in late April.

In 2022, grant recipients included East Pikeland Township in Chester County, Fairview Township in York County, and Silver Spring Township in Cumberland County.

PSATS Awards Applications Due Soon

As the end of January approaches, so do many PSATS awards deadlines. Don't miss your chance to highlight the great work happening in your township!

The deadline for entries is as follows:

Youth Awards: January 31

President's Leadership Award: January 31

Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Awards: January 31

Road and Bridge Safety Awards: March 3.

Award winners will be presented at the 2023 Annual Conference Excellence Awards ceremony. To learn more, go to psats.org and choose "Programs & Services," then "[PSATS Awards Programs](#)." For questions, contact Hanna Martin at hmartin@psats.org or 717-763-0930, ext. 129. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

Legislative & Policy



Speaker Rozzi Announces 2nd Stop on Listening Tour

As predicted by Morning News, the second stop in the listening tour will be in the southeast part of the state at St. Joseph's University in Montgomery County on Friday, January 27. Stay tuned for an announcement on the 3rd stop likely to be in northeastern PA in Luzerne County.

Learn

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



[Fundamentals Of Zoning – The Why And How Of Zoning - 3/15/23 - Cumberland County](#)

This workshop explains why we have zoning, how we implement it, and the tools it affords townships to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. The workshop is intended to educate both the newest supervisors and the ones who have seen it all.



[2023 PAAZO Spring Seminar - 4/23/23 - Dauphin County](#)

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

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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