January 2025 Newsletter



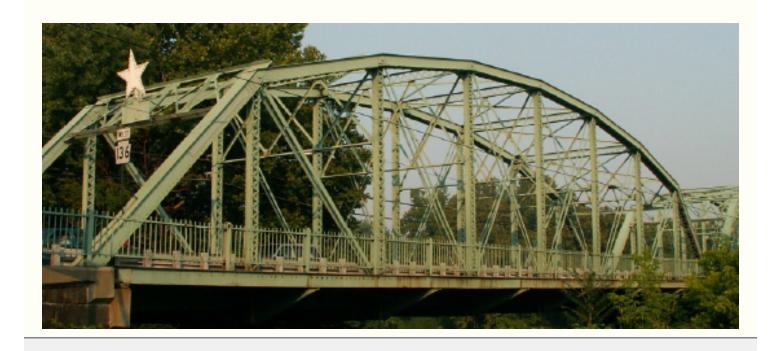
Record Number of Roadway and Bridge Improvements Delivered to Communities Across the Commonwealth

Nearly 6,000 miles of roadway and 488 bridges improved across the state in 2024

PennDOT highlighted 269 South Bridge Street in Christiana, PA, as an example of historic progress in maintaining and improving critical infrastructure across the Commonwealth. In 2023, Pennsylvania <u>led the nation</u> in repairing poor-condition bridges.

Read the full story <u>highlighting this major infrastructure</u> <u>success here.</u>

To learn more about how PennDOT is delivering a safe and reliable transportation network across the state, visit PennDOT's performance results web page.

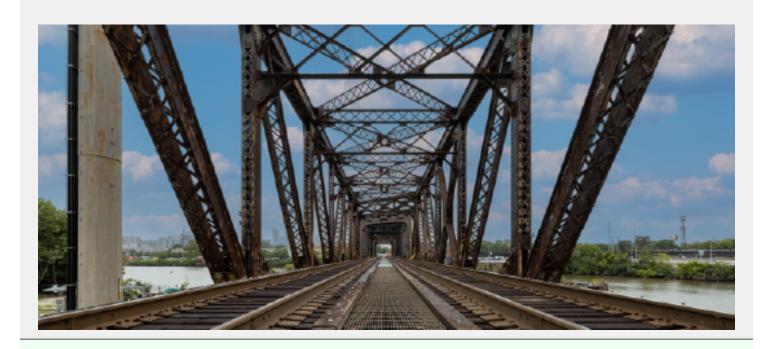


Making Fast Progress on the Scranton to New York City Rail Corridor

PennDOT, leveraging <u>federal Bipartisan Infrastructure</u>
<u>Law (BIL) funds</u>, is advancing the Scranton to New York
Penn Station Passenger Rail Corridor project, <u>leading</u>
<u>the transformative expansion of passenger rail across</u>
<u>Pennsylvania</u>. This milestone, <u>one of the first five</u>
<u>nationally</u>, includes the development of a Service
Development Plan encompassing stakeholder
engagement, service analysis, capital planning,
environmental review, and financial strategies.

The corridor, connecting underserved northeastern
Pennsylvania and northwestern New Jersey to New York
City, aims to boost mobility, economic growth, and
access to employment, education, and tourism.
PennDOT's partners include Amtrak, the Pennsylvania
Northeast Regional Rail Authority, New Jersey Transit,
and the New Jersey Department of Transportation.
Restoration efforts will rebuild tracks and connect
existing freight and commuter lines to Amtrak's Northeast
Corridor, marking significant progress in revitalizing this
critical transportation link.

For more information on the state's program, visit PennDOT's Passenger Rail web page.



Rail Investment to Boost Jobs and Business in PA

Did you know that Pennsylvania has more active railroads than any other state in the country? That makes us a leader in freight rail, and as such, PennDOT recently approved 30 rail freight improvement projects to support the 65 active railroads in the state.

These projects will invest \$55 million in our freight transportation network and the state's economy, improve rail infrastructure, enhance freight mobility, and create or sustain 344 jobs. This strengthens Pennsylvania's connections to the global economy, promotes local economic growth, and provides a reliable rail network for future generations. This investment also supports the state's 5,600 miles of freight lines, keeping goods and services moving across the Commonwealth.

For more information on the state's programs, visit PennDOT's Rail Freight and Ports web page.

PennDOT Awarded \$1.3 Million Grant to Keep Goods Moving, Ease Traffic, and Cut Truck Emissions

PennDOT has secured a \$1.3 million Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant to pilot Freight Signal Priority (FSP) technology in central Pennsylvania, aiming to reduce supply chain delays, congestion, and emissions. FSP uses real-time GPS data to adjust traffic signals, allowing trucks to move through intersections without stopping.

The pilot will run on Cameron Street in Harrisburg and Harrisburg Pike, also known as the "Miracle Mile" in Cumberland County, with plans to expand statewide after evaluation. This innovative approach supports efficient freight movement, cost savings, and cleaner air, positioning Pennsylvania as a leader in addressing truck congestion challenges.

For more information, visit <u>PennDOT's Infrastructure</u> <u>Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) web page.</u>

PA Expands Electric Vehicle Charging Network with Two New Stations, Supporting Cleaner and Safer Transportation

Pennsylvania is <u>expanding its electric vehicle (EV)</u> <u>charging network</u> again with two new federally funded stations along I-81 in Jonestown, and I-79 in Slippery Rock. Built with funds from the <u>National Electric Vehicle</u> <u>Infrastructure (NEVI)</u> program, these stations bring the total to five and are part of a larger effort to make EV travel more accessible and convenient.

Since the first NEVI-funded station opened,
Pennsylvania's EV chargers have powered over 525,000
miles of travel through more than 4,300 charging
sessions. The new stations, each with four ports
providing at least 300 kW of power, offer fast charging
under weather-protected canopies, as well as access to
restaurants, Wi-Fi, restrooms, and dog parks.

These stations are part of the state's plan to create a reliable charging network along its <u>Alternative Fuel Corridors</u>, making sure stations are no more than 50 miles apart. With more stations planned, PennDOT is working to make EV travel cleaner, safer, and more convenient for residents and travelers.



PA Implements First Statewide, Real-Time Public Transit Service Tracker System in the Nation

Public transit in Pennsylvania is now safer, more efficient, and easier to use thanks to the statewide implementation of the Fixed Route Intelligent Transportation System (FRITS). This system is designed to help residents plan their trips, track buses in real-time, and connect with other transit agencies, no matter where they live. Funded and completed by Pennsylvania-based Avail Technologies, FRITS is the first statewide system of its kind in the United States.

Using the "myStop" app, riders can see where their bus is, when it will arrive, and plan trips across multiple transit agencies. The system is also connected to

Google Maps, so everyone can find up-to-date schedules and routes. FRITS also supports transit agencies by monitoring their vehicles, analyzing ridership trends, and making data-driven decisions to improve their operations leading to better on-time performance and more reliable schedules benefiting Pennsylvania transit riders.

For more information on available public transportation services across the state, visit PennDOT's Public Transit Options web page.



BIL Discretionary Grants Spotlight



Does Your Community Need Funding Support for Important Local Projects?

The IIJA page on PennDOT's website offers the latest news and information on federal grant opportunities available through the IIJA, also known as the BIL.

Grant opportunities, <u>an updated guide for developing</u> grant proposals, and other resources on federal grant

funding are added to the IIJA page as they become available. Please visit the page often to see if any of these grant funding programs would benefit your community.

The following is a list of federal grant programs currently accepting applications with deadlines in early 2025:



The PROTECT program will help build and maintain road, transit, port, and railway infrastructure that can better withstand severe weather events. PROTECT's grant funding provides for the continued operation and quick recovery of these transportation systems after extreme weather and aims to inspire innovation and best practices that other regions can replicate and adopt.

- Deadline for requesting PennDOT support is Monday, Feb. 10, 2025.
- Application deadline is Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, 11:59
 PM EST.

PennDOT will consider providing support for regionally supported grant proposals, as applicable, and may

include providing data and subject matter expertise, as available.

For any questions about transportation federal funding opportunities, please use the following email: <u>RA-PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov</u>.

For a list of federal grant programs currently accepting applications with rolling deadlines later in 2025 visit PennDOT's IIJA web page.

For more information about PennDOT Pathways, visit our website at **penndot.pa.gov/funding**.

Want to share information on your social or digital platforms? Find images, videos, and other resources in the **Funding Media Center**.

Contact Us

Website Comment Form: Click here





Hotline: 717-325-6129

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