



THE
DOT
com

FALL 2024

PENNDOT PROVIDES WINTER SEASON OVERVIEW



Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

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This newsletter highlights our latest efforts to improve mobility and quality of life in Pennsylvania. As always, feel free to send story ideas or requests for information you want to see. If you’re involved in an interesting or innovative project or initiative, have ever wondered about other parts of PennDOT’s operations or have other suggestions, email the Communications Office at DOTcomm@pa.gov.

We hope you enjoy this latest issue!

PENNDOT SECRETARY COMPLETES VISITS TO TEAMS IN ALL 67 COUNTIES, HIGHLIGHTING THE SHAPIRO ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO DELIVERING IN EVERY COMMUNITY ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA

Secretary Mike Carroll completed visits to team members in all 67 counties, demonstrating the Shapiro Administration's dedication to delivering in all corners of Pennsylvania.

"PennDOT has a huge responsibility: to keep the 13 million people of Pennsylvania moving safely and efficiently on our vast transportation network.

Under Governor Shapiro's leadership, our dedicated team has been working hard for Pennsylvanians," said Carroll. "It has been fantastic meeting many of PennDOT's professionals across Pennsylvania on job sites, in driver's license centers, and in our offices and garages."

Statewide from January through November, 5,485 roadway miles were improved, including 1,955 miles of paving. In the same timeframe, work advanced on 422

state and locally owned bridges. Additionally, 447 construction contracts for highway, bridge, and other improvement projects were completed statewide through PennDOT's private-sector partners so far this year.

In his first two years, Governor Shapiro has delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure funding for our roads and bridges, resulting in 12,496 miles of roadway improved, including 4,477 miles of paving: nearly 500 more miles of roadway improved and nearly 600 more miles paved than in the previous two years. During the same timeframe, work advanced on 1,106 state and local bridges, compared to 998 during the previous two years.

The Shapiro Administration repaired more poor-condition bridges than any other state in the nation last year and improved more miles of roadway than any time in the past decade.







PENNDOT HIGHLIGHTED WINTER PREPARATIONS, NEW LAWS AND NEW EQUIPMENT WILL ENHANCE TRAVELER SAFETY

PA Turnpike and PennDOT partnered to highlight their preparations for the winter season to ensure Pennsylvanians can travel safely and efficiently across the Commonwealth. New measures signed into law by Governor Shapiro will help keep travelers safe this winter – and new equipment funded by the Governor’s first budget will ensure PennDOT can clear roadways quickly in the event of inclement weather.

Vehicles from each agency were on site equipped with new, additional green lights which are incorporated with existing flashing or revolving yellow (amber) lights. This additional strategy aims to increase safety by making construction and maintenance operations more visible.

PennDOT, the PA Turnpike, municipalities, and contractors working on their behalf may now install flashing or revolving green lights in addition to yellow (amber) lights after Governor Josh Shapiro signed Act 78 of 2024 on July 17. The lights have been used in other states and are proven to improve vehicles’ visibility.

The public can access travel information on nearly 40,000 state-maintained roadway miles year-round at www.511PA.com, and during the winter they can find plow-truck locations and details of when state-maintained roadways were last plowed. The information is made possible by PennDOT’s Automated Vehicle Location technology, which uses units in the over 2,600 department-owned and rented plow trucks to send a cellular signal showing a truck’s location.

To help the public prepare for the season and share information about winter services, PennDOT offers operational information and traveler resources on its winter web page, www.penndot.pa.gov/winter. The site also has a complete winter guide with detailed information about winter services in each of PennDOT’s 11 engineering districts.

PennDOT is actively seeking temporary equipment operators statewide for the winter season to supplement

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NEW DRIVER WORK ZONE SAFETY PROGRAM LAUNCHED DURING NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PA Turnpike) recently launched a new, statewide training program to improve new driver safety and roadway worker protection. The launch took place at Carlisle High School to highlight teen driver safety during National Teen Driver Safety Week.

Pennsylvania's New Driver Work Zone Safety Program is a training project that uses engaging videos, infographics, knowledge checks, and powerful testimonials to teach new drivers work zone laws, signage and key facts, in addition to offering real-life scenarios to enhance understanding. This new program launched during National Teen Driver Safety Week, an annual observance aimed at educating safe driving among teens, and all new drivers in the commonwealth.

The free, 35-minute virtual course is currently available in English and Spanish via PennDOT's website. The transportation agencies will also collaborate on hands-on training opportunities to supplement the course. Last October, Oklahoma became the first state in the nation to require new drivers to pass a work zone safety course to get their licenses. After hearing about Oklahoma's success, the PA Turnpike developed a playbook for introducing a similar program and has been working with PennDOT to make it a reality. The project was funded through \$50,000 from the Federal Highway Administration State Transportation Innovation Council Incentive Program.

In recent years, more than four out of every 10 work zone crashes in Pennsylvania involved deaths or injuries. There are more than 1,400 work zone crashes across Pennsylvania annually, with more than 600 resulting in injuries and 15 in death.

While the program is free and encouraged for all Pennsylvania residents, it is especially beneficial for new drivers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drivers aged 16-19 are nearly three times more likely to die in a crash than drivers aged 20 and up per mile driven.

From 2019 to 2023, there were nearly 80,000 crashes involving at least one teen driver in Pennsylvania, resulting in 483 fatalities. Some key factors in crashes involving teen drivers in Pennsylvania include driver inexperience, driver distractions, driving too fast for conditions, and improper or careless turning. The risk

of a crash involving any of these factors can be reduced through practice, limiting the number of passengers riding with a teen driver, obeying all rules of the road, and using common sense.



The joint training project extends PennDOT and the PA Turnpike's collaboration on increased work zone safety awareness. Both organizations host work zone-related educational events throughout the year. This March, PennDOT and the PA Turnpike, in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Police, started enforcement of the statewide Work Zone Speed Safety Camera program, which uses vehicle-mounted systems and electronic speed timing devices to detect and record motorists exceeding posted work zone speed limits by 11 miles per hour or more. For more information on the New Driver Work Zone Safety Program, please visit www.penndot.pa.gov/workzonesafety.

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the department's full-time staff. Details on minimum requirements – such as possession of a CDL – as well as application information, are available at www.employment.pa.gov/penndot. Through the same website and www.employment.pa.gov, job seekers can apply for other non-operator winter positions such as diesel and construction equipment mechanics, welders, clerks and more.

If motorists encounter snow or ice-covered roads, they should slow down, increase their following distance and avoid distractions. Last winter in Pennsylvania, preliminary data shows that there were 151 crashes resulting in three fatalities and 55 injuries on snowy, slushy or ice-covered roadways where aggressive-driving behaviors such as speeding or making careless lane changes were factors.

Motorists should prepare for potential wintry weather by ensuring they have supplies in their cars before heading out: food, water, blankets, extra gloves and hats, cell phone charger, hand or foot warmers, windshield brush and scraper, and any specialized items like medications or baby and pet supplies.

PENNSYLVANIA WINS TOP 2024 AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION AWARD HONOR



We're #PennDOTProud to take home the Grand Prize in American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)'s 2024 America's Transportation Awards for our I-95/Cottman Avenue emergency response.

This response project swiftly addressed a fire caused by a fuel tanker truck crash that closed a key national corridor in Philadelphia – reopening the highway in just 12 days.

Learn more: <https://transportation.org/pressreleases/pennsylvania-and-west-virginia-dots-win-top-2024-americas-transportation-awards-honors/>

I-95 MILESTONE

By Brad Rudolph, Deputy Communications Director, District 6

This past spring, PennDOT reopened the fire-damaged bridge and adjacent northbound off-ramp

at the Interstate 95 Cottman Avenue Interchange and opened the new Cottman Avenue on-ramp to southbound I-95 (Section CP3) in Northeast Philadelphia in late June, substantially completing the \$54.2 million project that began in spring 2022.

Section CP3 is the third and final contract to reconstruct the Cottman Avenue Interchange and widen I-95 to four continuous lanes between Rhawn and Levick streets in Northeast Philadelphia. In addition to building the new on-ramp,



PennDOT's contractor improved several surface streets serving the Cottman Avenue Interchange and completed the relocation of a sanitary sewer adjacent to the southbound interstate.

Reconstruction of Wissinoming Street between Cottman and Princeton avenues, also part of the CP3 contract, is underway and will be completed later this summer.

The first phase of PennDOT's I-95/Cottman Avenue Interchange Improvement Project (Section CP1) began in 2009 and was completed in mid-2012. Under that \$34 million contract, PennDOT built two new ramps – a new southbound on-ramp at Longshore Avenue and a new northbound on-ramp from Milnor Street – and rebuilt the existing on-ramp to I-95 north from Princeton Avenue.

Additional improvements to Cottman Avenue, Princeton Avenue, and State Road in the vicinity of the interchange completed under CP1 were designed to move traffic to and from I-95 in a manner that enhances pedestrian and vehicular traffic movement in the adjacent Tacony neighborhood.

Section CP2 construction began in late 2012 and ended in late 2017. Under this contract, PennDOT rebuilt and widened northbound and southbound I-95 and its bridges to four continuous lanes between Rhawn Street and Levick Street under a \$212 million contract that at the time was the largest construction contract in the

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PENNDOT'S MARSHALL DAVIS EARNS WORKPLACE HERO AWARD

By Jessica Ruddy, Community Relations Coordinator, District 4

On the morning of June 11, 2024, a geotechnical crew including Marshall Davis, Mike Andres, and Bob Gilpin, were collecting in a work zone at Routes 6 and Route 11 in Factoryville when a car turned at an intersection and collided with an oncoming tractor-trailer.

Marshall Davis acted immediately. He went to the scene, signaled traffic to slow down, and helped the driver who was in shock. Marshall called 911 and the project staff for traffic control. He remained calm during the incident and his training was evident in his actions. Marshall stayed with the injured passenger, kept her calm, and helped make calls to her family until emergency services arrived.

As it turned out, the driver was on her way to the vet with her dog, but because emergency services were unable to take the dog with them, Marshall not only stayed to help the injured but also ensured the dog was safe.

Marshall recently completed his first year studying geology at Bloomsburg University, where he is also a part of ROTC and is a trained first responder. PennDOT is in his blood. His father, Gregg Davis, was a former employee of D4 and we are sure, he is proud of his achievements and actions during a time of need.



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agency's history.

CP2 also reconstructed and improved the existing southbound off-ramp to Bleigh Avenue, extended Princeton Avenue from State Road to Milnor Street, and rebuilt a section of New State Road. Installation of a new, 84-inch water main adjacent to southbound I-95 between Cottman and Princeton avenues was also completed under this contract.

For more information on PennDOT's I-95 Reconstruction and Improvement Program, visit www.95revive.com.



FOR DISTRICT 2 TRAFFIC CONTROL SPECIALIST, REDISCOVERY OF MUSIC BRINGS SELF-EXPRESSION, HEALING

By Steve Harmic, Safety Press Officer, District 2

Contrary to the title of a renowned 1973 Led Zeppelin concert film, the song rarely remains the same throughout life. For most people, triumphs and failures trade blows over the years, changing courses and outcomes along the way. District 2 Traffic Control Specialist George Maines is no exception when it comes to experiencing life's constant changes. His rediscovery of music, however, has allowed him to enrich his own story by adding a self-composed soundtrack.

"As a teen, my parents bought me a guitar, but I didn't get too serious about playing it," Maines recalled. He bought his first Stratocaster guitar in 1989, along with a lesson book, while serving with the United States Navy in Iceland.

Then, the changes kept coming. Fortunately, most were for the better.

Maines used his experience as an electrical technician in the Navy to enter into business repairing electronics in the civilian realm. From there, he went on to work in corrections for a short time, before joining PennDOT as a roadway programs technician in Potter County. In 2003, he transitioned to the position of traffic control specialist at the District 2 office. Fortunately, Maines said, these changes were resoundingly positive.

"I like working with the counties, the crews out there. The sign crews and maintenance crews. I love to get out there with them."

In tandem with his career trajectory, Maines saw his personal life flourish, as well. He settled down with his wife, Kathy, and the couple raised three sons together.

Though fulfillment was not elusive to Maines, there was one area of life that fell dormant, just waiting to be cheered back on stage for an encore.

"I got away from music. I didn't listen to any of my music collection," Maines said. "What got me interested in music again was I discovered the band Nightwish in 2012. Their songs "Nemo" and "Amaranth" were so different from music I had listened to before. It's called Symphonic Metal. Then I found Epica's music, a band like Nightwish. Listening to these two bands got me interested in music again. I had never gotten rid of my 1989 Squire Stratocaster guitar. I always thought I'd play it again someday, and that's what it took."

Maines also pulled out his old lesson book and enrolled in

an online training course. He remembered, "This was in 2012, I got serious about playing. I taught myself the basic chords, took the training, and started playing covers." While polishing his technique, focusing on classic rock, and playing cover songs in bands, Maines quickly developed a passion for writing his own music. The satisfaction he gets while creating original compositions continues to fuel his love of playing today.

"I feel a certain way and it comes out of me. It's how I end up with a new song. I think about friends and family. I think about love, happiness, sadness, and our futures," Maines explained. "Based on those thoughts, I create my own songs and put lyrics to them."

Maines used his immersion in music to navigate some of the more difficult obstacles on life's road. He shared, "I had a band mate that got cancer and died.

I wrote a song about him. It's not sad; it celebrates him and his life. He was The Rock Singer.

"I wrote a song about my cousin, Bill, who died in 2019. He worked for the railroad – he drove trains. It's not a sad song either. It's my interpretation of how he must have felt driving trains down the tracks. He was seeing the towns, the nature, and the people. The song is simply about what I think he saw and felt as a train driver."

Now with a collection of six guitars, and a particular penchant for Stratocasters and Les Paul copycats, Maines enjoys tinkering on his instruments, keeping them tuned and maintained, while looking ahead to future goals.

"One day I want to record all my original songs with full instrumentation. I want to work with professional musicians and record all the instruments, including vocals."

Maines is able pursue the next goal with a confidence built by the accomplishments already under his guitar strap, as he shared, "What I have learned most about myself from this is that I can do things I never thought I could do. So, if there's something you want to do, just do it. If I can write songs, anyone can."



MEET ROBERT LANDMAN, A PENNDOT MAINTENANCE REPAIRMAN

By Melissa Maczko, Community Relations Coordinator, District 12

Robert Landman is the most senior employee at PennDOT District 12's Fayette County Maintenance Office. He



began his career in February 1993 as a Temporary Operator for the Winter Maintenance Program. In July 1997, Rob became a full-time Maintenance Repairman 2 (MR 2) in Fayette County. Starting on the bridge crew in 1997, Rob has spent most of his career in that role. During the winter season, Rob serves as an acting foreman, overseeing Fayette County's Department Force Bridge (DFB) program along with the Highway Foreman. District 12's DFB program is responsible for replacing three bridges per county annually.

During his tenure, Rob has been an instrumental part of the bridge crew, contributing to the replacement of approximately 60 bridges. Reflecting on these accomplishments, Rob credits the entire crew and is humble about receiving individual recognition. He describes the challenges at the start of a new bridge project, particularly during the first few days, when the team handles erosion and sediment control, tears down old guardrails, and preps the site.

For Rob, the best day on the job is when a bridge is

complete, and the inspector shakes his hand, saying, "Great job!" He takes great pride in his work and prioritizes safety. Remarkably, Rob cannot recall any serious injuries occurring on the bridge crew during his career, which is something he is committed to maintaining.

Fayette County Maintenance Manager Jason Spangler considers Rob an invaluable employee. "Rob's knowledge is instrumental in our Department Force Bridge Program," said Jason. As a union official, Rob works well with management, and his leadership is highly regarded due to his personality, knowledge, and tenure. The role of a Maintenance Repairman is crucial to the department, not only for road and bridge work but also for maintaining the facilities that house PennDOT operations. The MR 2 plays a vital role in keeping these facilities serviceable.

Outside of work, Rob enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife, Dawn, recently celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary. They have two children: Robert (Bobby), a welder, and Rebecca, who was born with Down syndrome and is the light of his life. Rob enjoys spending time with his two bird dogs, Gunner and Lucy, and goes on an annual hunting trip with his cousin, son, and friends, although he admits he's better at building bridges than hunting. He also enjoys performing carpentry work with his dad and gardening in his free time.

Assistant County Maintenance Manager Rich Martin is thankful to have such a well-rounded and dedicated employee as part of his team. Rich thanks Rob for his dedication to the Department and public for the past 30 years.

PENNDOT ADOPTS NEW AUTOMATED VEHICLE GUIDELINES FOR DRIVERLESS OPERATION

PennDOT recently adopted new guidelines for the operation of highly automated vehicles (HAVs) on Pennsylvania roadways for the purposes of operations and testing.

The new guidelines update Publication 950 to allow certified users to operate autonomous vehicles on the road without a safety driver in the driver's seat of the vehicle. Additionally, new language sets conditions for operations from a remote location. The new guidelines mark the first opportunity for certified driverless operations on roadways

in Pennsylvania.

The guidelines were created in consultation with the AV industry and the Highly Automated Vehicle Advisory Committee and improved based on feedback from a public comment period.

The HAV Advisory Committee was created in 2018 to advise and consult the Secretary of Transportation on aspects of highly automated vehicles by developing technical guidance, evaluating best practices, reviewing regulations, and engaging in continuing research. The HAV

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COLLEGE ENGINEERING STUDENTS CONNECT CLASSROOM LEARNING WITH REAL-WORLD PROJECT DURING DISTRICT 9 SLIDE-SITE VISIT

By Jay Knarr, Community Relations Coordinator, District 9

The field trip to the District 9 slide remediation project exposes students to real projects and the career opportunities available in the highway construction industry.

On September 26, PennDOT District 9 welcomed 17 students from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) Student Chapter of ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) for a project-site visit on Route 403 in Somerset County.

During the heavy rains in April, a section of Route 403 (Tire Hill Road) collapsed after the supporting hillside was washed away by a combination of rising river water and hillside runoff. It was one of six slide events in District 9 during the April rains.

PennDOT District 9's Senior Civil Engineering Supervisor Jim Kaseler, P.E., Project Manager Michael Stone, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer Manager Garth Bridenbaugh, P.E., were on hand to provide details and answer questions about the project.

Val Casciato, Jr., the project manager, and Tom Goldinger, manager, from the project's contractor, Plum Contracting, Inc., of Greensburg, Pa., provided a guided tour of the work zone.

Constructors Association of Western PA (CAWP) provided the vests and hardhats – known as PPE or personal protective equipment – necessary for the UPJ engineering students to safely tour the active construction site.

Originally included in the overall \$14.5 million Route 403 (Tire Hill Road) project, a retaining wall was being constructed at the site of the slide before the road was to be paved and reopened to traffic. The project is expected to be completed in November 2024.

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Advisory Committee is comprised of department representatives, state and local elected officials and industry and non-profit experts.

Act 130 of 2022 advanced Pennsylvania's position as a national leader in highly automated vehicle (HAV) research and development by providing for the regulation and operation of HAVs. The Act took effect in July 2023, designating PennDOT as the sole regulatory authority and directed the department to develop these guidelines for HAVs in the Commonwealth.



Photo 1

In addition to the new retaining wall that the UPJ students toured, the project includes 6.5-miles of pavement preservation, milling, resurfacing, guide rail and drainage upgrades, and new signage and pavement markings. New curbing and sidewalks will be installed, along with upgrades to traffic signals, box culvert replacements, RC arch culvert and RC slab bridge preservations, several roadway slope stability improvements, and tree trimming and tree removal. All the work will occur within a 13-mile stretch of Route 403 from Tire Hill to Hooversville, Somerset County.

PHOTO 1: Project manager Val Casciato, Jr., (Right), and manager Tom Goldinger, manager, of Plum Contracting, Inc., of Greensburg, Pa., provided a guided tour of the Route 403 (Tire Hill Road) retaining wall construction, as well as an explanation of the additional work at the site.

PHOTO 2: Seventeen University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown engineering students toured PennDOT District 9's Route 403 (Tire Hill Road) construction site to get an up-close look at a retaining wall being built to support the road.



Photo 2

PENNDOT, KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL ANNOUNCE 'YOUNG AMBASSADORS' FOR THIRD YEAR

PennDOT and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (KPB) selected 40 students for 2024-2025 cohort of Young Ambassadors of Pennsylvania. The program, administered by KPB, is designed to grow community stewards and civic leaders by engaging and empowering young Pennsylvanians to keep their communities healthy and become ambassadors for a shared vision of a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania.

Students were selected through a competitive application process and have committed to nine months of service as ambassadors. From September through May 2025, participants will develop civic leadership skills and experiences to champion and advocate for clean and beautiful communities across Pennsylvania.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful will be awarding a minimum of two \$1000 scholarships to seniors in the Young Ambassadors program, both current and past participants.

2024-2025 Young Ambassadors of PA:

- E. Yocum, 12th grade, Westinghouse Arts Academy, Allegheny County
- Ghizal Halim, 11th grade, Bensalem Township High-School, Bucks County
- Zackery Laubach, 12th grade, Bellefonte Area High School, Centre County
- Alexander Calalang Gutierrez, 10th grade, Conestoga High School, Chester County
- Noori Choudhary, 11th grade, Unionville High School, Chester County
- Sonya Patel, 12th grade, Downingtown STEM Academy, Chester County
- JD Reyes, 12th grade, Oxford Area High School, Chester County
- Hannah Harvey, 11th grade, Susquehanna Township High School, Dauphin County
- Isaiah Khan, 12th grade, Susquehanna Township High School, Dauphin County
- Erica Rainford, 11th grade, Ridley High School, Delaware County
- Layani Watson, 10th grade, Penn Wood High School, Delaware County
- Anvitha Vallabhaneni, 10th grade, Garnet Valley High School, Delaware County
- Naba Hassan, 11th grade, Penn Wood High School, Delaware County
- Gnana Ananya Desireddi, 11th grade, Fairview High School, Erie County
- Holden Siegler, 12th grade, Fairview High School, Erie County
- Masa Alkhudari, 11th grade, Fairview High School, Erie County
- Samaira Karmarkar, 12th grade, McDowell High School, Erie County
- Silvia Kang, 10th grade, Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy, Erie County
- Annamary Oslikova, 11th grade, Waynesboro Area Senior High School, Franklin County
- Soo-Jin Callahan, 10th grade, Waynesboro Area Senior High School, Franklin County
- Marissa Hedin, 12th grade, Waynesboro Area Senior High School, Franklin County
- Ava Spencer, 11th grade, Purchase Line High School, Indiana County
- Emily Claps, 11th grade, Valley View High School, Lackawanna County
- Joy Beckish, 10th grade, North Pocono High School, Lackawanna County
- Kaitlyn Priest, 12th grade, Lakeland Jr/Sr High School, Lackawanna County
- Peyton Martin, 11th grade, Lakeland Jr/Sr High School, Lackawanna County
- Edie Hann, 10th grade, Scranton Preparatory School, Lackawanna County
- Shrey Singh 11th grade, Lampeter Strasburg High School, Lancaster County
- Alexia George, 11th grade, Methacton High School, Montgomery County
- Kumba Tinguino, 11th grade, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, Montgomery County
- Olivia Sellers, 11th grade, Perkiomen Valley High School, Montgomery County
- Jaclyn Keyser, 12th grade, Perkiomen Valley High School, Montgomery County
- Callum Dormer, 10th grade, Hazleton Area Arts and Humanities Academy, Schuylkill County



PENNSYLVANIA REPAIRED MORE POOR-CONDITION BRIDGES THAN ANY OTHER STATE LAST YEAR



Governor Josh Shapiro and PennDOT Secretary, Mike Carroll announced that Pennsylvania repaired the most poor condition bridges of any

state last year, according to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) data, and continues to make significant progress in 2024.

According to the FHWA, in 2023, Pennsylvania – including PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and other bridge owners – repaired or replaced more than 200 bridges of at least 20 feet in length, resulting in 90 fewer bridges rated in poor-condition – the largest improvement of any state in the country.

PennDOT has been making steady progress to repair the Commonwealth's bridges for years. In 2008, Pennsylvania had more than 6,000 state-owned bridges classified as in poor condition – but since then, PennDOT has

successfully repaired or replaced more than 3,000 bridges, and the pace of those repairs is accelerating after Governor Shapiro secured additional infrastructure funding in his first two budgets.

Earlier this year Governor Shapiro announced a significant investment of over \$51 million in funding from the Multimodal Transportation Fund to support 66 crucial transportation projects across 32 counties in Pennsylvania. The funding will be allocated towards highway, bridge, aviation, ports, and bike and pedestrian initiatives – ensuring a safe and reliable transportation system for all Pennsylvanians. The Commonwealth is home to one of the largest state-maintained road and bridge networks in the nation.

The 2024-25 bipartisan budget signed by Governor Shapiro this summer allocates \$80.5 million in new funding to repair roads and bridges and continues to sustainably fund the Pennsylvania State Police by reducing their reliance on the Motor License Fund. This delivers an additional \$125 million for road and bridge projects annually over the next four years – on top of the \$125 million the Governor secured in the 2023-24 budget. In total, Governor Shapiro has secured over \$300 million in new infrastructure funding to maintain Pennsylvania's roads and bridges.

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- Emmet Portland, 11th grade, Nativity B.V.M. High School, Schuylkill County
- Miranda Burkot, 12th grade, Nativity B.V.M. High School, Schuylkill County
- Ravit Patani, 10th grade, Peters Township High School, Washington County
- Shrehan Patel, 10th grade, Peters Township High School, Washington County
- Brett Anthony, 11th grade, Greensburg Central Catholic High School, Westmoreland County
- Emily Lori, 12th grade, Greensburg Central Catholic High School, Westmoreland County
- Kathryn Trautmann, 12th grade, Franklin Regional Senior High School, Westmoreland County

KPB will provide education and training to program participants on topics related to the impacts of litter, litter prevention, waste management and recycling, civic engagement and related public policy, volunteer management, and social media marketing. Ambassadors will have an opportunity to apply for job shadow opportunities with two companies, DOW, Inc. and

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania/NiSource. Selected students will spend the day in the field with sustainability professionals. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful will provide a stipend to participants to support time and travel expenses. For more information about the program and the Young Ambassadors, visit the or contact Kylie McCutcheon at kmccutcheon@keepbeautiful.org.

The Young Ambassador program was recommended in the commonwealth's Litter Action Plan, announced by the Wolf administration in 2021 in response to a 2019 Pennsylvania Litter Research Study, which found Pennsylvania has more than 500 million pieces of litter on its roadways. The action plan includes strategies for all Pennsylvanians to fight litter in their communities.

PennDOT provides many additional litter cleanup volunteer opportunities, including Adopt-A-Highway, Litter Brigades, and more at their roadside beautification web page at www.penndot.pa.gov.

WINNERS OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY POSTER CONTEST, DRIVING COMPETITION RECOGNIZED

During a ceremony at the State Museum of Pennsylvania, officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Pennsylvania State Police, along with school bus safety advocates, honored 10 students in kindergarten through eighth grade for their school bus safety posters and three school bus drivers for their superior driving skills. The theme for this year's contest was "Driving Safety into the Future."



The ceremony highlighted the Shapiro Administration's efforts to enhance Pennsylvanians' safety, including a proclamation by Governor Shapiro naming Oct.

21-25 School Bus Safety Week in Pennsylvania in conjunction with the federal observance. The week focuses on saving young lives by raising awareness of the daily challenges faced by students being transported throughout the commonwealth.

Templeton and Cpl. Zeina Black, School Bus Safety Division supervisor for the Commercial Vehicle Safety Division of the Bureau of Patrol for the Pennsylvania State Police, presented the students with certificates and small gifts provided by the Pennsylvania School Bus Association in recognition of their efforts to help communicate this important safety message.

This year's winners were chosen from 822 student entries from schools across Pennsylvania. The first-place entries will move on to the national competition, which will be judged at the end of this month.

2024 School Bus Safety Poster Contest Winners include:

Kindergarten – Grade 2

- First Place: Akshay Subash, Franklin Elementary School, Sewickley, Allegheny County.
- Second Place: Ziva Yerger, Selinsgrove Elementary School, Selinsgrove, Snyder County.
- Third Place: Braelyn Smith, Selinsgrove Elementary School, Selinsgrove, Snyder County.

Grades 3-5

- First Place: Lorelei Murphy, Shamokin Area Elementary and Intermediate School, Coal Township, Northumberland County.
- Second Place: Evalyn Regetta, North Star Middle School, Stoystown, Somerset County.
- Third Place: Akhil Phani Bonthu, Franklin Elementary School, Sewickley, Allegheny County.

Grades 6-8

- First Place: Noemi Barretta, Southern Middle School, Reading, Berks County.
- Second Place: Cathyanis Casiano Bonilla, Southern Middle School, Reading, Berks County.
- Third Place: Kolsen Clark, Bald Eagle Area Middle School, Wingate, Centre County.

Special Education

- First Place: Daniel Vega, Southern Middle School, Reading, Berks County.

During the ceremonies, officials also recognized the winners of the 45th Annual State School Bus Driver Safety Competition, held June 22-23 at Mount Nittany Middle School in State College. The event hosted more than 60 drivers locked in competition to determine the top school bus drivers in the state.

The winners in the conventional bus category this year were:

- First place: Cheryl Vogelsang with On the Go Kids in Chester County.
- Second place: Joanne Cowan with Krapf School Bus in Chester County.
- Third place: Arlen Sanden with Krise Transportation in Chester County.

In a collective effort to enhance students' safety, local and state law enforcement agencies, school districts and student transportation agencies unite today to raise awareness of the consequences of improperly passing school buses. "Operation Safe Stop," a statewide safety initiative, involves both police officers watching for

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ROUNDBABOUTS CONTINUE REDUCING INJURIES AND CRASHES IN PENNSYLVANIA

PennDOT announced that at locations where traditional intersections were replaced with roundabouts, crashes involving injuries were reduced by 51 percent and the total number of crashes were reduced by 7 percent. During the 20-year review period, there have been two fatalities at roundabouts on state routes.

PennDOT evaluated 47 roundabouts on state routes at intersections that were previously stop- or signal-controlled with at least three years of crash data available before and after the roundabouts were built and had at least one crash during the 20-year review period. In addition to the roundabouts that met the selection criteria, 46 additional roundabouts have been built on state routes.

Roundabouts are frequently installed to address safety issues, calm traffic and improve traffic flow, and beautify an intersection. Although roundabouts are typically safer and more efficient than traditional signalized intersections, they may not always be the best option due to topography or for other reasons, such as property impacts and capacity issues.

The eight new roundabouts included in this year's review are at the following intersections:

Adams County:

- Route 94 and Stoney Point Road.

Cumberland County:

- Route 1011 (Lambs Gap Road) and Bali Hai Road.
- Route 2017 (Lisburn Road) and Rossmoyne Road.

Lancaster County:

- Route 772 (Rothsville Road) and 6th Street Extension.
- Route 4022 (Woodcrest Avenue) and West 6th Street.

Mercer County:

- Route 62 and Shenango Valley Mall.

Philadelphia County



- Route 2007 (Frankford Avenue), York Street and Trenton Avenue.

Washington County

- Route 1009 (Morganza Road) and Baker Road.

Additional roundabouts included in this review and information pertaining to roundabouts can be found on the PennDOT website including an educational video on how to navigate both single and multi-lane roundabouts whether in a vehicle, on a bicycle or on foot. The video can also be viewed on PennDOT's YouTube channel.

Roundabouts are recognized by the Pennsylvania State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) as an innovation that has become standard practice within the transportation community.

The Pennsylvania STIC facilitates the rapid implementation of proven, well-researched and documented state, regional, national, and international technologies, tactics, techniques, and other innovations that are new to Pennsylvania. The STIC also supports the implementation of the Federal Highway Administration's Every Day Counts (EDC) innovations.

In 2023, more than 500 motorists were convicted of violating Pennsylvania's school bus stopping law. One hundred sixty-five law enforcement agencies and 18 school districts combined efforts last year to report violators of the School Bus Stopping Law during Operation Safe Stop. School bus drivers in Pennsylvania traveled over 434 million miles during the school year 2022/23, transporting more than 1.4 million students daily.

For more information about school bus safety, visit PennDOT the School Bus Safety page on its highway safety website.

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motorists who violated the school bus stopping law and school bus drivers documenting any illegal passes occurring on their routes. Reports of these infractions are later filed with local police.

State law requires motorists approaching a school bus with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended, to stop at least 10 feet from the bus. Motorists approaching from all directions are required to stop. However, motorists who encounter a school bus stopping on the opposite side of a divided highway are not required to stop when a divider, such as concrete barriers or grassy medians, clearly separates lanes of the highway.

SHAPIRO ADMINISTRATION OPENS THIRD NEVI-FUNDED EV CHARGING STATION IN ASTON, MOVING QUICKLY TO BUILD OUT EV INFRASTRUCTURE

PennDOT opened its third federally-funded electric vehicle (EV) charging station in Aston, PA. With the state's third station coming online, the Shapiro administration continues to lead the nation in opening NEVI-funded stations while combatting climate change and providing travelers with transportation options that are cleaner, safer, and more affordable.

The charging station was installed at Royal Farms at the Route 452 Exit on I-95 (Exit 2) near Route 322 in Delaware County and will support a total of eight ports, of which four ports are funded by NEVI and are capable of providing 150 kW of power to each vehicle simultaneously. The total NEVI funding awarded to the project was \$253,826. Tesla will own and operate the charging station. The site, open 24/7, will provide customers with access to the station's amenities while charging.

NEVI funding supports the Commonwealth and federal goal of expanding EV charging along the previously designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs) (<https://www.pennidot.pa.gov/ProjectAnd Programs/Planning/EVs/Pages/Alternative-Fuel-Corridors.aspx>). Pennsylvania has over 1,800 miles of AFCs. Per guidance from U.S. DOT, NEVI formula funds must first be used to "build out" designated AFCs (meaning there must be no more than 50 miles between stations and stations must be less than 1 mile from an AFC exit) and meet U.S. DOT minimum standards and requirements.

The PA NEVI program includes multiple rounds of funding. During Round 1, when the Aston station was awarded, the focus was on building out the AFC network along the interstates to meet the NEVI requirements. A list of Round 1A awards is available on PennDOT's website. Additionally, PennDOT recently announced conditional awards of NEVI Round 1B to close remaining gaps in the state's AFC network. Once AFCs are fully built out, PennDOT will shift to expanding EV chargers to Pennsylvania's community charging infrastructure.

Pennsylvania can compete for billions of dollars in federal funds across a wide range of federal grant programs through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Among others, FHWA recently announced three Pennsylvania award recipients from Round 1B of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Program totaling over \$11 million. These projects will expand access



to EV charging infrastructure within communities across the state, complementing the NEVI program rollout.

To help communities and organizations learn about these opportunities, PennDOT created a web page, www.pennidot.pa.gov/IIJA, with details on federal grant opportunities to help municipalities, townships, and other community agencies with understanding the multiple transportation program grants that are available. The page includes Grant Alerts, guides, and links to important resources for local municipalities and organizations interested in pursuing federal funding opportunities.

Information about state infrastructure in Pennsylvania, including completed work and significant projects, is available at www.pennidot.pa.gov/results. Find PennDOT's planned and active construction projects at www.projects.pennidot.gov.