



REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS ADOPTED



The State Transportation Commission (STC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) have announced the adoption of PA's 2021 12-Year Transportation Plan (TYP).

Additionally, The Southern Alleghenies RPO and its partner counties and agencies have worked to adopt the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in July. Along with other planning partner's TIPs, PennDOT has submitted the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to the Federal Highway Administration.

Both the TYP and the STIP can be viewed on the [Talk PA Transportation](#) website. The website provides interactive tools to learn about the transportation planning process.

The Southern Alleghenies RPO maintains a copy of the regional TIP on its website:

<http://www.sapdc.org/gov-non-profit/2021TIP>

For questions or additional information, please contact the Southern Alleghenies Transportation Program Manager, Brandon Peters at (814) 949-6543 or bpeters@sapdc.org.

DCED MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Commonwealth Financing Authority has extended the deadline for Multimodal Transportation Fund submissions to **September 30, 2020**.

Pennsylvania
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[Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development](#)

The Multimodal Transportation Fund provides grants to encourage economic development and ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available to the residents of the commonwealth. The program is intended to provide financial assistance to municipalities, councils of governments, businesses, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies and rail and freight ports in order to improve public transportation assets that enhance communities, pedestrian safety and transit revitalization.

The following are the eligible projects under the program:

- **A project which coordinates local land use with transportation assets to enhance existing communities**
- **A project related to streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement and pedestrian safety**
- **A project improving connectivity or utilization of existing transportation assets**
- **A project related to transportation aspects of transit-oriented development**

Grants are available for projects with a total cost of \$100,000 or more but can not exceed \$3,000,000. Match is required by local funding in an amount not less than 30% of the non-federal share of the project costs.

For complete guidelines, please visit the website:

[Multimodal Program](#)

SAP&DC staff is available for questions and assistance with applications. Please contact Brandon Peters at (814) 949-6543 or bpeters@sapdc.org.

RAIL FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The Rail Freight Assistance Program (RFAP) provides financial assistance to eligible applicants for investment in rail freight infrastructure. The purpose of the program is to preserve essential rail freight service where economically feasible and preserve or stimulate economic development through the generation of new or expanded rail freight service.

Applications are being accepted beginning Monday, August 3, 2020, through 4:00 PM on Friday, August 28, 2020. For additional information on the Rail Freight Assistance Program, please use the link provided below:

[Rail Freight Assistance Program](#)

EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS

SAP&DC is the SPOC (Single Point of Contact) for the Intergovernmental Review Process (required by [Executive Order 12372](#)) for the six-county Region, which structures the federal government's system of consultation with state and local governments on its decisions involving grants, other forms of financial assistance, and direct development.

Executive Order(EO) 12372 establishes the framework for SAP&DC to review consistency of the projects with the Region's 2020-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan ([located here](#)).

Requests for project reviews can be submitted by completing the EO 12372 Review Request Form ([submit form](#)). The Commission's Board of Directors provides their final recommendations to the respective funding agencies. SAP&DC staff responds to all EO 12372 inquiries within 60 days.

For more information or any questions regarding the process, please contact Stacy LoCastro at (814) 949-6510 or slocastro@sapdc.org.

DCNR ATV AND SNOWMOBILE TRAIL FUNDING

DCNR is accepting applications for grants to aid snowmobile and ATV related projects. The grant round is open now through September 30, 2020. More details about the program can be found [here](#).



Funding for the grants comes from ATV and snowmobile registration fees. "These grants are designed to add to the enjoyment of snowmobile and ATV riding enthusiasts throughout Pennsylvania," DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. "In previous years they have supported land acquisition, trail maintenance, education, and so many other worthy endeavors." No match is required for this funding, but applications with matching funds will be given additional consideration. Proposed projects eligible for grants include planning, land acquisition, development, rehabilitation, maintenance, purchase of equipment for maintenance and construction, and development of educational programs related to snowmobile and ATV trails and facilities.

BROADBAND FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE



Earlier this year, Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) contracted with Design Nine, Inc. from Blacksburg, Virginia to coordinate a feasibility study in order to inventory existing broadband assets, to identify gaps in service, and to develop a plan for improving broadband services throughout the "South-Central" region of Pennsylvania.

As part of the study, a survey was conducted to assess current levels and needs of broadband service and to garner information and feedback from residents and businesses throughout the eight-county region. The broadband survey concluded in May and resulted in a total of 8,618 residential responses and 452 business responses, as well as 158 pages of comments that clearly show the need for broadband.

Furthermore, for the past few months, Design Nine and the Southern Alleghenies Broadband Task Force have been working to identify and strategize solutions for broadband connectivity within the region using data from the survey, the counties, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This data was incorporated into reports developed for each county and helped to produce county-wide designs and strategies that will drive the decision-making process for implementing broadband projects.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need for reliable broadband and has caused many problems in the lives of adults and students who need to complete work or assignments. The Information Technology Disaster Resource Center's (ITDRC) projectConnect program works with anchor institutions such as libraries, schools, community centers, etc. to provide outdoor and indoor WiFi access so that individuals of the community can gain access to internet resources. The services provided through this program come at no cost. For more information about this program, please use the link provided below:

<https://www.itdrc.org/projectconnect>

If you have any other questions about the study, please contact Zachary Lee at (814) 949-6532 or zlee@sapdc.org.

LTAP DROP-IN COURSES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LTAP is continuing to provide **FREE** virtual training! LTAP is offering **1-hour** Drop-In Sessions as well as full **4-hour** training courses on a variety of maintenance and safety topics.



Drop-in Session Information: LTAP Virtual Drop-ins are centered on various safety and maintenance topics. These sessions are **not** virtual classes; they are informal one-hour live sessions focused on networking and sharing information with other municipal roadway personnel. Whether you are new to the virtual world or have a lot of experience, you will enjoy meeting online with LTAP staff and other municipal staff to learn and discuss information critical to your job.

Note: The drop-ins are not eligible for Roads Scholar credits.

Time: All Drop-in Sessions are from 12 PM to 1 PM

Upcoming Virtual Drop-in Sessions:

Safety Tips for Flagging – September 3, 2020, 12 PM

Salt Brine: Does using salt brine before a storm really work? – October 2, 2020, 12 PM

You can register for the Virtual Drop-in Sessions by visiting the LTAP website (<http://gis.penndot.gov/LTAP>) and going to the “**Bulletin Board**” section of the homepage.

Virtual Training Information:

Registration: Register for classes on the LTAP website (<http://gis.penndot.gov/LTAP>). All virtual classes have **Virtual, PA**, as their location on the website. If you need assistance with registration, please contact LTAP at LTAP@state.pa.us call 1-800-FOR-LTAP or 717-787-5243. You may also contact Matthew Bjorkman at (814) 949-6553 or mborkman@sapdc.org.

Group Participation in LTAP Virtual Class : A municipality may have a few staff participate in a virtual class together, if they are meeting their municipal requirements for COVID-19. After the class, the quiz and evaluation forms need to be completed. Please have **everyone** register on the website that is planning on attending.

Time: All classes are from 8 AM to 12 PM.

Upcoming Virtual Training Sessions:

- Unpaved & Gravel Roads: Common Maintenance Practices – August 25, 2020
- Asphalt Roads: Common Maintenance Problems – September 1, 2020
- Work Zone (Temporary) Traffic Control – September 21, 2020
- Road Safety Audit – September 22, 2020
- Equipment & Worker Safety – September 29, 2020

Visit our
Website

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