

KEEPING YOU UP  
TO DATE WITH ALL  
OF PENNDOT'S  
PROJECTS AND  
INNOVATIONS  
THROUGHOUT  
THE YEAR



## Announcing New 'PennDOT Connects' Project Approach



PennDOT's New  
Road MaP Program

The Great American Cleanup of  
PA is Underway!

Did You Know? Here are  
Updates to Traffic Laws

## Governor Wolf Highlights Highway, Bridge Improvements Coming This Year



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Governor Tom Wolf has visited and made announcements in communities across the state to highlight the roughly \$2.4 billion in highway and bridge construction contracts and PennDOT maintenance work that will occur this year. Governor Wolf was joined by PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards and other officials in discussing investments, PennDOT's Road MaP initiative and projects that were accelerated or made possible by Act 89, the state transportation plan.

### Some of these announcements include:

- **Dunmore:** Overall, highlights in the 2017 construction season for Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties include: more than 400 miles of paving or resurfacing by PennDOT and private partners; more than 100 bridges being repaired or replaced; and 86 safety enhancement projects.
- **Harrisburg:** The governor marked the start of an \$89 million reconstruction project on a six-mile portion of Route 283 in Dauphin County, the largest slated to begin in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's eight-county, south central region's \$533 million construction season.
- **Glen Mills:** Ground was broken on the first of two mainline projects to widen and reconstruct a 6.7-mile section of U.S. 322 (Conchester Highway) from U.S. 1 (Baltimore Pike) to just east of Route 452 (Market Street) in Concord, Bethel and Upper Chichester townships, Delaware County.
- **Clearfield:** More than \$195 million in highway and bridge improvements were announced that will come to fruition across nine counties in north central Pennsylvania during the 2017 construction season.
- **Hollidaysburg:** More than \$200 million in highway and bridge improvements will occur in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset counties this year.

Keep your finger on the pulse of investments occurring near you this year by visiting [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov).

## An Additional \$2.1 Billion is set for Investing for Highways and Bridges Through PennDOT's New 'Road MaP' Program

More than \$2 billion will be invested in roadway maintenance and highway and bridge capital projects over the next 10 years through PennDOT's Road Maintenance and Preservation (Road MaP) program.

The investments are possible due to legislative action in 2016 that caps the expenditures from the Motor License Fund going toward the State Police budget, beginning with the 2018-19 budget and concluding with the 2027-28 budget.

Of the capital-project investments, \$500 million will be allocated to an Interstate preservation and reconstruction program, bringing that total program, begun in 2016, to \$1 billion over the next 10 years. Another \$600 million will go toward rehabilitation and reconstruction needs identified through the department's district and regional planning efforts.

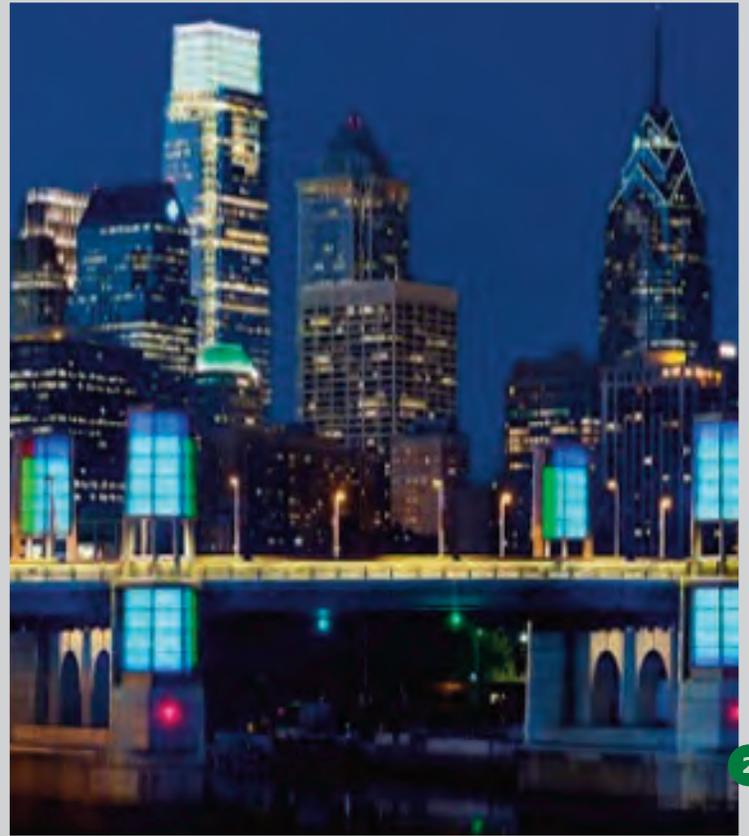
Road MaP also aggressively addresses relatively low-volume roads with a reinvigorated initiative to use recycled asphalt to preserve and upgrade the condition of these roads. Recycled Asphalt Paving (RAP), which repurposes materials from projects onto other roadways by mixing ground millings with oil, allows the department to pave less-traveled roads that otherwise wouldn't be paved, or to reinforce roadway shoulders.

RAP is an environmentally conscious method that saves the need to purchase new material, stretching dollars to impact more miles of secondary roadways. In PennDOT's northwest region where RAP is being deployed, they estimate roughly \$5.4 million in annual savings due to RAP usage. RAP will be an increased focus with PennDOT forces in Armstrong and Berks counties in 2017, with expanded usage occurring in 2018.

Road MaP, with its additional resources making more contracts and department maintenance work possible, means that all maintenance projects listed in Act 89's Decade of Investment will be completed by 2028. As of late February, more than 70 percent of projects accelerated or made possible by Act 89 were completed, are underway, or are on the department's four- or 12-year plans. The projects are viewable at [www.projects.penndot.gov](http://www.projects.penndot.gov).

More information on Road MaP is available at [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov) on the "Act 89 Transportation Plan" page.

## Announcing 'PennDOT Connects,' Important New Transportation-Project Approach



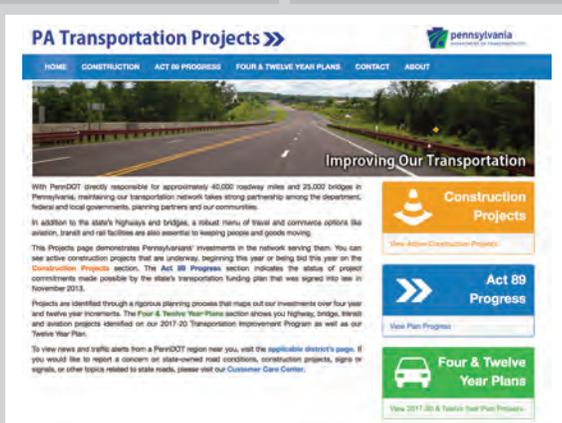
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Recognizing transportation's role in connecting communities and supporting economic development, Secretary Richards unveiled "PennDOT Connects," an approach that will enhance local engagement and improve transportation project planning, design, and delivery.

The new approach to project planning and development expands the department's requirements for engaging local and planning partners by requiring collaboration with stakeholders before project scopes are developed. PennDOT Connects aims to ensure that community collaboration happens early, and that each project is considered in a holistic way for opportunities to improve safety, mobility, access, and environmental outcomes for all modes and local contexts.

Specific areas to be brought to the table include safety issues; bicycle/pedestrian accommodations; transit access; stormwater management; utility issues; local and regional plans and studies; freight-generating land uses and more.



# Work Zone Safety Education Enhanced Through Social Media

By Deborah Casadei, Community Relations Coordinator, District 10

This construction season, PennDOT's Indiana-based region is continuing a successful social media campaign entitled "Work Zone Wednesdays."

The purpose of this safety campaign is to use social media to educate the public on how to safely navigate work zones and to explain exactly how work zones function.

The weekly Facebook and Twitter posts focus on current construction work zones, using photos, graphics and project descriptions to familiarize motorists with work zones before they must drive through them.

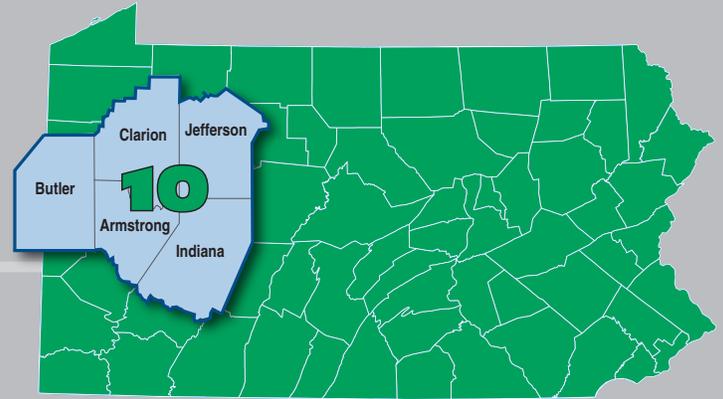
To supplement last year's social media campaign and to increase the reach of the message, media events were held in each county at construction work zones.

Another continuing initiative is "Maintenance Mondays" where near misses and challenges in maintenance work zones are posted to social media. Maintenance Mondays remind the traveling public of the challenges maintenance workers face daily performing highway maintenance activities. Near misses are described, and tips are given to motorists about reducing distractions and paying attention to flaggers, signs, and traffic control devices. The posts are supplemented by weekly maintenance activity posts to the website and Twitter highlighting where work will occur.

As the last construction season progressed, Work Zone Wednesdays' messages focused on challenges motorists faced in specific work zones, such as delays, long queues, heavy traffic volumes, and especially lane restrictions on Interstates. Other messages focused on the specific use and purpose of traffic control devices.

At the end of last season, an electronic survey was posted to Facebook and Twitter asking our customers for feedback on construction projects. Because of the survey, Work Zone Wednesdays is being expanded to include why certain methods of traffic control are used. For example, a planned use of a temporary roadway will explain why this was chosen and the benefits to the motorists and residents. Where a temporary signal is used, we educate motorists on how to drive in that condition.

The department encourages our partners and customers to share the information that is provided in Work Zone Wednesdays and Maintenance Mondays postings to assist us in educating motorists in safe driving actions to make work zones safer for our employees and all highway workers.



Work on several bridges on SR 119 in Jefferson County



Work on I-79 Ramp in Butler County

## District 10



Maintenance workers performing sealcoat operations



Work on SR 228 Cox's Corner Roundabout Project

### Highlights of these messages include:

#### Maintenance Mondays

- Description, graphics, and photos of the use of rolling road blocks on Interstates to place work zone signs in a safe manner.
- Real-time examples of near misses where a driver ignores the flagger and intrudes into the work zone, endangering workers.
- Safety tips for travelling through maintenance work zones on roadways with multiple intersections.

#### Work Zone Wednesdays

- Description and photos of resurfacing projects on two-lane roadways and how to drive with slow-moving traffic.
- Graphics and descriptions of how to stop and travel through intersections with flashing yellow signal heads.
- Educating drivers on how to efficiently and safely merge in work zones where lane restrictions occur, especially on Interstates.

# Work Zone Safety Promoted at I-279 Parkway North Improvement Project in Pittsburgh

## District 11

By Steve Cowan, Community Relations Coordinator and Yasmeen Manyisha, Safety Press Officer, District 11

Over 100,000 vehicles a day use Interstate 279 (Parkway North), which connects the North Hills suburbs to the City of Pittsburgh. The roadway, which opened in 1989, connects Interstate 79 on the northern end to the Fort Duquesne Bridge in Pittsburgh on the southern end, as it sweeps through the East Street Valley. The Parkway North includes the Department's only High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, which promote ridesharing to reduce congestion through the corridor.

As part of National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, a press event was held on Wednesday, April 5 to announce the start of the project and focus attention on the importance of safe driving through all construction zones. Department officials, including District Executive Dan Cessna, representatives from the Constructors Association of Western Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania State Police joined to announce the start of the \$87.94 million project and highlight the significant changes that motorists will encounter on I-279.

Work on District 11's largest project will occur in the southbound direction in 2017. To maintain two lanes of traffic during peak travel times, several different configurations in various locations throughout the eight-mile corridor will be employed including:

- A single southbound lane of traffic crossed over into the northbound lanes;
- All southbound traffic will be placed into the HOV lanes; and
- A variety of overnight and weekend lane closures close to the City of Pittsburgh.

More than 20,000 workers are injured in road construction work zones each year. Per preliminary 2016 PennDOT data, there were 266 reported work zone crashes within District 11.

Since 2012, there have been 13 fatalities in District 11 that have occurred because of work zone crashes. Over 86% of those crashes occurred in dry road conditions, with more than 60% occurring during daylight hours.

The project includes concrete patching and overlay on eight miles of Interstate 279, preservation of 20 bridges and 49 overhead sign structures, repairs to 29 retaining walls, ramp work, lighting improvements, HOV lane operation systems upgrades, and other safety and construction work. The project is anticipated to conclude in June 2019. Work will occur in the northbound lanes in 2018 and the HOV lanes in 2019.

As with every project, a cohesive approach with clear communications and close coordination with various partners is critical to the success of the project. The department has worked closely with municipal officials, emergency service personnel, other construction projects, and the major sporting venues in Pittsburgh to promote mutual awareness and ultimately minimize impacts to motorists.

Additional project information, including traffic configuration graphics, can be found at the District 11 Construction Projects and Roadwork page under the I-279 Parkway North Improvement Project.



PennDOT District Executive Dan Cessna (Center) joins Trooper Melinda Bondarenka with the Pennsylvania State Police.



## The Great American Cleanup of PA is Underway!



There's still time to join PennDOT and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and volunteer for this year's Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania. The cleanup began March 1 and runs through May 31.

The cleanup is sponsored each year by PennDOT, DEP, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and other partners. Groups participating in PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program, which involves volunteers cleaning roadsides year-round, are also encouraged to participate in the cleanup.

During last year's Great American Cleanup, 5,290,560 pounds of litter were collected from Pennsylvania's roads, trails, and shorelines by 158,821 volunteers. PennDOT's AAH program contributed 8,046 volunteers who cleaned up nearly 23 percent of the collected litter on 10,258 miles of cleaned-up roadway.

## Department Receives Agency Partner of the Year for Roadside Beautification Efforts



Keep America Beautiful President Shannon Reiter presents PennDOT's Carl Wesneski with the Agency Partner of the Year Award.

For the seventh year in a row, PennDOT was the recipient of the Keep America Beautiful Agency Partnership award. The department received the award for their prominent support of the Great American Cleanup of PA and Adopt-A-Highway program.

Commenting on the department's receipt of the award, Carl Wesneski, roadway program coordinator, said, "It is my privilege to accept the 2016 State Agency Partnership Award on behalf of PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway District and County Coordinators. Year after year their tireless efforts continue to build, maintain, and improve one of the most successful litter abatement programs in the nation, and are most deserving of this award and the recognition it brings. They truly make the program work! Congratulations All!"

## Did You Know? Here are Updates to Traffic Laws



The driver safety laws below have recently been updated. Please take a minute now to familiarize yourself with these laws.

- The "Child Passenger Safety" law update, which went into effect in August 2016, states that children are required to be buckled into a rear-facing car seat until they are age 2 or meet the maximum weight or height requirements set by the manufacturer of the seat.
- "Daniel's Law," honoring motorcyclist Daniel Gallatin, who died in 2013, was signed in January 2017. It increases the penalty for texting while driving resulting in serious bodily injury or death.
- The "Ignition Interlock Law" affects first-time or subsequent DUI offenders. It requires drivers to install an Ignition Interlock system in every car they operate or lease for more than a year. Each system costs \$1,000. The law will go into effect in August 2017.
- "Pedestrian Safety Laws at unsignalized intersections" state that a driver of a vehicle emerging from or entering an alley, building, private road, or driveway shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian approaching on any sidewalk extending across the alley, building entrance, road, or driveway. Failure to do so could lead to a fine and three points on the driver's license. It is illegal to overtake or pass a vehicle yielding to a pedestrian within a crosswalk. Pedestrians are also required to use the sidewalk and marked crosswalks where provided. When there is no sidewalk, pedestrians should walk along the shoulder or the road's edge as far away from traffic as possible and in the opposite direction of traffic.

For more information on highway safety, visit [www.PennDOT.gov/safety](http://www.PennDOT.gov/safety).

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## PennDOT Provides Nearly \$466.2 Million to Municipalities to Invest in Local Roads and Bridges



On March 1, Pennsylvania's far-reaching transportation plan, Act 89, allowed PennDOT to distribute nearly \$466.2 million in liquid fuels payments to certified municipalities to help them maintain their roads and bridges.

This distribution marks a \$20.9 million, or 5 percent, increase over the \$445.3 million distributed in 2016. In 2013, before Act 89 was enacted, municipalities received \$320.8 million in liquid fuels payments.

Liquid fuels allocations are annual payments made to municipalities to help pay for expenses such as snow removal and road repaving. There are 120,091 miles of public roads in Pennsylvania, with 72,856 of those miles owned by municipalities and eligible for liquid fuels. The formula for payments is based on a municipality's population and miles of locally-owned roads.

# Safer and More Efficient Construction and Work Zones: PennDOT IdeaLink 20/20 Pitches In

By Paul Sparano, Analyst Supervisor, Bureau of Innovations



PennDOT's employee engagement system, IdeaLink 20/20, encourages employees to think of cheaper, faster and better ways of doing business. Some more recent IdeaLink 20/20 submissions identified ways to improve safety and efficiency in Pennsylvania's numerous construction projects and work zones. Employee ideas are paying construction and work zone safety dividends and increasing efficiencies in several areas. Here are a few examples ...

## Construction

Gerald Wertz, a construction services engineer in PennDOT's District 3 Office, Montoursville, submitted an idea to incorporate width, height, and weight restriction information into the construction alerts on 511PA. The 511PA system provides roadway travel information to Pennsylvania motorists. The changes recommended by Gerald are expected to be implemented by the end of 2017.

George Trovato, a roadway programs technician in Wyoming County, submitted an idea to install guide rail delineators (reflectors) as a standard item in all new construction installations of guide rail systems. Guide rail delineators are an inexpensive and effective safety device for night and/or low visibility driving conditions. PennDOT implemented George's idea in April 2017 and delineators will be included with all new guide rail installations where applicable.

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## Work Zones

Jacob Turtschanow, who is now retired from PennDOT's Northampton County office, recommended that information on work zone safety be included in senior driving classes offered by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Jacob submitted this idea to increase work zone safety awareness among Pennsylvania's senior drivers. Because of Jacob's idea, PennDOT's Driver Safety Division worked with AARP to incorporate information into their curriculum to inform senior drivers of the rules, laws, and best practices for traveling through work zones.

Two Butler County employees, Christopher Robinson, a roadway programs coordinator, and Jeff Hartzell, an assistant highway maintenance manager, submitted ideas to consolidate and streamline the work zone flagging On-The-Job Training (OJT) packets into more user-friendly documents. These packets are a critical component of the work zone flagger training and help to ensure trainees can satisfactorily demonstrate the duties of a work zone flagger. Moving forward with implementing Christopher's and Jeff's idea, PennDOT is in the process of drafting revisions to the training packets. These revisions will help improve flagger training efficiency and reduce the size of the training packets, saving some printing costs.

Michelle Mancuso, while she was a roadside technician in Philadelphia, submitted an idea to create a site-specific Temporary Traffic Control Plan, specifically for roadside operations within the medians of Roosevelt Boulevard in Philadelphia. Michelle's idea provided extra safety measures to consider in advance of any work zone, furthering efforts to decrease the number of crashes and fatalities occurring on Roosevelt Boulevard. PennDOT implemented Michelle's idea in June 2016 by issuing a revision to the "Temporary Traffic Control Guidelines" Publication 213.

These are just a few of the innovative ideas PennDOT employees submitted through IdeaLink 20/20 to improve safety and efficiency across Pennsylvania's numerous construction projects and work zones. As a part of PennDOT's employee engagement and continuous quality improvement efforts, the Bureau of Innovations administers the IdeaLink 20/20 system to help empower all PennDOT employees to share innovative ideas.



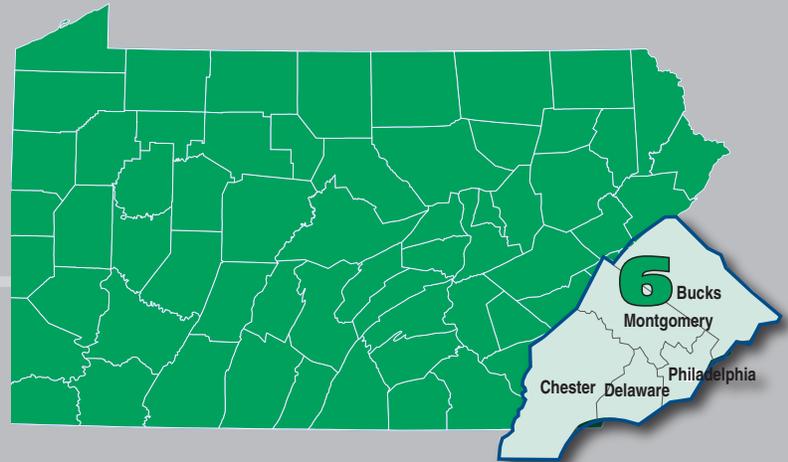
# PennDOT Receives 2017 Transportation Award for New Sullivan's Trail Bridge

By Brad Rudolph, Communications Director, District 6

PennDOT won the 2017 Transportation Award from the King of Prussia District for Sullivan's Bridge – the new, four-span, bicycle and pedestrian trail bridge spanning the Schuylkill River in Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP).

The National Park Service (NPS), a key stakeholder and owner of Sullivan's Bridge, was also recognized with an award for the project.

Named for Major General John Sullivan, the officer who was charged by General George Washington with building a bridge across the Schuylkill River during the 1777-78 Valley Forge winter encampment of the Continental Army, the concrete, bicycle-and-pedestrian-trail bridge is 14 feet wide and 604 feet long. The bridge features an observation area where trail users can stop midway to view the Schuylkill River and VFNHP. Construction began in March 2014 and was completed in August 2016.



**District 6**



# Moxham Stonycreek Bridge Project Incorporates Historical Elements

By Anthony Scalia, Safety Press Officer, District 9

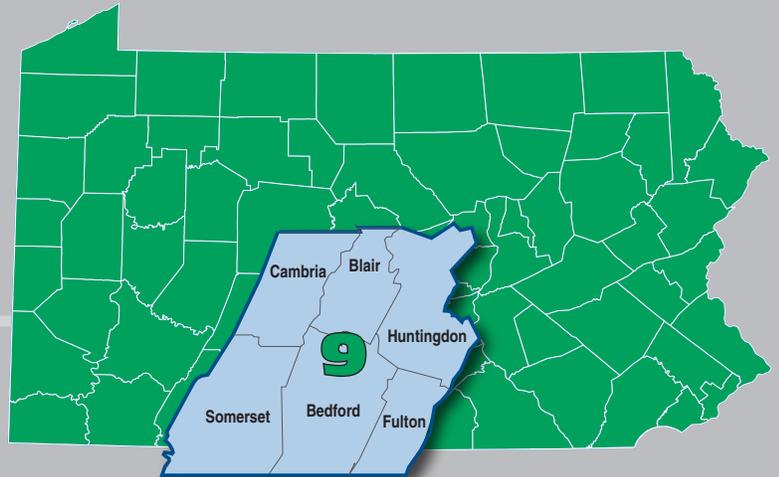
This upcoming construction season, PennDOT District 9 will be undertaking an interesting project that seeks to complete a bridge in an innovative way. The Moxham Stonycreek Bridge Project will replace a state-owned bridge within the City of Johnstown. The existing structure is a 233-foot, two span, closed spandrel concrete arch bridge that was originally constructed in 1917. The bridge is currently considered structurally deficient and will be replaced with a new 233-foot, two span steel haunched plate girder bridge.

One of the most interesting aspects of this project is the fact that this bridge will be the first closed spandrel arch that the department will construct in phases. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained at all times during the construction of the new structure. The contractor will be required to install shoring in the middle of the bridge and then will wire saw through the existing structure in order to remove half of the bridge. This process will take place over two years with the downstream phase of the project completed in 2017 and the upstream phase completed during the 2018 season.

It was decided early on that instead of removing the existing massive buried concrete arch thrust blocks, micropiles will be drilled through them. This will reduce the amount of excavation and temporary shoring required and avoids impacting the several properties that are adjacent to the project area. Once the micropiles are drilled, integral stub abutments will be placed on top of them. This should help to make the project more efficient and more palatable to all involved parties.

The existing bridge is located in a highly visible location in the area of the Greater Johnstown High School and surrounded by historical structures. Various elements were included in the design in order to incorporate these historical elements of the existing bridge into the finished product. The existing arched girders and open barriers will be recreated through the use of simulated stone and concrete stain. Decorative lighting will also be added to the bridge as an added aesthetic touch. The area sees heavy pedestrian traffic due to its location in respect to the high school and the many events that take place there. This warranted the inclusion of wide sidewalks on both sides of the structure in order to accommodate the walkers safely and efficiently. Updates will be made so that the walkways will be in compliance with ADA requirements.

Contractor Joseph B. Fay, Co. of Pittsburgh has been awarded the work on this contract and the estimated cost of construction is \$7.5 million.



District 9



Upstream



Downstream

## PennDOT Staffers, Consultants Help Girl Scouts in Central PA Discover Careers in Transportation



The Central PA Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), an international organization dedicated to building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women, launched the "TransportationYOU" Club to introduce young girls to a variety of transportation careers.

In partnership with their local Girl Scout Council, "Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania," the club meets for two hours each month to explore transportation topics such as highway design, traffic, planning, structures, land development, construction, materials, environmental, water resources, and transit. A different transportation topic is chosen each month, with a variety of hands-on activities. The WTS members also have career-oriented talks with the girls.

"The WTS TransportationYOU Girl Scout Club is a success story and accomplished a long-term goal for the Central PA Chapter," said WTS Central PA President, Crystalann Deardorff. "Partnering with the Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA is a win-win!"

Please visit WTS International's TransportationYOU webpage here <http://www.transportationyou.org/> to learn more.

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## PennDOT Staffers Receive Special Training to Help Stop Human Trafficking

PennDOT is training its front-line Driver License Center staff to notice signs of a potential human trafficking situation and is working with the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association to help arrange this training for their operators as well. The department also is sharing trafficking awareness information with commercial drivers who visit Driver License Centers.

The training, developed by PennDOT in partnership with the Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Truckers against Trafficking, defines trafficking and how victims are forced and coerced into it. The training also instructs employees on how to call the appropriate authorities and what information to collect if they see potential trafficking.

Wallet cards are distributed to CDL holders and applicants at PennDOT Driver License Centers, which contain information regarding how to report a tip to law enforcement when suspecting human trafficking activities.

More information on human trafficking:

- [Blue Campaign](#) (USDOT/USDHS Joint Initiative)
- [Polaris](#) (National human trafficking non-profit)
- [Truckers Against Trafficking](#)
- [Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#)

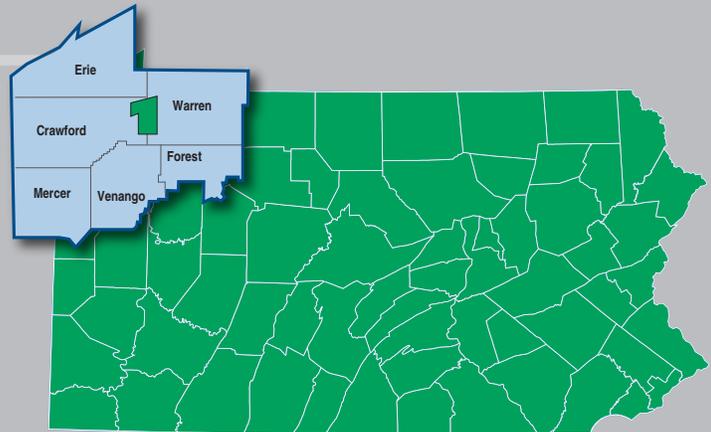
Instances of human trafficking can also be reported to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 1-888-373-7888.



# An Effective Voice to Warn of the Dangers of Texting While Driving

By Jill Harry, Safety Press Officer, District 1

## District 1



Looking for a new way to gain media attention to the dangers of texting while driving, District 1 partnered with the family of Daniel Gallatin to present an event highlighting Daniel's Law.

Northwest Regional Highway Safety Network and Millcreek Township Police Department served as co-hosts of the press conference on February 24 in Erie. The keynote speaker was Michelle Gallatin-Baughman, daughter of Daniel Gallatin, former New Castle resident.

Daniel Gallatin, an avid motorcyclist, firefighter, and military veteran, was riding to his daughter's home when another driver, who was texting, struck his motorcycle in May 2013. He died from injuries suffered during the crash.

Unsatisfied with the sentence the driver received, Daniel Gallatin's family worked with Pennsylvania legislators to increase the penalties for drivers who are texting when causing a serious crash. In November 2016, Governor Tom Wolf signed "Daniel's Law" - named in honor of Daniel Gallatin.

Effective as of January 4, 2017, drivers who text and cause a fatality will receive a five-year jail sentence, and drivers who cause bodily injury while texting and driving will receive a two-year jail sentence.

**11** While putting together a safety newsletter article about Daniel's Law, the District 1 press office reached out to the Gallatin family through social media. The collaboration evolved and the idea for the press event in Erie emerged through further conversation. Plans are in the works to continue the partnership for future community outreach events throughout the region.



# Vanpool Options Expand for Workers and to Assist Persons with Disabilities

In support of the Employment First initiative to help people with disabilities find employment, Governor Wolf and PennDOT announced a new Vanpool Incentive Program to create vanpools across the state that would provide a lower-cost alternative for people to commute to work.

The program will invest up to \$1 million annually and is open to government entities, non-profit entities and transportation companies. Approved vanpools will be offered an initial 50-percent cost incentive, up to \$800 per vanpool per month based on van size, that is phased out over three years for non-ADA accessible vanpools.

ADA-accessible vanpools would be eligible for a monthly subsidy up to \$1,200 per van, and would be eligible for an ongoing \$400-per-month subsidy after the third year. Participants would also be eligible for state investments to cover the cost to convert a van to be ADA-accessible.



## PennDOT's Matthew Hedge Appointed Chair of National Truck Freight Subcommittee



Matthew Hedge, Manager, Special Hauling Permits

The DOTcom learned that the department's own Special Hauling Permits Manager, Mathew Hedge, was appointed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to chair a National Highway Transport Subcommittee. Hedge recently described his role at PennDOT and what he expects to do as chair of AASHTO's truck freight-focused Subcommittee on Highway Transport (SCOHT).

"At PennDOT, I am responsible for facilitating oversized/overweight movement in Pennsylvania. In that capacity, I oversee maintaining and improving the Automated Permit Routing Analysis System. In addition, I represent the department's position on laws, regulations and policies pertaining to truck freight movement, including their compliance with Federal Guidelines.

As the AASHTO SCOHT Chair, it is my role to encourage communications between states and harmonize initiatives when possible to improve safety and improve conditions for interstate truck movement. The Subcommittee on Highway Transport is working to make that movement as safe and efficient as possible.

Every physical thing that someone would want or need is dependent on a truck delivery in some way. So, I look at truck movement as a necessity. When the trucks are moving, the economy is usually moving as well."



## Motorcyclists Encouraged to Take Free Courses and Start Riding Season Safely



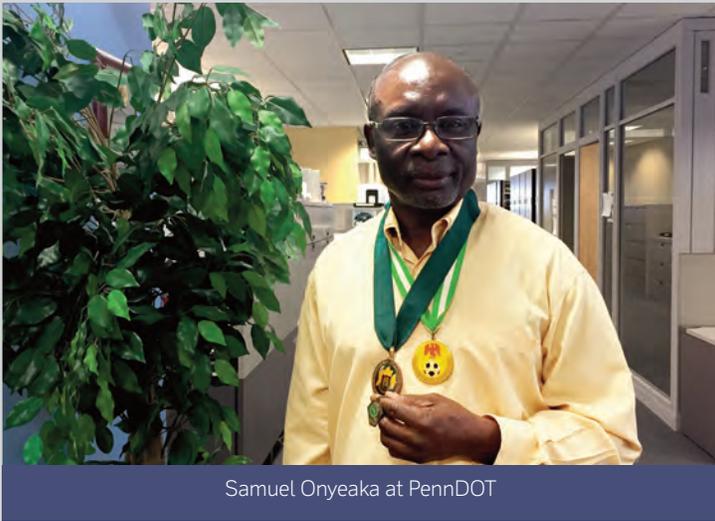
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The warmer temperatures have officially ushered in the motorcycle riding season in Pennsylvania, and the department urges riders of all ages to prepare by taking a free motorcycle training course. These courses are available to Pennsylvania residents throughout the commonwealth through the Pennsylvania Motorcycle Safety Program (PAMSP).

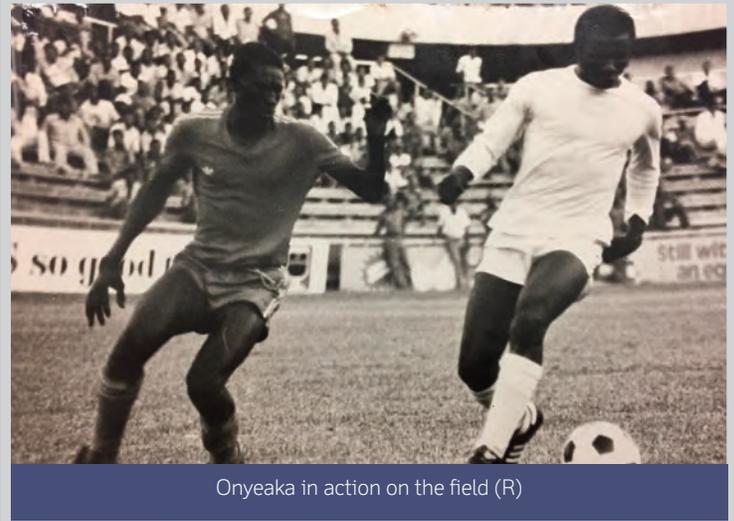
Free courses for novice through seasoned riders are offered at many locations statewide to Pennsylvania residents who have a motorcycle learner's permit or motorcycle license. All training courses are conducted on a riding range, under the supervision of certified instructors.

To learn about the wide variety of courses available or to enroll visit [www.pamsp.com](http://www.pamsp.com) or call 1-800-845-9533. Potential riders looking for a convenient way to prepare for their knowledge test can download the PA Motorcycle Practice Test app by visiting [www.pa.gov](http://www.pa.gov) and searching the mobile apps for the Pennsylvania Motorcycle License Practice Test, or by using the App Store (Apple devices) or Google Play (Android devices). A copy of the Motorcycle Operators Manual can be downloaded for free at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov).

# Meet Civil Engineer Samuel Onyeaka, Former World-class Soccer Player for Nigeria



Samuel Onyeaka at PennDOT



Onyeaka in action on the field (R)

Soccer is clearly the most popular sport in the world with an estimated 3.5 billion fans. (American Football comes in at 10th with 390 million fans.) The highest regional popularity for soccer is found in Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

It was in Nigeria, Africa, that PennDOT's own Samuel Onyeaka enjoyed his time in the limelight as a member of several Nigerian soccer (football) teams

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His football career started with his home town team the "Awka Iron Founders," immediately after the Nigerian civil war (1966 – 1970). He later joined the Nigeria Construction & Furniture Company Football Club team in Enugu, and in 1974, he briefly joined the Vasco-da-game Football Club, which was the second-best team in his state. He then joined Enugu Rangers International Football Club.

In all, Onyeaka was a pro from 1974 to 1982.

While with the Enugu Rangers International Football Club, he was a winning member of three consecutive league and Challenge Cup trophies, a winning member of African Cup Winners Cup in 1977, and member of the bronze-winning East Central State at the first National Sports Festival.

During his career as a player, Onyeaka played center forward and outside right.

## Special Moments

When asked about any special moments, he said, "I have two special moments to share with you, one should have taken my life, and the second one was a thing of joy to me."

In 1977, the Enugu Rangers International Football Club played the Police Football Club of Senegal. Onyeaka and his team mates were beaten and stabbed after defeating the home team. Onyeaka suffered a stab wound near his neck and one below his knee.

In 1986, he was playing college soccer here in the United States for the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) in a game against Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University (A&M) in Normal, AL.

It was the first time ever that Alabama A&M University was defeated by the UAH soccer team and Onyeaka scored the game winning goal. In fact, it was the only winning goal ever recorded in the history of University of Alabama in Huntsville against Alabama A&M team.

Onyeaka came to America in 1984 after his professional career in football ended to continue his education, and joined PennDOT in 1994 upon graduation from UAH with Bachelors of Science in Engineering.

## Onyeaka's Soccer Passion Continues in the USA

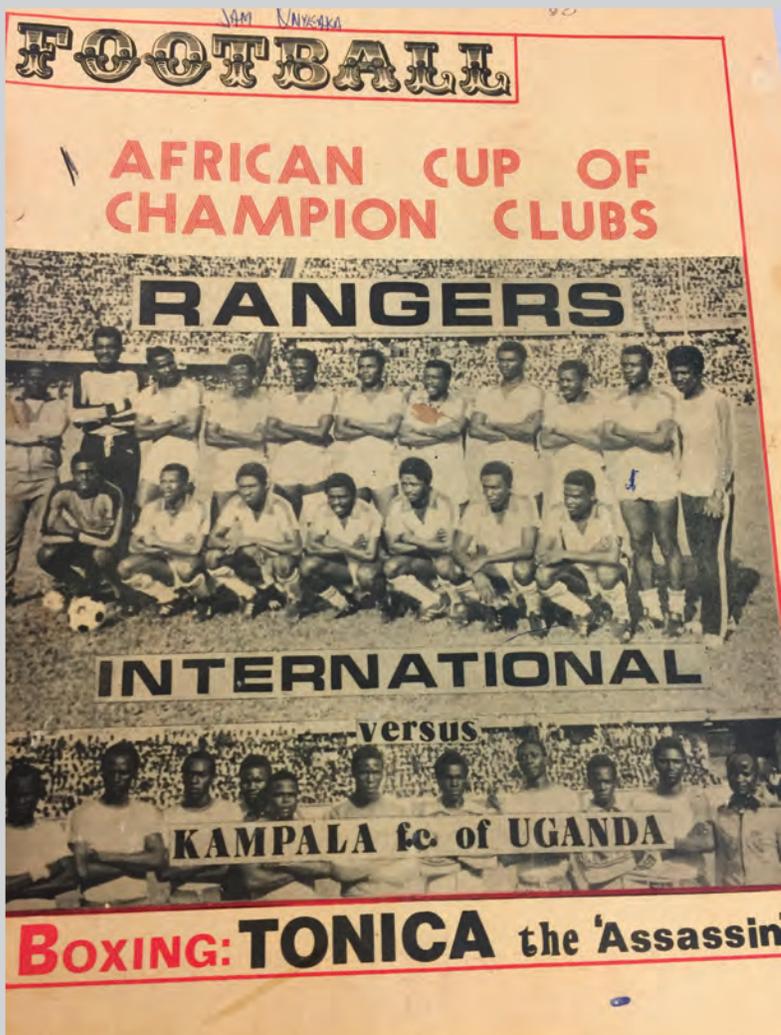
Onyeaka carried his passion for the sport with him to America, starting as a part-time coach for the Carlisle High School junior varsity team and as an assistant to the head coach on the varsity team, from 1995 to 1998.

In 1994, he joined the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) referee officials for High School (Varsity and Junior Varsity), and was also a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) referee for amateur and semiprofessional teams - both indoor and outdoor. He slowly moved up to become a State Referee Five by 1995, and in 1997, he joined the NCAA College Referees. Onyeaka retired from officiating in 2014.

Onyeaka noted the following changes to the law of the game, which he mentioned "has made the game more secure and lovely to watch."

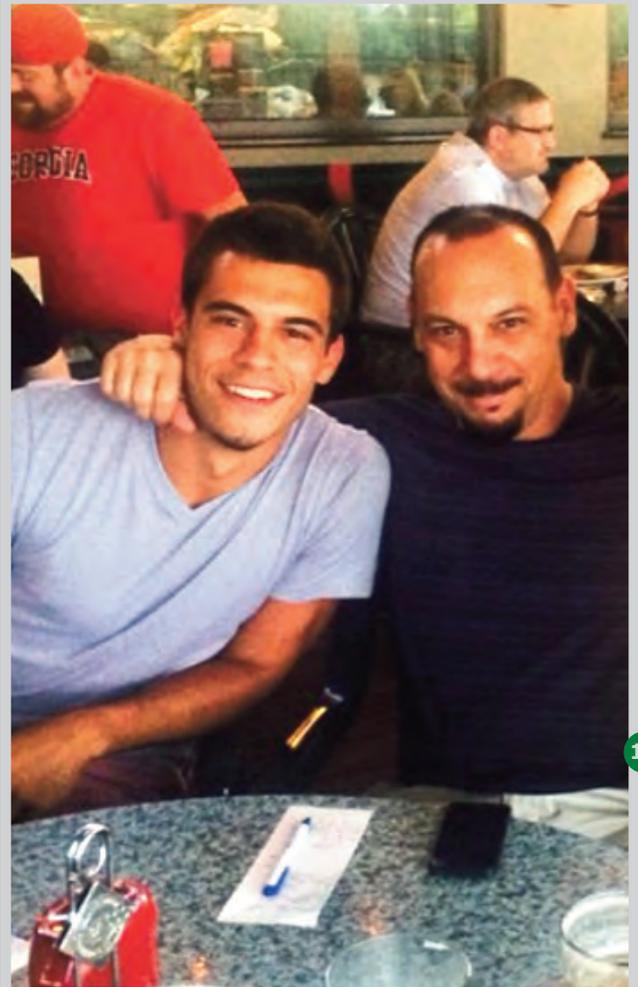
- Mandatory use of shin guards. "They eliminate a lot of leg injuries I witnessed during my playing days."
- The back-pass rule change. Goalkeepers can't pick up a back pass. This rule eliminates time wasting tactics by the winning team.
- Referees now can protect targeted players. This rule empowered the referee to caution players who are taking turns to foul their opponent's best player.
- FIFA, (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) now holds the host nation responsible for the safety of the visiting team.

## Maintenance Manager's Son Drafted by Major League Soccer Team



(Above) Privately owned Nigeria Football Association, Sports News Magazine coverage of 1976 Semi-Final "African Cup of Champion Clubs Cup" (An Equivalent of Europeans Championship Cup) Rangers lost at the Finals to Hafnia FC of Guinea on a 3 – 1 goal aggregate.

(Below) 1976 Reception by the Military Governor of Anambra State: Lt. Col. John Atom Kpera congratulates Onyeaka after winning the National League two years in a row.



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Colton Storm, pictured above left, son of Cumberland County maintenance manager Dan Storm, was selected as the 14th pick overall in the first round of the 2017 Major League Soccer "Superdraft" by Sporting Kansas City. Storm, a graduate of Cumberland Valley High School and the University of North Carolina, also played for the U-17 U.S. National Team. When interviewed for his accomplishments, he said "I look forward to slipping on my jersey that has Storm on the back of it. It was always my dream to see my name and my family's name on the back of a professional jersey, and the first time I see it, I think it will give me goosebumps!"

## Biking Improvements are Recommended for 150 Miles of Route 6

As part of its effort to improve bicycle safety, accessibility, and connectivity along Route 6, PennDOT has completed a report outlining enhancements for the route's 150 miles from the Ohio border to the McKean/Potter county line, as well as Route 6N in Erie County.

You'll find it at [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov) in the "Ride A Bike" section of "Travel in PA." It outlines improvement strategies and specific enhancement suggestions, such as suggested wayfinding signage locations.

Recommended improvements along the main corridor will cost \$70.1 million. More than half of that is for bridge replacements, with an additional \$5.9 million for enhancements to Route 6N.

The PA Route 6 Alliance, a key partner on the initiative, noted the initiative's aim to enhance safety and connect to trails and communities along the route, most of which is officially designated as PA Bike Route Y.

PennDOT plans two additional reports that will identify strategies and recommendations for the remaining sections of Route 6 in the state.



## Four Airports to Expand & Rehabilitate Facilities with State Multimodal Investments

Four airports will make facility upgrades as well as promote services and establish new educational opportunities with the assistance of \$5.8 million in state investments. The investments are funded by the state Multimodal Fund, which was created by Act 89, Pennsylvania's far-reaching transportation funding plan. The fund established dedicated investments in transit, aviation, rail freight, and pedestrian and bicycle modes, in addition to increasing highway and bridge funding.

The approved aviation projects are:

- Allegheny County: Pittsburgh International Airport — \$2.4 million;
- Cambria County: John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport — \$1.9 million;
- Philadelphia: Philadelphia International Airport — \$800,000; and
- Westmoreland County: Arnold Palmer Regional Airport — \$805,000.

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Read the entire February 23, 2017 release at [penndot.gov](http://penndot.gov).

## PennDOT Part of Emergency Transport Mission through Winter Storm Stella



Winter storm Stella was no match for the trained professionals who came to the aid of the family of Bentley Gingerlowski, a 23-month-old child in need of an emergency medical procedure. Despite the best efforts of the most impactful winter storm to hit Pennsylvania this winter on March 14, the 80-mile journey was completed with the help of PennDOT plows, the National Guard, the Pennsylvania State Police and Suburban EMS. Bentley was transported from Mt. Pocono Medical Center in East Stroudsburg to Geisinger Children's Hospital in Danville.

The act did not go unnoticed by Governor Tom Wolf who made public comment about the event.

"Our ultimate responsibility is to keep the public safe, and the people who took part in this mission made a huge difference in dire circumstances," Governor Wolf said. "I thank these employees and all of our crews who work so hard to make travel as safe as possible during weather and emergency events."

Secretary Richards paid a personal visit to some of the PennDOT employees who took part in the effort to express her thanks to the exceptional crew.

### The PennDOT staffers who took part in the transport:

**Columbia County:** Bill Diehl; Jonathan Harder; Mike Neiswender

**Montour County:** Doyle St. Clair; Dave Wydra

**Luzerne County:** Steve Beck; Bruce Critchisin; Chris Lawrence; Doug Yacoboski

**Monroe County:** Michael Ayers; Duane Bartleson

**D-11 Mobile Equipment Teams:** Randy Carbone; Kevin Chatary; Mike Emory; Larry Ervin; Joe Grzyb; Frank McCurry; Mike Meglen; Ray Montemurro; Charles Robinson; Rich Staub