

Innovation in Motion

A newsletter with highlights from the STIC

INNOVATE

DEPLOY

EDUCATE



This edition of the STIC *Innovation in Motion* e-newsletter features the innovative and award-winning effort to replace the collapsed Fern Hollow Bridge in Pittsburgh and includes information about the availability of funding through FHWA's Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration Program to assist with innovation deployment in highway transportation.

The e-newsletter also highlights PennDOT's 2023-2024 Innovations Challenge for students grades 9-12, regardless of their school's learning model.

There's Nothing Hollow About This Award

Pittsburgh's Fern Hollow Bridge collapsed in January 2022, severing an important connection between Pittsburgh neighborhoods and the adjacent Edgewood and Wilksburg communities, and disrupting public transit, emergency and school travel. PennDOT, the City of Pittsburgh and FHWA, along with a variety of contractors and consultants, utilized emergency procedures to expedite the design and construction processes to open the bridge to traffic in just 11 months.

These efforts resulted in the Fern Hollow Bridge project receiving a regional America's Transportation Award from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). As a result, the project is now among the Top 12 finalists to compete for the Grand Prize and the People's Choice Award. The Grand Prize recipient will be selected by an independent panel of judges, while the People's Choice Award will be given to the project that garners the highest number of online votes from the general public, weighted by state population.

Read more about this project [here](#) and click on the link below to vote for the project!

[Click here to vote!](#)



Notice of Funding Opportunity for the AID Demonstration Program

FHWA's AID Demonstration Program provides funding as an incentive for eligible entities to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovation in highway transportation. The AID Demonstration Program is an initiative under the multi-faceted Technology and Innovation Deployment Program (TIDP) approach that provides funding and other resources to offset the risk of trying an innovation. Read more about this funding opportunity [here](#).

Important Information:

- Competitive grant
- \$100,000 - \$1 million in funding available per project
- Must be a [Technology Readiness Level \(TRL\) 7](#) or greater
- Must be a pilot project
- Every Day Counts (EDC) innovations encouraged

PennDOT Announces 'Innovations Challenge' for High School Students

Now in its seventh year, this year's PennDOT's Innovations Challenge asks high school students to develop a plan for the replacement of an aging multi-lane roadway that will reconnect previously separated neighborhoods. PennDOT has again partnered with the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors (APC) and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA) organizations that will provide a combined total award of \$4,000 to the statewide winning team. Learn more about the challenge [here](#).



From left to right: American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania representative Derek Rogers, Associated Pennsylvania Constructors Executive Vice President Robert Latham, winning team members Robert John and Elijah Mumau, PennDOT Executive Deputy Secretary Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT District 10 District Executive Brian Allen, and Team Advisor Jason Zimmerman.

For more information on these and other STIC innovations, email penndotstic@pa.gov.