



State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC)

Innovation in Motion

A newsletter with highlights from the STIC

INNOVATE
DEPLOY
EDUCATE



The STIC supports the rapid implementation of innovative products and tools throughout the state.

Call for 2019 STIC Incentive Program Funding Submissions

The Pennsylvania STIC is holding an open call for project submissions for 2019 STIC Incentive Program funding. Every year, FHWA offers up to \$100,000 to support the costs of standardizing innovation practices in a state transportation agency. PennDOT also provides a 20 percent match for STIC Incentive Program funding for a total award of up to \$120,000.

Requests for STIC Incentive Program funding must be submitted to Karyn Vandervoort (karyn.vandervoort@dot.gov) at FHWA by Friday, March 15, 2019. Please ensure the request includes a brief description or white paper about the innovation and the estimated cost. Provide as much detail as possible for PennDOT and FHWA leadership to fully understand the innovation and how the funding will assist in its implementation. See below to learn more about the 2018 STIC Incentive Program funding project recipients and learn how these funds can provide vital resources for several types of transportation projects across Pennsylvania.

2018 STIC Incentive Program Funding Project Recipients: Where are they now?

The 2018 STIC Incentive Program funding was shared among three projects:

Workforce Preparedness Study for Electronic Contracting and Communications (e-Construction)

PennDOT, in cooperation with the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors (APC) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC), is currently developing a statewide study of PennDOT employees, PTC employees, consultants and contractors to determine their level of familiarity and understanding of electronic contracting (e-Construction) and communications (Partnering) and how those concepts can complement one another to result in quality construction projects.

Two workshops were conducted in July and November with smaller stakeholder groups to gain an initial understanding of perceptions, capabilities, needs and concerns. The feedback gathered from the workshops will be compiled with the survey results, and a final report will be released in 2019. The report will identify strategies to support



e-Construction is a paperless construction delivery process that includes electronic submission of documentation.

the proper training and skills development needed to evolve to paperless jobsites, while helping to foster a culture of cooperation and communication among project teams.

PennSTART - Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Training Center



PennSTART is a state-of-the-art training and testing facility for the Mid-Atlantic region.

PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and the Pennsylvania State University are partnering to create a state-of-the-art training and testing facility using STIC Incentive Program funding to help make that vision a reality. The facility will include a mile-long test track to benefit emergency responders, transportation institutions and research organizations in addressing transportation safety training and research needs in traffic incident management, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and tolling, high-speed and mobile work-zone operations, traffic control testing and evaluation, safety certification opportunities, and smart truck-parking applications. It will also provide controlled environments for

testing various connected and automated vehicle technologies. The test track would support vehicle test speeds of up to 70 miles per hour. The team has completed the Phase 1 feasibility study and is using the STIC Incentive Program funding for Phase 2, which includes determination of the concept of operations and system requirements for the planned facility. The facility, whose location remains to be finalized, is expected to open in 2022. For more information on this training center, visit the [PennDOT PennSTART webpage](#).

Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil-Integrated Bridge System (GRS-IBS) Specification

GRS-IBS allows PennDOT and municipalities to build bridges in a quick and cost-effective manner, using local workforce personnel and equipment to maximize efficiency. This method of building bridges involves using closely spaced layers of geotextile combined with crushed and graded stone and concrete facing blocks to construct the bridge abutments. Since September 2013, over 20 bridges have been completed using GRS-IBS technology and PennDOT is now working on updates to the current GRS-IBS specification to expand the use of this method to more locations. The effort seeks to expand the current limitations on average daily traffic (ADT) volumes and span length and explores different ways to protect bridge abutments from stream erosion.



GRS-IBS is a FHWA Every Day Counts Round 3 innovation.

Using 2017 and 2018 STIC Incentive Program funding, PennDOT engaged the Pennsylvania State University to assist with providing justifications for specification enhancements. This contract includes researching specifications of other states, evaluating data and making recommendations for the updated design standards. Additional data from PennDOT systems and past projects will be evaluated against the goals of the project and will be utilized to update the specification.

Coming Soon! The 2018 STIC Year-End Report

Keep an eye out for the 2018 STIC Year-End Report. The STIC is excited to announce a new format for the report this year: a digital, interactive webpage! The report will be available on the STIC webpage of the PennDOT website in January 2019.



Using the 2018 STIC Incentive Program funds, PennDOT is working on updates to the current GRS-IBS specification.

Fact or Fiction

Only approved STIC innovations can be submitted for STIC Incentive Program funding.

Fiction: Any project that promotes and advances innovation in Pennsylvania can be submitted for STIC Incentive Program funding. To find out more about projects that have received STIC Incentive funding in the past, please visit [FHWA's Every Day Counts webpage](#).



The STIC brings together a diverse team of transportation stakeholders.

Ask the STIC

Q: Is the STIC Incentive Program funding the only way to receive federal funding for innovation-related projects?

A: There are different avenues to receive federal funds for innovation projects. FHWA will announce additional funding opportunities early next year. For more information on FHWA funding opportunities for innovative projects, please visit the [FHWA's Every Day Counts webpage](#).



The STIC meets three times a year.

Mark Your Calendars:

The 2019 STIC Business Meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

For more information, please contact the STIC Team at penndotstic@pa.gov.