



This edition of the STIC *Innovation in Motion* Newsletter includes the call for **2022 STIC Incentive Program** funding submissions and two articles highlighting PennDOT's Agility Program, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2021.

This newsletter also shares highlights from PennDOT's annual Innovation Awards Ceremony in December 2021, which included a presentation of the first-ever George W. McAuley, Jr., P.E., Innovation Award.

Stay tuned for the release of the first-ever **Focus on Innovations** report, featuring updates on current STIC innovations as well as a wide array of PennDOT's innovation efforts.

Call for 2022 STIC Incentive Program Funding Submissions

The Pennsylvania STIC is holding an open call for project submissions for **2022 STIC Incentive Program** funding. Every year, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) STIC Incentive Program provides up to \$100,000 in funding to help each state's STIC foster a culture of innovation and make innovations standard practice in their states.

If you have an innovation you would like to have considered for STIC Incentive Program funding, please complete the [survey](#) by **Friday, March 4, 2022**. Please be sure to click yes when asked "Are you interested in applying STIC Incentive Program funding" and provide as much detail as possible to allow those reviewing the nominations to fully understand your innovation and how the funding will assist in its implementation. All STIC Incentive Program funding nominations will be compiled and presented at the March 2022 STIC Business Meeting for discussion and feedback. of FHWA STIC Incentive Program funding to assist with the implementation of innovations across the state. Since 2014, several projects have received STIC Incentive Program funding.



Pennsylvania continues its **effective use** of FHWA STIC Incentive Program funding to assist with the implementation of innovations across the state. Since 2014, several projects have received STIC Incentive Program funding.

The 2020 STIC Incentive Program funding was used to purchase UAS equipment to aid the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) in quickly assessing and performing crash reconstruction along the Pennsylvania Turnpike. PSP routinely performs more than 10 crash reconstructions along the Turnpike each year, with an average reconstruction lasting four hours. During that time, that section of the Turnpike must close.

Using UAS equipment to reconstruct crashes allows the roadway to reopen and traffic to return to normal conditions faster, which reduces the time other vehicles must spend in backlogs, a significant cause of secondary crashes. It is anticipated that PSP will begin using the new UAS equipment by March 2022, once all UAS pilots have completed the necessary training requirements.

In 2019, STIC Incentive Program funding was used to develop a **Stormwater Management Training and Field Guidebook**. The training helps maintenance crews at PennDOT, other state agencies and local governments care for stormwater facilities to ensure compliance with federal and state environmental permitting requirements. It involves a blended learning approach, including instructor-led training, field guides and instructional videos. In addition, the training will include a SharePoint collaboration site, which will be the home for training updates, field guides and videos. The training will be rolled out to PennDOT maintenance crews statewide in spring 2022.



PennDOT's Agility Program

PennDOT's Agility Program enables service-for-service exchanges with partners, such as state agencies, local governments, universities and eligible non-profit organizations.

In celebration of the Agility Program's 25th Anniversary in 2021, PennDOT published an article highlighting the origins and history of Agility as well as an article highlighting a long-standing Agility Agreement between PennDOT and Cranberry Township in Butler County.



Agility Celebrates 25 Years: A Look at Its Beginning

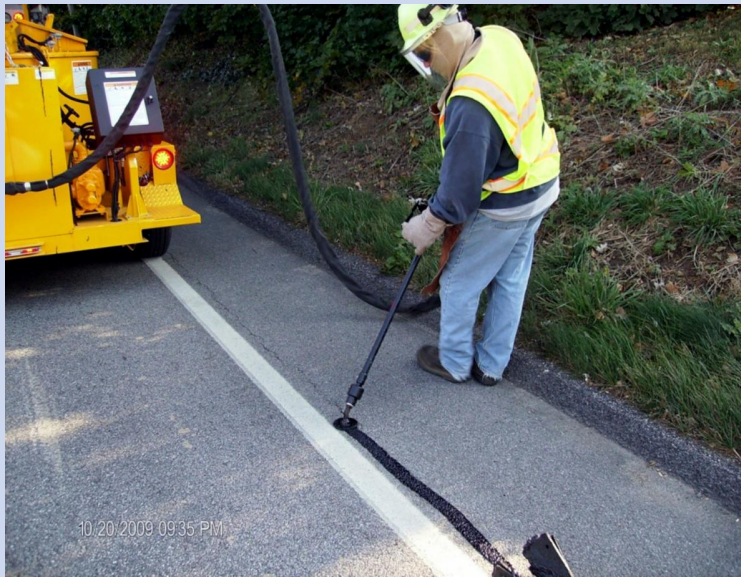
A visionary leader supported by savvy executives intent on overcoming bureaucratic obstacles paved the way for PennDOT's innovative Agility program, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2021.

[Read more](#)

Cranberry Township and PennDOT's Butler County Operation Form Long-Lasting, Productive Bond Through Agility

When it comes to managing Pennsylvania's vast network of more than 120,000 miles of roads, both PennDOT and its local government partners know the stiff challenges they must overcome.

[Read more](#)



PennDOT Celebrates Employee Innovation at Annual Awards Ceremony

PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian, P.E., hosted the annual PennDOT Virtual Innovation Award Ceremony on Dec. 14, recognizing groundbreaking work by 48 PennDOT employees over the past year.

Among others, the awarded projects included an effort to increase efficiency of the brine production in District 1 from 5,000 gallons per hour to 7,500 gallons per hour with no loss of quality or consistency; raising the exhaust outlet on PennDOT's paint trucks to prevent overheating of the paint system's compressor; switching to an electronic filing system for fuel reports to reduce paperwork and save processing times for clerical staff; and the deployment of Automated Flagger Assist Devices, which are placed at the end of work zones and can be operated by one person using a remote controller, increasing safety and saving money.

"As we search for solutions to our growing infrastructure needs, it is crucial that we demonstrate to our customers that we are committed to efficient and effective operations," Secretary Gramian said in her welcoming remarks. "As we continually search for the best solutions to our growing infrastructure needs, it is crucial that we empower our employees to recommend, practice and participate in the actions we must take to meet those needs.

During the event, Secretary Gramian also presented the first-ever George W. McAuley, Jr., P.E., Innovation Award to District 12's Safety, Quality and Innovation Council.

The award is named for the late executive deputy secretary, who, Secretary Gramian said, "was committed to PennDOT's success and to ensuring it would aggressively pursue every innovation possible to do its job better." "This award recognizes an employee-driven team that promotes and foster innovation at all levels of the

organization.”

In 2021, the 26 permanent members of the council developed a plan that brought new vigor and direction along with an added focus of promoting and celebrating innovation. The plan sets forth the council’s new mission to maintain a high-quality standard to implementation of innovation, new program development and **Lean continuous process improvement**.

“This gets to the heart of George’s desire to give every PennDOT employee a seat at the table when it comes to promoting and implementing change,” the Secretary said.

For more information about the award winners, please contact PennDOT’s **Bureau of Innovations**.



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