



## Roadway & Bridge Maintenance Activities Rev Up in the Spring

The onset of spring weather brings with it an uptick in roadway/bridge construction projects. While the construction projects garner most of the public's attention, maintenance activities on existing bridges and roadways often go unnoticed.

Below is a description of some of the types of maintenance activities that help keep bridges and roads in good condition year round.

### Manual or Pothole Patching:

The type of material used to fill potholes varies according to the season. In winter, maintenance crews use a material called "cold patch", which is asphalt mixed with soap, water, and fine stones. The soap and water allow the material to remain flexible so crews can work with it. The cold patch is placed into the pothole with a shovel and then compacted. After the soap and water evaporate, the asphalt hardens. Although designed to be a tempo-

rary fix, some cold patch jobs can last 1-2 years.

In spring, crews use hot mix to fix potholes. It consists of a mixture of pure asphalt and fine stone heated to about 300 degrees. The pothole is cut square, cleaned and then treated with a tack-coat of asphalt that acts as a glue. The hot mix is placed into the hole and compacted using a roller or other device.

### Pipe Replacement & Cleaning:

Controlling water flow is one of the most important parts of maintaining pavements. Uncon-

trolled water runoff damages the pavement surface and the area under the pavement, causing deterioration. Although done year-round, most work is done in the spring and summer. Typically, pipe is installed prior to repaving or sealing of pavement. Due to its durability and handling ease, 70 percent of pipes used are plastic. Pipe replacement consists of cutting or sawing pavements,



*PennDOT Crews Perform Manual Patching*

## Highway Occupancy Permit Training Scheduled

A training session on the permitting process related to Highway Occupancy Permits (HOPs) will be held on Thursday, May 9th from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM at the PennDOT District 4-0 Office in Dunmore.

The training session is geared toward public officials and municipal staff who review and make decisions on land developments/subdivisions that require HOPs.

The 2-hour training will focus on the following two facets of the HOP process:

HOP basics, including access location and smart access design and the new electronic E-

Permitting System which will provide local governments with direct access to key HOP information.

Participants in the training will be provided with the tools necessary to sign up for the E-Permitting System, and will have the ability to create a Municipality Profile when it becomes available later in 2013.

A second training session will be held at the Carbon County Emergency Management Agency from 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM on May 9th.

PennDOT is striving to make the HOP system less confusing and time-

consuming than it has been in the past, and hopes that the training will result in well-planned and safe growth.

Attendance at the training sessions is limited to 30 participants per session in most locations. Anyone wanting to attend should contact Amy Firestine at Gannet-Fleming at 717-763-7211 or via e-mail at [afirestine@gfnet.com](mailto:afirestine@gfnet.com).

For more information, contact Kate McMahon, NEPA Alliance at 655-5581 or [kmcmahon@nepa-alliance.org](mailto:kmcmahon@nepa-alliance.org).

## FFY 2012 Annual Obligation Report Available

In response to the Federal Certification Review Report the MPO recently received from FHWA and FTA, the MPO has prepared an Annual Obligation Report for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012.

As in past transportation bills, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), the current transportation bill, mandates that MPOs prepare "an annual listing of projects, including investments in pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, for which federal funds have been obligated in the preceding year shall be published or otherwise made available by the cooperative effort of the state, transit operator, and metropolitan planning organization for public review. The listing shall be consistent with the categories identified in the TIP".

The amount of funding available to MPOs is set by Congress via a multi-year federal transportation bill. The bill gives the Secretary of Transportation permission to authorize funding. To release the authorized funding, Congress must pass an appropriations bill which sets the amount of funding that can be used by MPOs for the preparation of the Transportation Improvement Program, the Long Range Transportation Plan and the transportation planning activities required to prepare those plans.

Once the funds have been appropriated, funds go from being "authorized" to being "obligated". Obligation is defined as being the "commitment by the federal government to pay, through reimbursement to the states, the federal share of the eligible cost of a project."

During FFY 2012, the Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO obligated a total of \$60,404,487 for 83 phases of 69 projects. The project phases relate to the following eight funding categories:

**Rail & Highway:** 2 projects totaling \$240,000

**Safety:** 4 projects totaling \$1,818,587

**Federal Bridge:** 23 projects totaling \$19,433,450

**Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ):** 5 projects totaling \$11,546,511

**Federal Highway:** 13 projects totaling \$13,318,508

**Enhancement:** 7 projects totaling \$3,212,764

**Urban:** 7 projects \$5,701,343

**Special Funding:** 9 projects totaling \$5,123,321

### Funding Class Descriptions

*Rail & Highway Funds* - Most commonly used for at-grade crossing projects.

*Safety Funds* - Used for roadway design features or hardware, such as guiderails, rumble strips, etc. that help reduce the number of crashes or minimize their severity.

*Federal Bridge Funds* - Used to repair, rehabilitate, or replace eligible bridges.

*CMAQ* - Used for projects that help reduce traffic congestion and thereby improve air quality; includes intersection improvement projects, new or re-timing of signals, crea-

tion of turning lanes, etc.

*Federal Highway Funds* - Used to repair, rehabilitate or re-surface eligible roadways.

*Enhancement Funds* - Used for projects that provide access for pedestrians, bicycles and other non-motorized forms of transportation.

*Urban Funds:* These funds are available to MPOs that are classified as Transportation Management Areas due to having an urbanized area population of 200,000 or more (urbanized area population figures are derived from census data); they are a versatile category of funds that can be used for re-surfacing, highway construction, safety, and enhancement projects and can also be flexed to fund transit projects.

*Special Funds:* Funds earmarked for specific projects by members of Congress allocated under prior transportation bills. (Map-21 does not include any earmarked funds).

The obligation report contains a listing of all the projects/phases for which funding was obligated in FFY 2012.

The listing can be found in the full FFY 2012 Annual Obligation Report located on the MPO web page at the following link:

[http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/departments\\_agencies/planning\\_commission/lackawannaluzerne-metropolitan-planning-organization](http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/departments_agencies/planning_commission/lackawannaluzerne-metropolitan-planning-organization)

A copy can also be obtained by contacting Nancy Snee, Luzerne County Planning Commission, by telephone at 825-1564 or via e-mail at [nancy.snee@luzernecounty.org](mailto:nancy.snee@luzernecounty.org).

## Sustainable Land-Use Bus Tour To Be Held

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Penn State Cooperative Extension are sponsoring a Sustainable Land-Use Bus Tour on Friday, May 31 from 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

The tour will include six sites within Luzerne County that serve as great examples of managed land use that supports environmentally-friendly practices including green roofs, rain gardens, porous

pavement parking areas, animal husbandry, rotational grazing practices, and cultivation of community gardens.

The tour will begin at the Kirby Park Natural Lands Area. From there, it will travel to the Plains Animal Hospital, The Lands at Hillside Farm, the Butler Community Garden and the Life Expressions Wellness Center.

The cost of the tour is \$20 and includes

the bus tour, coffee, lunch, and raffle prizes.

To register, contact Vincent Cotrone, Penn State Cooperative Extension, at 825-1701.

For more information on the tour, contact Janet Sweeney, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, at 718-6507 or at [jsweeney@pecpa.org](mailto:jsweeney@pecpa.org).

# Annual Statewide Spring Clean-Up Underway

Each year, PennDOT, along with the Department of Environmental Protection and other partners, sponsors the Great American Clean-Up of Pennsylvania. For the ninth consecutive year, PennDOT has won the National Partner Award for its continued support of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and the Great American Cleanup.

PennDOT is looking for volunteers to help in the clean-up effort which began on March 1st and runs through May 31st. (The local event was held on Saturday, April 20th).

During last year's clean-up, volunteers cleared 6.7 million pounds of litter from roads, trails, and shorelines throughout the state.

Locally, 8,244 volunteers picked up 30,610 bags of litter along 290 miles of roadways in Luzerne and Lackawanna

Counties in 2012.

"These clean-up programs play a huge role in keeping Pennsylvania beautiful through cleaner roadsides and communities," said Barry Schoch, Secretary of Transportation. "It's my hope that more individuals get involved and join the thousands of dedicated volunteers that participate in these efforts year after year."

This year, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is hosting its first ever Great American Clean-Up Video Contest. A 3-5 minute video of a group's clean-up effort can be submitted to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful through May 24th. The top 5-10 videos will be posted on the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Facebook page where people will be able to vote for their favorite. Voting will start on June 1st and end on June 14th. The winning entry will receive \$300. Those coming in second

and third will receive \$150 each.

Anyone interested in participating in the clean-up efforts can sign up online at [gacofpa.org](http://gacofpa.org).

*PennDOT District 4-0 District Executive, George Roberts, participates in clean-up effort*



## Fall 2013 LTAP Schedule

### **Traffic Signs**

Monday, August 26, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Pocono Township Building

112 Township Drive

Tannersville, PA 18372

Phone: (570) 629-1922

Website: [www.poconotownship.org](http://www.poconotownship.org)

### **Warm Mix Asphalt**

Thursday, September 5, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lackawaxen Township Building

169 Urban Road

Lackawaxen, PA 18435

Phone: (570) 685-7288

Website: [www.lackawaxen.org](http://www.lackawaxen.org)

### **Liquid Bituminous Seal Coat**

Thursday, September 19, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hazle Township Municipal Building

101 W. 27<sup>th</sup> St.

Hazle Township, PA 18202

### **Warm Mix Asphalt**

Thursday, October 3, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PennDOT District 4-0 Office

55 Keystone Industrial Park

Dunmore, PA 18512

Phone: (570) 963-4052

[www.dot.state.pa.us](http://www.dot.state.pa.us)

### **Winter Maintenance**

Monday, October 7, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Schuylkill Community Education Council

1-7 West Center Street

Mahanoy City, PA 17948

Phone: (570) 773-1270

<http://www.schuylkilleducation.org/>

### **Principles of Paving**

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

PPL Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center

126 PPL Drive (off US Route 6)

Hawley, PA 18428

Phone: (570) 253-7076

Website: [www.pplweb.com](http://www.pplweb.com)

### **Safe Driver**

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Carbon County Emergency Management Agency

1264 Emergency Lane

Nesquehoning, PA 18240

Phone: (570) 325-3097

[www.carboncounty.com/emergency](http://www.carboncounty.com/emergency)

**LACKAWANNA/LUZERNE METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**Published By: Luzerne County Planning Commission**  
**Contact: Nancy Snee**  
**Telephone: 570-825-1564**  
**E-Mail: [nancy.snee@luzernecounty.org](mailto:nancy.snee@luzernecounty.org)**

**MPO Web Page Link:**  
**[www.luzernecounty.org/county/  
departments\\_agencies/planning\\_commission/  
lackawannaluzerne-metropolitlan-planning-  
organization](http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/departments_agencies/planning_commission/lackawannaluzerne-metropolitlan-planning-organization)**

***PennDOT District 4-0 Web Site***  
***[www.neparoads.com](http://www.neparoads.com)***



## Roadway & Bridge Maintenance Activities Rev Up in Spring (Continued from Page 1)

creating a trench in the sub-pavement, installing the pipe, filling the trench, compacting the fill material, and replacing the pavement surface. PennDOT installs over 200,000 feet of pipe yearly. Pipe cleaning is mainly done in the summer by flushing pipes with a high-velocity sewer cleaner or water.

### **Joint & Crack Sealing:**

Joint sealing is used to seal the joints on concrete roads, while crack sealing is used to seal cracks on asphalt roads. Crack sealing prevents water from seeping through cracks and causing potholes and pavement break-up. Joint sealing prevents stones or other hard materials from being deposited between slabs of concrete. If a significant amount of material gets into the joints, the road cannot expand and contract with fluctuating temperatures, and will ultimately break at the joints or cause the slab to buckle.

Crack sealing is done from April to July, while joint sealing is done from September

through November. The time frames are geared toward the times when the joints are fully open.

### **Line Painting:**

PennDOT primarily paints dividing lines on roads and highways. The weather

must be warm and dry because rain, high humidity or temperatures below 50 degrees will increase drying time for the paint, which normally takes 90-120 seconds to dry. The paint is heated to 120 degrees and then sprayed on the road surface. While the paint is still wet, beads made of recycled glass are automatically applied to provide reflectivity. PennDOT applies more than 1.8 million gallons of yellow and white paint every year.

### **Bridge Washing:**

Bridge cleaning is an important part of PennDOT's Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program. The deck and substructure must be kept clean and the drainage systems free of debris in order to enhance and further the life span of a structure. The Department cleans over 17,000 bridges annually.

*Source of Information: PennDOT District 4-0 Web Site*



*PennDOT Maintenance Crew Conducts Annual Washing*