

Pa. To Grant Millions To Aid In Creating Green Jobs, Sustainable Communities

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HARRISBURG, Pa. -- State legislators want to make it easier for Pennsylvania to go green.

Gov. Ed Rendell's office announced a \$76 million grant to help create green jobs, relieve traffic congestion and make it easier for students to walk and bike to school with the investment.

A number of Pittsburgh-area counties will benefit from the grant money.

“By building more rational connections within communities we can reduce vehicle use and attract pedestrians and bicyclists. These small steps will help Pennsylvania and the nation combat climate change and reduce reliance on imported fuels,” Rendell said in a news release.

The Department of Transportation is providing \$59.2 million for 50 Smart Transportation-related projects and \$16.8 million for 30 Safe Routes to School projects that will improve safety and encourage walking and biking-friendly improvements.

Regionally, PennDOT will invest \$14.8 million in the Greater Pittsburgh region.

This is the first award of federal funds specifically set aside for "Safe Routes to Schools," a project which aims to make it easier for student in kindergarten through eighth grade to walk or bike to school.

For more information on the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative and Smart Transportation, visit the Smart Transportation Web site at: www.smart-transportation.com.

A full list of individual projects is available online at: pubcontent.state.pa.us.

What follows is a list of Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative and Safe Routes to Schools Projects funded by the grant in the greater Pittsburgh Region:

Allegheny County PCTI

- Oakland Transportation Management Association and Carnegie Mellon University will receive \$150,000 to study methods for improving walkability, safety and multi-modal access along the Forbes Avenue and Fifth Avenue corridors.
- Allegheny County Public Works Department will receive \$500,000 to develop a safe network of trails for pedestrians and bicyclists in Allegheny County's North Park.
- Point Park University will receive \$3,950,000 to install corridor upgrades and enhancements to Wood Street corridor and the intersections of Boulevard of the Allies and Third Avenue.
- All Allegheny County Economic Development will receive \$300,000 to study ways to ensure that walking and biking can become an integral part of getting around Allegheny County.
- Carnegie Mellon University will receive \$30,000 to create an online collaborative transportation planning network.

Allegheny County Safe Routes to School

- Moon Area School District will receive \$70,096 to install sidewalks along Hassam Road to connect J. H. Brooks Elementary School to nearby residential areas, as well as sidewalks along Beaver Grade Road.
- Munhall Borough will receive \$781,698 to restore sidewalks, curbs and crosswalks that are in deteriorating condition and to construct new sidewalks, curbs and handicap ramps along Main Street, Charles Street, Charles Street Extension and Lea Street.

Beaver County PCTI

- Beaver County Transit Authority will receive \$1,800,000 to install a roundabout for a 6-legged intersection, with intermodal components that will result in operational cost savings to the transit authority.

Beaver County Safe Routes to School

- Center Township will receive \$967,309 to install speed humps, warning signs, pavement markings and sidewalks along the eastern side of Poplar Drive to increase access to Center Area Middle School, Todd Lane Elementary, and the K-2 Primary Center.

Fayette County PCTI

- Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette will receive \$1,920,000 to improve the Route 381 corridor through Ohio State Park and Borough.

Greene County Safe Routes to School

- Waynesburg Borough will receive \$442,500 to construct a walking and biking path from Margaret Bell Miller Middle School to Second Avenue.

Indiana County PCTI

- Blairsville Borough will receive \$3,118,465 to install infrastructure improvements, including bicycle and pedestrian improvements, to Blairsville Diamond Square and Market Street.

Indiana County Safe Routes to School

- Homer City Borough will receive \$284,945 to improve crosswalks, sidewalks and curbing at various locations on Main Street that directly benefits students of the Homer Center Elementary School.

Westmoreland County Safe Routes to School

- The Borough of Scottsdale will receive \$510,000 to create an off-street pedestrian-bicycle facility on Grove Street, which leads to the Southmoreland Elementary School and Southmoreland Middle School campus.