

the PACOG News

PACOG Officers
Eugene Miller, President
 Oil Region COG
Bradley Shaffer, 1st Vice President
 Northern Wayne County COG
Gary Myers, 2nd Vice President
 Capital Region COG
James Davis, 3rd Vice President
 Upper Pine Creek COG
Stephen Hurni, Past President
 Slate Belt COG

Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Governments • www.pacog.com

Winter 2020



Pennsylvania's Keystone for Intergovernmental Cooperation

www.pacog.com

Inside This Issue:

Communication - The SOCIAL STYLE Model..... 1
 COG Talk... What's Happening in our COGs? 2
 2020 Bidding Thresholds..... 2
 COSTARS Salt Contract.....3
 PA Turnpike Cashless Tolling... 3
 REAL ID Update 3
 Commercial Driver's License Changes in 20203
 Grant Information4
 Enacted Legislation5
 Pending Legislation5
 PACOG Board of Delegates Meeting in April5
 PACOG/PSATS Intergovernmental Cooperation Award.....6

PACOG

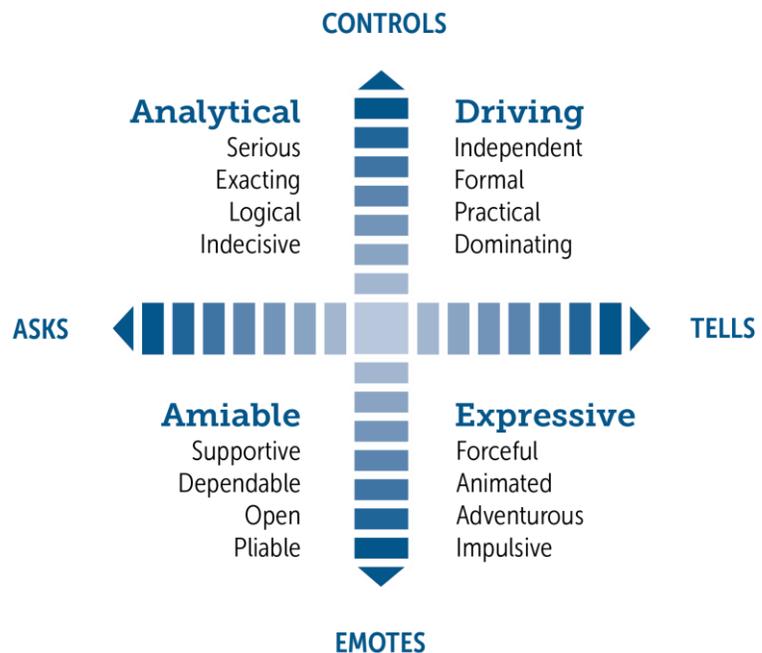
Linda Costa, Executive Director & Newsletter Editor
 2941 N. Front Street
 Harrisburg, PA 17110
 Phone: 717-236-9526 Ext. 1028
 Fax: 717-695-4449
 Email: lcosta@boroughs.org

Communication

The SOCIAL STYLE® Model

The Golden Rule says to treat others the way YOU want to be treated. But the SOCIAL STYLE® Model Platinum Rule below, shows how to treat others the way THEY want to be treated.

The SOCIAL STYLE® Model is not a “personality” model, but is based on observable behavior, and asserts that people have one of four Social Styles: Analytical, Driving, Amiable or Expressive. Each Style has preferred ways of acting, thinking and making decisions.



You can apply the SOCIAL STYLE® Model above to help understand your communication style and the style of other people. That knowledge and insight can then be used to create meaningful and productive relationships with people of any style, whether they are like you or not.

Try it! Good communication can help you succeed at work, at home, or in any social setting.

Article Courtesy of the TRACOM Group, www.tracom.com.

COG Talk... What's Happening in Our COGs?

Capital Region COG has their Annual Dinner January 20, with Keynote Speaker John M. Baer, a PennLive and Harrisburg Patriot-News columnist. The 2020-2021 Joint Bid Forms were sent to member municipalities and were due back in December; vendor packets have been mailed and are due back by January 30. An LTAP Pilot Training Class on "Roadside Safety Features" focusing on practical application of roadside safety concepts was held in December.

In early 2020 **Beaver County COG** is sponsoring sessions on Stream Bank Restoration to meet sediment requirements for a Pollution Reduction Plan. They are also offering an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Refresher Workshop to review MS4 permit and compliance requirements. In addition, a Smart Green Corridor (SGC) seminar is being held in March which will identify challenge areas of where there are the biggest environmental, financial, and social return on investments. A benefit of an implemented SGC is reduction in overall MS4 program tasks and activities.

Central Westmoreland COG's goal is to help Pennsylvania municipalities and organizations "Do More With Less." COG members and associate members participate in cooperative purchasing which saves money because the COG negotiates volume pricing. Any Pennsylvania organization that receives government money is eligible to join the COG. In addition, any PA municipality, including organizations like school boards, fire departments, police departments, and more can take advantage of the cooperative pricing programs for vehicles and more. The savings the COG negotiates go right back to the member municipalities.

Upper Pine Creek COG has established working partnerships with state agencies such as DCNR, DEP, DCED, PennDOT and the Fish and Boat Commission to address local and regional issues. Educational workshops are offered periodically on topics such as Posting and Bonding, purchasing through COSTARS, and recreation projects.

Perry County COG is self-sustaining and focuses primarily on Uniform Construction Code enforcement and administration, in conjunction with Building Inspection Underwriters, Inc. The COG also coordinates regional emergency management training and activities.

The **Western Chester County COG** created a Regional Emergency Management Group ("WCCREM"). The purpose of this program is to assist member municipalities with emergency management functions including training municipal officials and personnel in topics related to emergency management and preparedness, planning, resource sharing, and response, mitigation and recovery from emergency situations that occur within a member community.

Northern Wayne County COG is active in Uniform Construction Code administration and sponsoring an Appeals Board. They also do bulk bidding.

2020 Bidding Thresholds

Each year, the Department of Labor and Industry is required by statute, to publish changes to the base amounts triggering the requirement for public bids, telephonic bids and/or separate bids for certain contracts. The percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2019 is 1.7 percent.

Following are the new bidding thresholds, effective January 1, 2020:

- **More than \$21,000 for Public Bids.** Applicable to Boroughs, Townships of the First and Second Class, Cities, Counties, Municipal Authorities, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Economic Development Financing Authorities, and Public Schools.
- **\$21,000 for Separate Bids.** As applicable.
- **Between \$11,300 - \$21,000 for Written/Telephonic Bids.** Applicable as stated for entities for Public Bids.
- **Less than \$11,300** exempt from formal bidding or written/telephonic quotations.

COSTARS Salt Contract

The sign-up deadline for next winter's (2020-2021) COSTARS road salt contract is March 15, 2020. The COSTARS program has procurement contracts established by the PA Department of General Services (DGS) that utilize competitive pricing strategies to achieve the best value for members. Through COSTARS, local government members can participate in cooperative purchasing opportunities for products and services.

A Salt Participation Agreement, available on the website www.dgs.pa.gov/COSTARS, must be completed and can be submitted electronically. Details regarding contractual requirements, minimum orders, etc. can be found on the website.

Pennsylvania Turnpike Cashless Tolling in Late 2021

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has planned a full transition to "cashless" all-electronic tolling in late 2021. Once implemented, in-lane or onsite payment will no longer be accepted anywhere along the 552-mile tollway. Studies and pilot conversions show that more than 80% of travelers prefer E-ZPass to cash.

When the cashless conversion is complete, drivers who had been accustomed to paying their Bills with cash or credit, will instead receive a PA Turnpike TOLL BY PLATE bill in the mail. A photo of the license plate will be taken, and a bill will be mailed to the vehicles' owner. Drivers with E-ZPass will pay as usual.

There will be no need for drivers to stop for a ticket or to pay cash, and all vehicles will use the same toll lanes regardless of payment method.

Toll plazas and tollbooths will be decommissioned and demolished; overhead steel structures along the highway will be installed to house electronic-tolling apparatus, and these will become the new tolling points. This method of tolling is known as open road tolling. For more information, visit www.paturnpike.com.

REAL ID Update

Beginning October 1, 2020, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally-acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires an ID.

To obtain a REAL ID driver's license, residents must provide an original version or certified copies of the following: (1) Proof of Identity: original or certified birth certificate with a raised or embossed seal or valid US passport or passport care; (2) Proof of Social Security Number: an original, non-laminated Social Security Card; (3) Two proofs of current, physical PA residence: e.g. current driver's license/photo ID, vehicle registration, automobile insurance card, W-2 form/ pay stub, or utility bill with your current name and address; (4) Proof of any and all legal name changes: e.g. certified marriage certificate, court order, or divorce decree.

Visit www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID/Pages/REAL-ID-Pre-Verification.aspx to see if your documents are on file and if you may order online. Residents with a commercial driver's license are currently not eligible to apply online for a REAL ID and must apply in person at a PennDOT Driver License Center.

Commercial Driver's License Changes in 2020

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse becomes effective January 6, 2020. This Clearinghouse is a new database with information on violations of the U.S. Department of Transportation controlled substances (drugs) and alcohol testing program for holders of CDL licenses.

The Clearinghouse rule requires FMCSA-regulated employers, medical review officers, substance abuse professionals, third party administrators and other service agents to report to the Clearinghouse information on violations of the drug and alcohol regulations by current/prospective employees. This will help identify drivers who are prohibited from operating a Commercial Motor Vehicle based on drug and alcohol violations. Violations records will remain in the Clearinghouse for five years, or until the driver has completed the return-to-duty process, whichever is later. For more information, please visit <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/>.

Grant Information

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

- A new round of grants is open for the **Recycling Program Development and Implementation Grants**, Section 902 of Act 101, Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988. Municipalities/municipal entities that received a section 902 grant in 2019 are not eligible to apply for this current funding. 90% funding of approved recycling program costs is usual. All applicants must complete the application Sustainability Plan that includes definitive actions and strategies for optimizing program self-sufficiency. Only those projects involving municipalities that have a mandatory trash collection program or projects seeking support for a residential recycling program that have a corresponding commercial recycling program will be considered for funding. Applicants seeking funds to replace curbside collection containers or collection vehicles, or both, will need to demonstrate that the new equipment will increase collection efficiencies and tonnage of materials. **The application deadline is March 20, 2020.** For more information go to www.dep.pa.gov (search term “Recycling Grants”).

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

- **Peer and Circuit Rider Grants** help municipalities, counties, multi-municipal partnerships and COGs to increase local capacity for recreation, parks, and conservation. The focus is on a specific need identified through a collaborative process of the grantee and its partners. The program aides in hiring a full-time Circuit Rider whose services are shared by the members of a formal partnership, commission or authority. **Grant applications are accepted year-round.** Go to <https://brcgrants.dcnr.pa.gov/>.

Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) Multimodal Fund

- **Multimodal Transportation Fund** provides grants to encourage economic development and safe and reliable systems of transportation. Funds may be used for sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development. **Application period is expected to be March 1 through July 31.** Go to <http://newpa.com/programs/multimodal-transportation-fund/#>.

COPS Hiring Program

- **The COPS Hiring Program**, funded through the US Department of Justice, provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire career law enforcement officers to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. **The opening of the COPS Hiring Program grant solicitation is on hold** due to the issuance of a nationwide injunction by a U.S. District Court in April 2018, regarding immigration factors that were included in the 2017 solicitation. The decision is being appealed. The website is <https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants>.

Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grants

- The **Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant** is an initiative of the Department of Justice, that is designed to provide bulletproof vests, which are a critical resource, to state and local law enforcement agencies. Go to <https://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/> for details.

PA K9 Assistance Foundation

- The foundation can **provide K9 teams with training and safety equipment** such as K9 bulletproof vests and tracking harnesses that will aid and protect them in their jobs. **Requests are considered on an ongoing basis.** Go to www.pak9assistance.org/ for details.

Keep PA Beautiful

- Grants to provide surveillance cameras to municipalities to **help capture evidence at active illegal dump sites.** Includes training and assistance in working with law enforcement. **Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.** Go to <http://illegaldumpfreepa.org>.

Enacted Legislation

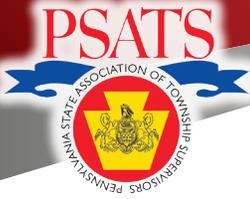
- **Act 77 of 2019**- brings **changes to the state’s election laws** including: a bond for \$90 million to help counties pay for new voting machines before the 2020 election, changes to absentee ballots, changes to voter registration deadlines, and eliminating straight-party voting.
- **Act 79 of 2019** – amends Title 1 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide a **legal definition of “blighted property.”**
- **Act 103 of 2019** – **purple paint markings can be used by homeowners** to define property boundaries, rather than using “no trespassing” signs. The paint must be commercially available “No Hunting” paint and there are size and placement requirements for the purple stripes. The new law does not apply to Philadelphia or Allegheny County.
- **Act 106 of 2019** -**expands online training to current and prospective first responders**, both career and volunteer personnel. The training will be developed under the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, and would be voluntary and offered at no personal expense to the firefighters.
- **Act 107 of 2019** – allows **open hunting in Pennsylvania on three Sundays**: one during the firearms deer season, one during the archery deer season and one on a Sunday designated by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Hunters will have to get written permission before hunting on private land on Sundays.
- **Act 111 of 2019** – **increases the tobacco purchasing age from 18 to 21** by prohibiting the sale of any tobacco, nicotine or related item to anyone under age 21. There is an exception for active members of the military and veterans who were honorably discharged who are at least 18 years old. This law takes effect in July 2020. * **Congress enacted the same increase to age 21 effective immediately.**
- **Act 112 of 2019** - patients receiving new opioid prescriptions for the treatment of chronic pain will have to enter written agreements with their doctors before they can receive the prescriptions. These **“opioid treatment agreements”** will require patients to say they understand the risks of highly addictive opioid drugs (e.g. addiction and overdose) and consent to periodic drug testing to prove they aren’t misusing them.

Pending Legislation

- **SB 114** – requires drivers to **remove ice and snow from their vehicle**. The bill would give police officers discretion to pull over a vehicle where the buildup of ice or snow poses a potential hazard.
- **SB 352** – would allow local taxing authorities to provide a tax exemption for up to 10 years for any improvements and new construction on **blighted properties**.
- **SB 607** – would allow the **use of radar or LIDAR** by full-time municipal police officers.
- **SB 494/ HB 1035** – create a process for a municipality to enter into a contract for services when an advertisement for bids has been posted but **no bids were received**.
- **HB 1816** – **increases the money emergency response units can borrow, at low-interest rates, for critical equipment**, through the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program (VLAP). Loan limits would be increased annually based on the inflation rate from the previous year.

Item of Note: The IRS has set the mileage rate for 2020 at 57.5 cents per mile, less than the 2019 rate of 58 cents per mile.

**PACOG Board of Delegates Meeting
Friday, April 17, 2020; 10 AM to 2 PM
Centre Region COG Building**



Attention All COGS!

PACOG is partnering with the Pa. State Association of Township Supervisors to present the Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Awards at the PSATS Annual Conference on May 4

Enter your joint project for PSATS' Intergovernmental Cooperation Awards

Did one or more townships in your COG partner with neighboring municipalities and/or the state or federal government to complete a project in 2019? If so, submit a description of the project for consideration in PSATS' Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Awards Program. *(Please note: At least one of the project's participants must be a township of the second class.)*

The deadline for entries is March 2.

Presented in cooperation with PACOG, the contest recognizes townships that work with other government entities to complete projects more efficiently and cost-effectively.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- joint road or bridge construction/replacement;
- intermunicipal parks and recreation projects;
- regional stormwater projects;
- equipment/manpower sharing programs;
- joint comprehensive plans;
- public safety cooperatives; and
- intermunicipal recycling and/or illegal dump remediation programs.

Entries should include:

- Names of all participating entities and a contact person for each.
- A detailed description of the project, including how it came about, when it took place, what it entailed, and how it has benefited the participating entities.

Optional:

- Newsletter/newspaper articles or other documentation about the project.
- Photos *(before, during, and/or after)*.

Winners will receive their awards during the Excellence Awards Ceremony at PSATS' Annual Educational Conference May 4 in Hershey and will be the subject of a *Township News* article.

For more information, call Brenda Wilt at PSATS at (717) 763-0930, ext. 123, or email bwilt@psats.org. Entries may be emailed to the same address.