



Pennsylvania  
Department of Transportation



Pennsylvania  
Department of Education

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**Shapiro Administration Launches New Driver Work Zone Safety Program During National Teen Driver Safety Week**

**Carlisle, PA** — Today, the **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation** (PennDOT) and the **Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission** (PA Turnpike), launched a new, statewide training [program](#) to improve new driver safety and roadway worker protection. The launch took place at Carlisle High School to highlight teen driver safety during National Teen Driver Safety Week.

Pennsylvania's New Driver Work Zone Safety Program is a training project that uses engaging videos, infographics, knowledge checks, and powerful testimonials to teach new drivers work zone laws, signage and key facts, in addition to offering real-life scenarios to enhance understanding. This new program launched during [National Teen Driver Safety Week](#), an annual observance aimed at educating safe driving among teens, and all new drivers in the commonwealth.

"PennDOT wants you to be safe whether you're working on our roadways or driving on them, and we take many precautions to keep work zones safe for everyone," said **PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll**. "We're always looking for ways to improve safety on our roadways, for drivers of all ages and experience levels. That's why we were proud to partner with the PA Turnpike on this program."

The free, 35-minute virtual course is currently available in English and Spanish via [PennDOT's website](#). The transportation agencies will also collaborate on hands-on training opportunities to supplement the course.

"We are thrilled to help launch this program, which furthers our commitment to safety – the driving force for everything we do here at the PA Turnpike," said **Chief Operating Officer Craig Shuey**. "Our roadway is only as safe as the drivers who use it and helping them understand the importance of slowing down and paying attention in work zones is critical."

Last October, [Oklahoma](#) became the first state in the nation to require new drivers to pass a work zone safety course to get their licenses. After hearing about Oklahoma's success, the PA Turnpike developed a playbook for introducing a similar program and has been working with PennDOT to make it a reality. The project was funded through \$50,000 from the Federal Highway Administration State Transportation Innovation Council [Incentive Program](#).

"FHWA's State Transportation Innovation Council Incentive Program is an important way we are helping states to advance innovative solutions to address their unique transportation needs," said **Acting Federal Highway Administrator Kristin White**. "Improving work zone safety is a priority for FHWA and we are pleased to see Pennsylvania deploying federal funding to achieve this goal."

In recent years, more than **four out of every 10** work zone crashes in Pennsylvania involved deaths or injuries. There are more than 1,400 work zone crashes across Pennsylvania annually, with more than 600 resulting in injuries and 15 in death.

While the program is free and encouraged for all Pennsylvania residents, it is especially beneficial for new drivers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drivers aged 16-19 are nearly three times more likely to die in a crash than drivers aged 20 and up per mile driven.

"As Secretary of Education, I care deeply about the health and safety of Pennsylvania's 1.7 million learners both in and out of the classroom," said **Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid N. Mumin**. "Knowledge is power, and this practical, experiential learning opportunity will help new drivers keep themselves—and others—safe while they're on the road."

From 2019 to 2023, there were nearly 80,000 crashes involving at least one teen driver in Pennsylvania, resulting in 483 fatalities. Some key factors in crashes involving teen drivers in Pennsylvania include driver inexperience, driver distractions, driving too fast for conditions, and improper or careless turning. The risk of a crash involving any of these factors can be reduced through practice, limiting the number of passengers riding with a teen driver, obeying all rules of the road, and using common sense.

The joint training project extends PennDOT and the PA Turnpike's collaboration on increased work zone safety awareness. Both organizations host work zone-related educational events throughout the year. [This March](#), PennDOT and the PA Turnpike, in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Police, started enforcement of the statewide Work Zone Speed Safety Camera program, which uses vehicle-mounted systems and electronic

speed timing devices to detect and record motorists exceeding posted work zone speed limits by 11 miles per hour or more.

For more information on the New Driver Work Zone Safety Program, please visit [Young Driver \(pa.gov\)](#).

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