



## Nazareth YMCA Launches Bold Vision for the Future

By State Rep. Ann Flood

The River Crossing YMCA has kicked off a \$9 million capital campaign to transform the Nazareth YMCA into a modern hub for health, wellness and community connection. This exciting project will expand child care, improve accessibility and create new spaces for mental health and wellness, all while honoring the building's historic legacy.

I'm proud to support this investment in our region's future. My legislative aides Lisa and Ann attended the launch alongside Zane Moore, president and CEO of River Crossing YMCA; Nazareth Mayor Lance Colondo; Tina Smith, director of Northampton County DCED; and my colleague, state Rep. Joe Emrick. Together, we are helping build stronger communities for the families who call this region home.

## PennDOT Invites High School Students to Join 9th Annual Innovations Challenge

By Senator Lisa Boscola

PennDOT is inviting high school students throughout Pennsylvania to participate in this year's PennDOT Innovations Challenge, which encourages students to use their problem-solving, creative and strategic-thinking abilities to solve real-world transportation challenges in a competition among their peers. The Innovations Challenge is open to all students in grades 9-12, regardless of their school's learning model.

For this year's challenge, students are asked to develop a concept for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in work zones to dramatically improve safety for work crews and road users. The concept must outline how PennDOT can use smarter systems to prevent accidents and protect those who are working to build a better Pennsylvania. The concept should also take into consideration cost-benefit information, statewide deployment implications, as well as public outreach.

Regional Innovations Challenge winners will be selected and invited to present their solutions to the PennDOT Secretary and a panel of judges, who will determine the statewide winner. For this year's challenge, PennDOT is partnering with several organizations to provide a monetary award to the statewide winning team to be announced on the Innovations Challenge webpage at a later date. These organizations include:

Transportation Policy and Education Foundation, an educational arm of the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors (APC); American Council of Engineering Companies of PA (ACEC/PA); Mid-Atlantic Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE); and Intelligent Transportation Society of Pennsylvania (ITSPA).

For complete Innovations Challenge details, please click [here](#). The submission deadline is January 30, 2026.

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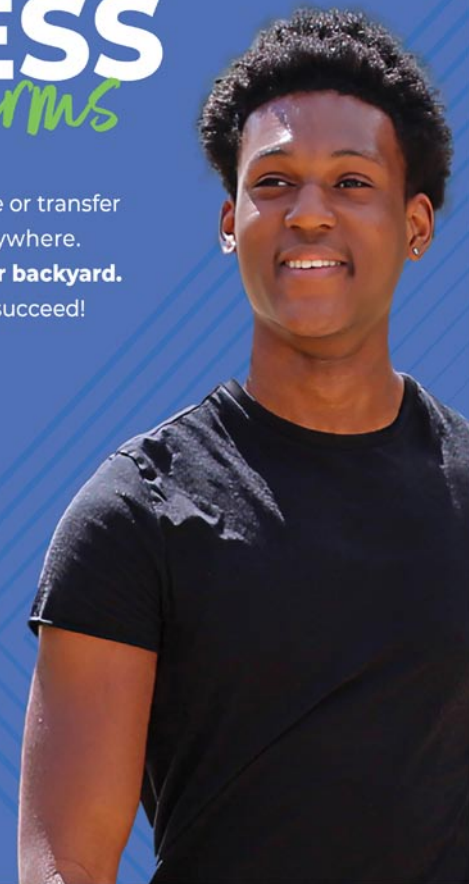
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