

Shapiro Administration Announces \$80 Million in Grant Funding to Support Community Infrastructure Projects that Improve Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety

PennDOT will host a TA Set-Aside Webinar on Wednesday, July 9

By PennDOT

Harrisburg, PA – Today, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced the 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Surface Block Grant Program will begin accepting applications on July 14 and be open for submissions through October 31, 2025. The Shapiro Administration will offer a total of \$80 million across award recipients, supporting the Administration's goal of expanding access to a range of transportation options and improving safe access to schools in communities across Pennsylvania.

A webinar for municipalities and other project sponsors will be held on Wednesday, July 9 at 10:00 AM to talk through the application process and answer questions that applicants may have; project sponsors may include regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, public land agencies, and school districts, local education agencies or schools. To join the webinar and learn more about the application process and eligible projects, please visit the TASA Webpage.

"Pennsylvanians make decisions about how they travel for many reasons, the most critical of which is the infrastructure available to them," said PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll. "The TA Set-Aside program offers communities around the Commonwealth the opportunity to improve infrastructure and provide residents with a broader range of transportation options."

TA Set-Aside program provides funds to construct pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to public transportation, create safe routes to schools, incorporate community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management, provide environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity, create trail projects that serve a transportation purpose, and provide for vulnerable road user safety assessment program projects.

Draft applications must be submitted to PennDOT district offices by September 5, 2025. All participating large Metropolitan Planning Organizations' (MPOs) selections and all District and Planning Partner application review comments will be due January 23, 2026. The statewide project selection committee will meet in March 2026 to recommend projects for receipt of statewide TA Set-Aside funds.

Guidance and procedures for PennDOT's 2025 TA Set-Aside Program can be found here. Potential sponsors can submit questions to RA-pdTASA@pa.gov.

Information about state infrastructure in Pennsylvania, including completed work and significant projects, can be found here. Find PennDOT's planned and active construction projects at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pennDOT/projects-near-you.html>.



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Mariska Hargitay in the Jane S. Moyer Library & Archives at Sigal Museum with Howard McGinn, one of the long-time librarians, performed extensive research on Jayne's family which resulted in a treasure trove of numerous photographs, newspaper articles, and family material.

NCHGS was Part of Mariska Hargitay's New Movie, My Mom Jayne.

By Megan van Ravenswaay / Executive Director Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society (NCHGS)

EASTON - The secret is out! After almost a year of anticipation, I am proud to share our role in Mariska Hargitay's new MAX movie, "My Mom Jayne."

About a year ago, members of Mariska's team reached out to the Jane S. Moyer Library & Archives anonymously to see if we had materials related to her mother,

Jayne Mansfield. As you know, our library and archives are staffed by a team of incredibly talented volunteers. Howard McGinn, one of our long-time librarians, performed extensive research on Jayne's family which resulted in a treasure trove of numerous photographs, newspaper articles, and family material.

The wealth of material caused Mariska to come to Sigal Museum from her home in New York City with her husband, assistant, and film crew. They spent a full day in the library.

Mariska explored the material, interviewed Howard, and filmed for the movie. She marveled at the material Howard pulled from our library and archive collection.

Mariska, her husband, and her entire team were delighted to host at Sigal Museum. They were highly professional, fun, and extremely respectful of the museum and our priceless collection.

You'll notice in the images on the right, the production team wanted to film inside the reading room at the Jane S. Moyer Library & Archives. Furniture had to be moved and lighting had to be softened. In just a few hours, they moved everything, filmed, and returned it all back to "normal" before they left.

We are very proud to be a small part of this remarkable movie. We hope after you watch the movie, Mariska inspires you to explore the history of your family and community.



Barley Creek's Blue Zone Gin Wins Best Gin Martini in America

By Sarah O'Fee / Director of Marketing Barley Creek Brewing Company & Distillery

Tannersville, PA. – Barley Creek Brewing Company is proud to announce that its Blue Zone Gin has been awarded Best Gin Martini in America by the prestigious American Distilling Institute (ADI).

Named after the famed "Blue Zones"—regions of the world known for the happiest, healthiest, and longest-living populations—Barley Creek's Blue Zone Gin is a celebration of well-being and craftsmanship. Infused with cardamom and goji berries, this premium gin boasts a crisp, clean flavor profile that stood out among entries from across the country.

"This award is an incredible honor for our entire team," said Trip Ruvane, Publican & Co-Founder at Barley Creek Brewing Company. "We created Blue Zone Gin to reflect balance, vitality, and flavor, and it's exciting to see our vision recognized on a national stage. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our talented team, especially Matt Doughty and Michael Stratton, whose skill, creativity, and dedication helped make this achievement possible."

The American Distilling Institute is the oldest and largest organization representing craft distillers, and its annual awards are among the most respected in the industry.

Barley Creek invites guests to try the award-winning Blue Zone Gin at its Tannersville brewpub, The Barley Creek Taproom at Pocono Premium Outlets or look for it at select retailers and restaurants throughout the region. It is also available for purchase on BarleyCreek.com.

For more information, visit BarleyCreek.com or follow @BarleyCreek on social media.



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