

Written Testimony of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
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Senate Democratic Policy Committee
Public Hearing on Jay Alert Hit and Run Pilot Program
Monday, May 11, 2026

Good morning, Chair Miller and members of the Committee. My name is Daniel Farley, and I am the Director of PennDOT's Bureau of Operations within our Highway Administration Deputate. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today regarding the impact of hit-and-runs. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge that the topic of this hearing – the Jay Alert Hit and Run Pilot Program – is named in honor of eight-year-old Jayanna “Jay” Powell who lost her life to a hit-and-run incident in November 2016 while walking home from school. It is thanks to the advocacy of Jayanna's family that we are here today to discuss this important topic.

In 2025, PennDOT statewide data shows that 7,736 hit-and-run crashes resulted in 65 fatalities and 323 serious injuries. In Philadelphia County in 2025, 1,706 hit-and-run crashes resulted in 32 fatalities and 128 serious injuries. PennDOT looks to our law enforcement partners to investigate alleged perpetrators of hit-and-runs. Safety is a top priority of the Department, and we appreciate tools to combat this ongoing issue and endeavor to be helpful to our law enforcement partners and community leaders whenever possible.

While hit-and-runs are not entirely preventable due to driver behavior and their decision to flee the scene, PennDOT has developed strategies to minimize crashes on our highways caused by aggressive driving, excessive speeding, and roadway design. PennDOT continues to work with all partners to utilize available safety funding to support the implementation of Safe System-based and context-sensitive roadway designs. These are proven countermeasures to address the aforementioned factors and minimize crashes.

In addition to the above-mentioned countermeasures, PennDOT is working to make available via our 511 Pennsylvania (511pa) website notifications of hit-and-runs that result in the death or serious bodily harm of victims to assist in bringing individuals who commit such alleged crimes to justice. PennDOT's 511pa website is part of a statewide travel information service to provide reliable traffic, weather, and transit information to travelers to reduce congestion, and improve safety and mobility in Pennsylvania. Using real-time traffic data from various sources throughout the state, we can provide current information to commuters, travelers, and commercial carriers so they can make informed decisions regarding their next trip. By providing this information to travelers, 511pa helps to keep traffic moving.

Thanks to the advocacy of Jayanna Powell's family, Senator Anthony Williams, and Representative Morgan Cephas, we are pleased to share that PennDOT is working to place hit-and-run alerts on 511pa. We feel this is a sensible, PennDOT-focused solution that can help to combat hit-and-runs.

PennDOT remains committed to safety and to working with our law enforcement and legislative partners to tackle this and other difficult transportation-related issues. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide testimony and thank you for your continued advocacy.